



November 8th 2019 Issue 9

Welcome Back

I hope that you all had a good time over the half term break and that you are feeling refreshed as we enter one of the busiest times of our year in the run up to Christmas. There will be many opportunities for you to come to different events over the next few weeks and I look forward to seeing you often.

Dance Off

On the Friday before half term, we were treated to an amazing dance off between all of the classes who each learnt and performed a different dance from around the world. It really was spectacular and the children excelled! We had hula dancers, Morris Dancers, the Maori Haka, Line Dancers and much more. The Strictly Panel which consisted of Craig Revel-Minikin, Motsie Mae Bowron, Bruno Bartoli and Darcey Finlay were amazed by the children's skills and enthusiasm. Well done to all of our children, staff and panel for a super afternoon.

Remembrance Sunday

For the last few years, we have attended the Remembrance Parade from St Marys Church to the cenotaph in the Bowes Museum. Miss Richardson and I will be attending as usual and any children, parents/carers or staff are very welcome to attend. If you would like to attend, please meet Miss Richardson in St Mary's car park at 11.25am as I will be in church beforehand. Thank you.

Science Fair

On Tuesday 12th November from 2-5.30pm we are hosting a Science Fair to celebrate the science we do in school and to engage children and families with Science in business, the environment and everyday life. There will be a host of activities set up for you to watch or take part in, including visits from a planetarium, students from Teesdale School and STEM apprentices from GSK. Our science ambassadors in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be leading different experiments for everyone to get involved with. You can visit during Parents' Evening or during the afternoon as it promises to be a great event.

Parents' Evening

I know that many of you will have made your appointments for our first formal Parents' Evening of the year. We really hope that all parents/carers are able to come to ensure that communication remains strong. By working closely together, we can ensure that your child is supported and can achieve well. Please contact Mrs Collin our office administrator to make an appointment.

School Nurse Drop in

Also on 12th November, the school nurse will be in school from 3-5pm. She will be based in a private room off the Key Stage 2 corridor and is available to discuss any health questions you may have.

Book Fair

After school next week we will have a Book Fair in school. You may want to purchase a book on Parents' Evening and it will be open in the staff room during this time. On Monday and Thursday it will be open in the Key Stage 2 corridor from 3.30pm- 4.30pm.

Children in Need and Book Sale

On Friday, School Council are selling books that children have donated from 2.30pm to 4pm in the Key Stage 2 corridor. Books will be very cheap so if your child would like to buy one please send them with some change. That day is also non uniform with any donations going to Children in Need.

Christmas Fair and FOMS

This week I met with FOMS to help organise the Christmas Fair on December 3rd 5-7pm. There are at least 20 stalls in attendance not including the school stalls, selling a wide variety of items that will make excellent Christmas gifts. Father Christmas will also be in the Goods Wagon!

EYFS Stay and Play

I hope that the Nursery and Reception parents who braved the torrential weather on Thursday enjoyed the afternoon in the classes!

Lucy Blue Assembly

On Wednesday, author Chris Duke shared his story 'Lucy's Blue Day'. Chris was very inspirational, talking about perseverance, and aspiring to achieve your dreams. His book tells the story of a little girl who has colour-changing hair, and one day she wakes up feeling sad. The workshops explored how we all feel different emotions and the importance of sharing how we feel with others.

Children in Need on Friday 15th November

School Council decided that to support Children in Need we would have a non-uniform day and also bring in a book that they no longer want. In the afternoon, we will have a book sale with monies raised going to this charity.

School Performances

We thought last year's arrangements worked well and we will repeat the format again this year. Nursery and Reception will have a joint Nativity on the afternoon of December 9th. Year 1 and 2 will perform together for their Christmas Play on the afternoon of December 11th and the evening of December 12th. Years 3 and 4 will have their big performance around Easter and Years 5 and 6 in the Summer. There will be a carol service in St Mary's church for Reception to Year 6 on Friday 13th December at 2pm in Christmas jumpers, which I know we all enjoy!

Buddy Bench

Mrs Patterson was delighted with all of the children who entered the Buddy Bench Sign Competition. After much deliberation she chose Mollie in Year 3 as the winning design. Over the coming weeks she will visit William Smiths Signs to see the production process. Well done to everyone who entered!

Attendance Awards

There were 91 children who achieved 100% attendance last half term so I have had to ask Mrs Collin to order some more certificates! That is a tremendous effort. I will present these as soon as they arrive.

Attendance for w.b.

Class	Present
Reception	93.1%
Year 1	92.6%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	99.3%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	97.8%

School overall attendance is 96.7%

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

1 hour and 6 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week

Dates for the diary

November 11 th – 14 th	Book Fair in School
November 12 th	Science Fair
November 12 th	School Nurse Drop In 3-5pm
November 12 and 13 th	Parents' Evening
November 15 th	Children in Need (non uniform day/bring a book)
November 22 nd	Newcastle University outreach working with KS2
November 25 th	Safety Carousel Y6
November 28 th	Athlete visit
December 3 rd	FOMS Christmas Fair 5-7pm
December 9 th	Nursery and Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm
December 9 th	Music Concert at Teesdale 4.30 -6.30pm
December 10 th	Reception Multiskills Festival at Staindrop
December 11 th	Year 1 Multiskills Festival at Aycliffe
December 11 th	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2 at 1.45pm
December 12 th	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2
December 13 th	Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 2pm
December	

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher