



December 6th 2019 Issue 13

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The decorations and gifts that children made were amazing and we raised £500 for school funds. Eco Club raised £56.80 which will be put towards a hedgehog home. Thank you to all the stall holders who filled our hall with wonderful crafts, and Christmas treats. A huge thank you to Friends of School who ran various activities such as a bottle tombola and raffle. We are also thankful for the gazebos which were purchased by Friends. Thank you to everyone who entered a 'Montalbo Lumiere' decoration. We were amazed with the creative and fantastic designs! They made our garden look beautiful. Thank you to Barnard Castle Christmas Lights who kindly provided us with amazing lighting.

Class 4 visit to Durham Mining Museum

On Wednesday, Year 4 visited the Durham Mining Museum in Spennymoor. The children had a fantastic time rounding off our mining topic and their behaviour was superb. A highlight was the opportunity to crawl through the tunnels of a simulated mine, it was strange to think miners would spend their whole day in such a small space. They also had the opportunity to view a range of Norman Cornish mining artwork which really inspired them and they are looking forward to the opportunity to create their own Norman Cornish artwork in the last few weeks of the half term.

Christmas Performances

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 have been practising hard for their performances and they performed their dress rehearsals for the rest of the school this week. The dress rehearsals looked fantastic and they are excited to perform for everyone.

Nursery and Reception's performance starts at 2:30pm on Monday 9th December in the hall. Please arrive no earlier than 2:15pm through the main entrance. The bottom gates will be opened for anyone wishing to come that way. After the performance, children will go back to their classes to get changed and collect their things. Once everyone is changed, the nursery gate will be opened and children can leave. There will also be raffle tickets and refreshments available.

Year 1 and 2's performances are Wednesday 11th at 1:45pm and Thursday 12th at 6pm. On Wednesday, please arrive no earlier than 1:30pm through the main entrance. On Thursday children need to arrive back at school between 5:15pm and 5:30pm. On both days, children will go back to class to get changed once the performance is finished and can be collected from their classrooms. The raffle will be drawn at the end of Thursday's performance, please return ticket stubs and money and / or any unsold tickets to the school office by no later than Thursday. Friends of School will be providing refreshments at both performances.

Carol Concerts

The choir have a busy week next week. They will be singing Christmas Carols at the Cricket Club and Bowes Lion House. We also have our school Christmas Carol Concert in St. Mary's Church on Friday 13th. The children will be practising in the church on the morning and the concert starts at 2pm. At the end of the Carol Concert we ask that all parents and carers make their way outside and classes will be released one at a time. This will ensure everyone is kept safe at such a busy time. Children do not need to bring their bags to school on Friday.

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December is Christmas jumper day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper, t-shirt or dress. The rest of their outfit should be their school uniform.

Music Concert

On Monday 9th December Year 4 will be performing with their recorders in a Durham Music Service concert at Teesdale School. They have been working extremely hard this term with Mrs Unwin and are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase their skills in the concert. The children have a busy afternoon of rehearsals and music workshops at Teesdale before friends and family are invited to join us for the concert at 4:30pm. Children will need to be collected from Teesdale School at 6:30pm.

Sport Festivals

Next week Reception have a multi-skills festival at Staindrop Academy on Tuesday, Year 1 are visiting Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre for their multi-skills festival on Wednesday and Year 4 are visiting Staindrop Academy for their multi-skills festival on Thursday. All festivals are in the morning so children will be back in time for dinner.

Christmas Events at St Mary's

School have decorated the tree in Church and it looks great. This year, our theme has been The Twelve Days of Christmas. Each class have contributed their decorations from '12 Drummers Drumming' to 'A Partridge in a Pear Tree' and they have done a wonderful job! If you are able, please pop along to see the trees and the last viewing times are: Saturday 7th 11am-5pm and Sunday 2pm-4pm followed by Christmas poems. There will be refreshments and music too.

Year 6 Emotional Wellbeing Session

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 6 children took part in an Emotional Wellbeing session. They were shown how to recognise their feeling and emotions and took part in meditation and relaxation techniques. Thank you to our school nurse for running this session.

After School Clubs

Please note that due to the business of Christmas, there are no after school clubs until the end of term. Care will still be available.

Swimming

Please note that there will not be any further swimming sessions for Year 4 children until after Christmas – we attend 30 swimming sessions a year or 10 sessions each team. The sessions will start again on Thursday 6th January.

Absences

Please remember to telephone the School Office if your child is unwell, preferably before school. Advice from the school nurse, which we follow, states that if a child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, then they need to have been clear for 48 hours before returning to school.

Reception 2020

Please remember to visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions if you have not already completed applications for a Reception place.

Attendance for w.b. 25.11.19

Class	Present
Reception	93.4%
Year 1	97.4%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	83.7%
Year 4	93.4%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	98.9%

School overall attendance is 95 %

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

2 HOURS and 15 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week

Dates for the diary

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 (am)
December 10 th	Christmas Dinner Day
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	Year 4 Multiskills Festival at Staindrop
December 12 th	Christmas Performance by Year 1 and Year 2 at 6pm
December 13 th	Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 2pm (wear your Christmas jumpers!)
December 16 th – 20 th	Christmas parties – dates tbc
December 20 th	Last day of term
January 6 th	Teacher training day
January 7 th	Children return to school

Mr Minikin
Head Teacher