



January 10th 2020 Issue 16

Welcome Back

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and relaxing break. Welcome to our new nursery children and their families. The children have been keen to share their experiences of the holidays. Everyone has settled back in really well and there has been lots of exciting learning taking place already.

As part of his teacher training, Mr Coates has joined us for the half term. He will be teaching Year 2 in Mrs Newton's class. He is very eager and we wish him all the best of luck.

Curriculum

Teachers are very excited about the new topics they have already started teaching and there is a buzz of excitement in all the classes. Nursery are travelling back to the beginning of the world to see what it was like when dinosaurs existed, Reception are transporting into the world of fairy-tales, Year 1 are putting their wellies on and learning about the history of farming, Year 2 are venturing across the pond to learn about Barack Obama's impact on America, Year 3 are going back in time to learn all about the Stone Age, Year 4 are also going back in time to find out how the Ancient Greeks shaped our world, Year 5 are investigating what happened once the Romans left Britain and Year 6 are exploring the world of the Early Islamic Civilisation.

Eco Council

After the success of the Eco Council's Christmas stall to raise money to buy a hedgehog house for the school, Dr Greenwell has been shopping! During our Eco assembly this week the children were shown our new hedgehog house which they were very excited about. We were also able to buy a toad shelter and bat box which will be put outside during the next Eco Council meeting. Thank you to everyone who donated to the stall and for making these purchases possible. We will provide more eco updates as the Eco Council continue to work towards the first stage of the School's Eco Award.

Engineers

The Monty Mercury group has begun a new project. They will be working towards achieving a Primary Engineers Leaders Award. Part of this will involve them interviewing engineers from a range of disciplines, as well as designing and solving a real-world engineering problem. This week Class 3 took part in an Inter School interview with Dr Vincent Giampietro from Kings College London. Dr Giampietro is a brain engineer and he explained how he trained to be an engineer as well as sharing pictures of a brain scan. The children had the opportunity to ask lots of questions at the end, it looks like Class 3 has some budding engineers!

PE Days

We have reorganised some class's PE days this half term as different classes get a turn with our external Staindrop sports coaches. PE lessons have been split into two, one hour sessions across the school day and week. Children will require their Montalbo indoor PE kits and warm clothes in case of outdoor PE on these days:-

Reception – Wednesday

Year 1 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2 – Monday and Friday

Year 3 – Thursday and Friday

Year 4 – Swimming on a Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 6 – Wednesday and Thursday

Nursery PE days vary across the week.

School Council

Our school councillors are stepping down after a term in office and are making way for new members who have written their manifestos and been voted for by their classes. So far this year the school councillors have fundraised for Children in Need by organising and running a book stall, helped with creating party games for the Christmas parties and have promoted healthy lunches. They have also organised a "Design a Sign" competition and the winner will accompany a school council member to William Smiths to see the sign being made!

Swimming

Swimming lessons recommenced on Thursday 9th January for Year 4 children. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school and warm clothes to make the journey back and forth. Thank you.

Clubs

I know that the children enjoy looking at the new club lists and making their choices. Each half term we try to blend popular traditional clubs with some new ones and I am pleased that we are once again running a chess club this half term in preparation for the annual inter-school chess tournament in March.

Attendance for w.b. 07.01.20

Class	Present
Reception	100%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	92.1%
Year 4	95%
Year 5	99.5%
Year 6	96.8%

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

44 minutes of learning was lost to lateness this week

School overall attendance is 97.6 %

Dates for the diary

January 23 rd	Reception hearing test
January 24 th	Chinese New Year Celebrations
January 31 st	School Games Swimming for selected Year 4, 5 & 6 children
February 7 th	Year 2 Class Assembly
February 11 th	Year 5 – Trampoline lessons at Staindrop Academy
February 12 th	Year 5 – Netball Festival at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
February 13 th	Year 1 – Multi-skills Festival at Staindrop
February 14 th	Cross Country at Green Lane School for selected children
February 17 th - 21 st	Half Term
February 24 th	Children back to school

Miss Richardson
Acting Deputy Headteacher