



October 2nd 2020

Flu Immunisation

On Monday the flu immunisation team will be visiting to administer the vaccine to the children whose parents registered them. Over 75% of the children from Reception to Year 6 will be receiving it.

Educational visits

It has been lovely to spend time with our children this week and I accompanied Year 3 to the River Tees and Year 2 to the Bowes Museum. Both classes behaviour was exemplary and they are a credit to you and our school. Their interests in the local area have been piqued and it was lovely to hear that some of the children from last week's visits had taken their parents out on the same route to show them what they have learnt! There is so much to observe and learn about in our locality and I am looking forward to Reception's Autumn walk on Tuesday next week. Further visits this half term include Year 1 visiting the castle and Year 6 looking at historic buildings linked to World War 2.

Bowes Museum Collection

On Thursday Mrs Dunn from the Bowes Museum shared various parts of the Bowes Museum's collection with the Year 2 children virtually. They were able to learn more about the Silver Swan, John and Josephine's portraits and the golden mouse. She told the children about Clara the rhino – I did not know the story of Clara – and maybe Year 2 parents/carers could ask their child about her?

Website

If you are interested in finding out more about the subjects the children are studying this term, the learning zone on our website has been updated with the current topics. Go to <http://www.montalbo.durham.sch.uk/learning-zone/> and look at the right-hand side for your child's year group. We hope that you find this useful.

Outdoor Play

The weather has been generally kind this week and it has been great to see our children play within their bubble and in their outdoor spaces. Miss Richardson is currently organising some additional outdoor play equipment to support this and is seeking the views of the children. I am sure they will make some wise choices!

Dance

Like all aspects of school life, we have had to think carefully about PE to work within the guidance. One area of PE most of the school are participating in is dance and last year our Dance Off was one of my favourite events of the year! It has been lovely to see the children and staff enjoying their dance sessions and we certainly have some good movers! If we are lucky, we may get another visit from The Strictly Panel of Craig Revel-Minikin, Motsie Mae Bowron and Bruno Bartoli!

Mrs Unwin

One of my new roles in the current situation is to supervise the children who are receiving tuition from Mrs Unwin virtually in the library. We have some talented musicians and I am pleased to note some of year 3 children have expressed an interest too. We will have further information on this when Mrs Unwin works through the logistics. Mrs Unwin wondered if any children in Year 5 or 6 were interested in the saxophone. Please let me know if this is the case.

Halloween

With the disruption caused this year, I thought that it might be nice for the children to come to school on the last day of half term, Friday 23rd, in their Halloween costumes. We usually have some amazing costumes but please bare in mind that the children will still be doing some work, particularly in the morning, so will need to be able to sit down, see and not overheat! In the afternoon, they can have some Halloween activities and maybe even some treats!

StoreHouse

StoreHouse is a foodbank project to help the people of Barnard Castle and the surrounding area. They are based at Influence Church on Galgate and their contact details are 01748823161 or storehouse@influencechurch.co.uk

Reception Class Places 2021

Postcards were handed out earlier this term to nursery children regarding the application procedure for Reception Class in September 2021. The card has instructions on how to access the Parent's Guide (Primary & Secondary School Admissions Guide in County Durham 2021/22) and is available on the D.C.C website or via the following link: www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Secondary School Places 2021

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school in September next year, the application process will close on 31st October 2020 . The Parent's Guide "Primary and Secondary School Admission Guide in County Durham 2021/22" contains essential information that will help you in making your child's application and is available on the D.C.C. website www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you live in County Durham, you need to complete an application to tell the LA which school you want your child to attend. You should list up to 3 school preferences and applying for just 1 school Does Not improve your chances of gaining a place at that school. You can apply for any school/academy in County

Durham or in another Local Authority area. When you apply you will receive an acknowledgement and be offered a school place for your child by email on 1st March 2021. Please save your log-in details to enable you to accept your child's place on-line.

Attendance

Attendance for w.b. 28.09.20

Reception	*** 100 %***	Class 3	99.1 %
Class 1	97.6%	Class 4	98.9%
Class 2	*** 100% ***	Class 5	99.3%
		Class 6	96.9%

School overall attendance is: 98.8%

Dates for the Diary

October 5 th	Flu immunisation day for Rec- Y6
October 6 th	Reception Autumn walk
October 12 th	Year 1 to the castle
October 26 th -30 th	Half Term
November 2 nd	Teacher Training Day
November 3 rd	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin
Headteacher