



May 7th 2021

Bikeability

I was delighted to note that cycling proficiency training can take place now and that the Year 6 children, if they wish to, can learn how to ride safely on the road with tuition from professionally trained staff. There are several requirements they need such as a roadworthy bike and a helmet, which has been shared with Year 6 parents, as well as consent, which has been added to Weduc. Please could parents complete this consent and ensure that their child has appropriate footwear and clothing for cycling on May 17th-20th inclusive. They will continue to ride in most weather conditions and judging by the weather recently, be prepared!

Year 3 Egyptian Themed Day

On Tuesday 18th May, Year 3 will be treated to a day of Egyptian themed activities along with the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. The day will begin with the children going on a virtual tour of the Ancient Egyptian gallery, where they will discover some of the wonderful objects in the collection. This will be followed by an adventure, where the children will create their own Egyptian Headdress and join Albany Mouse, the Great North Museum mascot, for a storytelling journey along the River Nile. In the afternoon, the children will be able to submit questions to the Assistant Curator of Archaeology followed by what is sure to be a highlight of the day, where the children will investigate two of the mummies in the gallery, Irtyru and Bakt-en-Hor, through CT scans, x-rays and written evidence. As part of this celebration of Ancient Egypt, Dr Greenwell would love the children to bring in related items from home that can be shared in the class, books, pictures or even artefacts. If any items could be brought in by Friday 14th May.

Acts of Kindness

I have continued to receive lovely messages regarding Acts of Kindness. Ethan in Nursery has walked 5 laps (1 mile) around his village to support a neighbour who will be walking 100 laps for charity. Great effort Ethan!

Stella, in Year 4, wanted to mention how kind Isla in Year 4 has been. 'Isla looked after me when I fell over and when Peggy broke her clay model, Isla fixed it (she never gave up). She is also really, really kind and funny. A really great friend!' Well done Isla and thank you for sharing, Stella!

Thank you to Mrs Daniels for making a befitting display of the 100 Acts of Kindness in the hall. An article will appear in the *Teesdale Mercury* very shortly highlighting our children's kindness.

Wellbeing

We are continuing to work towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools and improve how we support wellbeing and mental health at Montalbo. This week's wellbeing assembly included meditating by counting breaths and cloud watching as a way to relax, be mindful and enjoy nature. Each week the children are given the opportunity to repeat an 'affirmation' and invited to say this to themselves throughout the week either out loud, or in their head. Repeating affirmations is a proven way to improve your mindset. This week's affirmation is: 'Every day is a fresh start.'

As restrictions continue to ease in England it may trigger feelings of anxiousness for some; the mind website has helpful advice and support via the following link: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/managing-feelings-about-lockdown-easing/>

If you or your child need support to improve or manage your wellbeing please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Bartoli who will be happy to help.

COVID-19 Local Authority reminder

Have coronavirus symptoms and need a test?

'If anyone in your household has symptoms you need to book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test as soon as possible. For more information and to book a PCR test visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call NHS test and trace free on 119. As coronavirus symptoms in children can vary it is advised that children who are unwell should not attend school until they are well again.

Durham County Council offers support to people seeking further advice about coronavirus through the County Durham Together Community Hub, details of which can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or by phoning 03000 260 260.'

Weduc Newsfeed

Please could parents check on Weduc each day if possible, as teachers and the office team are posting messages quite regularly. We are aware that newsfeed updates don't give you an alert (unlike notices). This is probably a good thing as you may not want to be pinged quite so regularly by us!

Pupil Breakfast Club and After School Care – not including Nursery Pupils

Please can parents prebook and pay for these in advance as previously requested, unless emergency care is needed. Nursery care should be organised with Mrs Patterson or a member of the Nursery staff.

COVID-19 Home Testing

Durham County Council are keen to reduce the spread of COVID 19 further by identifying asymptomatic cases. They have asked us to share the following:-

- Residents can book an rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test online at www.bookwhen.com/dcc_testing or contact County Durham Together Community Hub on 03000 260 260 if you have no internet access.
- You can check the location of all County Durham LFD sites, opening times and get directions at <https://countydurham.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>
- You can also collect LFD testing kits at a community collect sites and pharmacies across County Durham. Find your nearest collection point <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>
- Lastly you can order a home LFD test kit online to be delivered to your home at Gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests
- Please remember, anyone who takes a home test must always register their result at Gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Attendance for w.b. 3.05.21

Reception	93.5%	Class 3	99%
Class 1	97.5%	Class 4	100%
Class 2	98.8%	Class 5	98.3%
		Class 6	93%

School overall attendance this week is: 96.9%

Dates for the diary

May 17 th -20 th	Bikeability training for Year 6
May 18 th	Egyptian Themed Day for Year 3
May 31 st – June 4 th	Half Term Holiday
June 7 th	Teacher Training Day
June 8 th	Children return to school

Mr C Minikin
Head Teacher