



February 11th 2022

Valentine Discos

All the children had a wonderful time at the Valentine Discos this week and it was great to see them all dressed up and having fun with their friends. The hall looked fabulous complete with pink shimmering curtains and a Valentines photo booth - thank you to Mrs Bowron and Mrs Daniels for their work on decorating so creatively. Thank you to FOMS for providing prizes, sweets and refreshments.

British Science Week

In March we usually celebrate British Science week and Dr Greenwell arranges a number of Science experts to discuss their work and run some sessions with the children. This year we have brought forward the event to ensure we are able to have the visitors we want. Therefore, we will be celebrating British Science Week next week. All the children will have the opportunity to enjoy a day of Science and meet some special visitors. I look forward to sharing this with you afterwards.

Screen – Free Challenge!

As part of this half term's wellbeing theme 'Take Notice', on Wednesday, Mrs Bartoli challenged the children to have a screen free afternoon, evening or whole day at some point before Thursday 17th February. Taking a break from screens can have many benefits on wellbeing including improving sleep, increasing creative thinking, encouraging us to be more active, helping us to 'live in the moment' and improving the quality of time we spend with others.

The children had lots of great ideas of things they could do with their families instead of spending time watching TV, gaming or using a tablet. Screen free ideas included: building a den, playing with Lego, cooking together, playing a board game, doing art, playing an instrument, reading and completing a jigsaw. If you would like Mrs Bartoli to share your screen free success during next week's assembly please email montalbo@durhamlearning.net with the subject 'Take notice', photographs are very welcome!

Children's Mental Health Week

This week is children's mental health week. This year's theme is 'Growing Together' and focusses on how we can work together to grow mentally and emotionally. The children set themselves a 'reach for the stars' target and made pictures of their 'support balloons' based on a virtual assembly they took part in that featured Oti Mabuse and Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell. For more information about how you can grow with your child visit [here](#).

Safer Internet Day

Miss Lauder, our Computing Lead, has arranged for children to investigate different elements of online safety which will be shared via Weduc. These will give a snapshot of some of the work we do on educating children in this important area.

School Meal Price Increase from April 4th 2022

School has been informed that the price will increase to £2.20 per meal from 4th April 2022. If you have had a change in circumstances or would like to enquire if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please contact the office for further information and the application forms.

Holi Festival

Barnard Castle Town Mayor, Rima Chatterjee, is arranging events in town to celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi. The community event is being supported by the Town Council, schools, TCR Hub, the Bowes Museum, local businesses and community groups such as Cubs. The events in town run from 18th-20th March inclusive. One important element of Holi is colour and activities will include a colour run, artwork, Indian cuisine, music and dancers. Children in Year 4 study Holi in RE and will be making masks and flags with local artists which they can take on a parade around the Bowes Museum grounds. Other years will be able to join in too. We will be producing artwork to be displayed at Barnard Castle School and the community will be invited to view this. There are a range of great activities which I am sure families will enjoy and will share details as they are confirmed over the coming weeks.

SEND Support Plans

Children on the SEND register are supported through individual support plans that outline the small targets they are currently working on outside of their general classwork. Due to COVID restrictions, we are not holding regular support plan meetings within school this year as we have in the past. Please take the time to read over your child's plan at home. If you have any questions, your child's class teacher will be happy to discuss this with you. Alternatively, you can call the school office and arrange to speak to Miss Bean or Mrs Bartoli. Please write any comments on your child's reviewed support plan on the slip enclosed and return to school.

Red Nose Day March 18th 2022

Red Noses are available now from the School Office in support of this charity at a cost of £1.50 each. Please send any money into school to purchase the noses in a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly marked.

Dates for the Diary

February 15 th	Science Day
February 21 st - 25 th	Spring half term
February 28 th	Children return to school
March 3 rd	World Book Day
March 18 th	Red Nose Day
March 18 th – 20 th	Holi Festival
April 11 th	Easter Holidays

Mr. C Minikin, Head Teacher