



February 18th 2022

Science Day

As mentioned last week, we brought our celebrations for British Science Week forward to allow us to have in some special visitors. On Tuesday, the children were treated to alpacas in the roundhouse which was a great way to use the space. Many of the science topics this half term have been based around animals. Year 4, for example, had been looking at how teeth differ in herbivores and carnivores so this was great to get a close up of the alpaca's lovely gnashers! Professor Greenwell brought in a huge range of skulls of different animals which also captured the children's imagination. We are very grateful to Dr Greenwell and Professor Greenwell for arranging this. Thank you to Durham University for funding this activity. It has provided context for the Science that the children have learnt and created great memories. I hope the children enjoy their Alpaca annuals too! Some pictures of the day can be found [here](#).

Screen-Free Challenge

This week I received several lovely emails from parents whose children took part in Mrs Bartoli's screen-free challenge. Fleur (Y1) and Evie (Reception) have enjoyed playing games and drawing after tea time. The girls enjoyed playing games including junior monopoly and silly sausage dogs and had some great family time. Max (Y6) had two screen free nights and spent a long time playing with his dog – loved the photos Max! Matthew had two screen free nights and filled his time staying active – playing cricket and BMXing! Ruby (Y2) went for a walk with the dog in the dark down the woods with their head torches and then she did lots of crafting after her tea. On Tuesday Phoebe went to her swimming club and then enjoyed chilling in her room and reading! Instead of watching TV before school, Alfie (Y2) and Alice (Reception) decided to pretend to be ski jumpers in the Olympics! Luckily no broken bones! There are so many really worthwhile activities away from screens and I hope our children find the right balance over the holidays.

Photography Competition

To inspire our children to take notice of our beautiful surroundings in Teesdale, I would like to challenge your child to take a photograph of something in the natural environment and email the picture to me. It could be of a landscape, sky, plant, animal, insect, water or anything natural that captures their interest. The rules are simple: the child must take the photograph (you may need to help them to send it to me) and there is a maximum of three entries per child! The closing date is Sunday 27th February. I will pick winners from each class in the week after half term. Please let me know your child's name on the email and send your snaps to montalbo@durhamlearning.net

World Book Day – Vocabulary Parade

Miss Richardson, our English Lead, has shared some ideas with the children for World Book Day on March 3rd. We would like the children to come to school dressed as a 'word' which is perhaps not as complicated as may first seem! Examples include 'sparkle', 'peace', 'artistic', 'wild'- there are so many words to choose from. If you are stuck it could be as easy as a colour. Please do not buy anything special for this day. Our day will consist of reading and sharing books, acting out stories, poems, writing and illustrating our own texts plus many more fun activities.

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.

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.

Clubs

Information has been sent out via Weduc this week about activity clubs for after half term. As the year progresses and we can hopefully have chill out club together as one, we will look to add additional clubs.

I am aware that Gardening Club has proved popular which I am delighted about! We have had to limit the numbers for that club as children need quite a lot of supervision and for those children who have not secured a place due to the cap on numbers, they will have a chance to do this the following half term.

Absence Procedures

If your child has a medical appointment, please can the letter or appointment card be shared with the School Office as part of our procedures. Thank you.

Half Term

Most schools in Durham have found this half term the toughest of the pandemic and we are no different. Thank you to our staff for working in numerous roles to help cover absences. Let us hope next half term is much smoother. Despite these difficulties, much good work has taken place over the half term and I have been especially pleased with the writing I have looked at this term, as well as the progress of our readers. Please continue to share books as often as possible over the holiday period and maybe plan in a visit to the library.

I hope next week's weather is more settled, that you have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing the children again on Monday February 28th.

Dates for the Diary

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
April 11 th	Easter Holidays

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher