



March 11<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Good luck Mrs Bartoli**

Mrs Bartoli began her maternity leave this week and we wish her and her husband well over the coming weeks. We look forward to sharing their exciting news in the near future.

We have been working through a period of transition with Mrs Bartoli's responsibilities being shared between Miss Richardson and Miss Bean. Please continue to contact me if you require any support, whether it be for issues at home or support in school.

### **Thank you, Mrs Gregory**

Mrs Gregory retires today having worked with us since 2019 as a Lunchtime Supervisor and Cleaner. She worked previously in the school as a School Cook and I am sure Mrs Gregory will have some lovely memories of her time with the children. I would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her well as she looks forward to spending more time with her family.

### **FREE Family cooking sessions**

This half term's wellbeing theme is 'Learn'. As part of this theme all families are invited to join a virtual Cookalong session on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 4 - 5, to learn how to make a yummy vegetable chilli with rice.

Learning something new, taking part in something together and eating well can all have huge benefits for our wellbeing and mental health. Involving your child in the preparation of food is a great way to encourage more adventurous and healthy eating.

The recipe provides 4 hearty servings (and probably some leftovers) and will cost around £1.28 per portion. To take part simply send an email to [montalbo@durhamlearning.net](mailto:montalbo@durhamlearning.net) for the attention of Miss Richardson with the name of your child(ren) and which email address you would like the TEAMS invite to be sent to. Emails must be received by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 9am.

You will need to have your ingredients, equipment and device ready for the start of the session. Cooking will begin at 4pm, you should join the call before this time.

A full ingredient list can be found on Weduc.

### **COVID 19 changes**

The advice from Public Health, who we follow with all of our infection controls, is that if anyone has COVID 19 they should isolate for 5 days after the date of a positive test and continue to isolate until 2 consecutive days of negative tests (the same advice as before half term). Please could all parents continue to be vigilant for symptoms of COVID 19 and test their child for COVID 19 if they have symptoms. If any parents/adults who collect children have symptoms, please do not come to school until they have tested negative.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We have scheduled Parents' Evenings for March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and will be able to have these in school. Appointments can be booked via the Parents Evening tab on Weduc, select the date you wish to attend and follow the instructions. If you have any problems booking an appointment please contact the school office.

### **Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS)**

This week we had a visit from the WAS Advisor to check on our progress towards achieving this award. This has been a whole school effort, led by Mrs Bartoli and I thank her for her work on this. I am also grateful to everyone for supporting one another in school and to pupils, parents and staff for their feedback via questionnaires on our work. The assessor will take his findings back to a panel to review our evidence and I will let you know in due course of the outcome. We will continue to look at ways to promote positive mental health and wellbeing moving forward.

### **School Meal Price Increase from April 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**

School has been informed that the price will increase to £2.20 per meal from 4<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Friday will be a non-uniform day (please keep ideas practical for school) and children may like to bring in a £1 donation to support Children in Need.

### **Holi Festival Weekend**

If you would like to take part in the Colour Run on the Holi Festival Weekend, you will need to book tickets through the TCR Hub website. You can book a 10 minute interval time slot and find more information here: [TCR Hub Upcoming Events](#)

The children have been busy creating artwork to add to a gallery at Barnard Castle School for members of the public to view. As we only have a limited space there, the rest of the artwork will be displayed in school windows following the Barnard Castle Mayor's idea to fill the town windows with colour.

I am awaiting precise details of the Colour Parade at the Bowes Museum so please look out for Weduc updates on this. Similarly, Dr Greenwell has been working with a choir group to sing a song to some visiting dignitaries and I will send information to parents as soon as the times are confirmed.

### **Ukraine**

This week I shared some information with staff from the Local Authority on how best to support children (particularly older children) with questions around Ukraine. I have shared advice separately for parents, particularly around social media.

### **Clubs**

There is only 1 place available in Gardening club for Year 3 & Year 4 on Tuesday's 3:00 – 4:00 pm. The other clubs, Football for Year 5 and Year 6 on Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 pm and Reception class Arts & Crafts on Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm have places available. Places to be booked via Weduc and payment to be made via Parent Pay.

### **Dates for the Diary**

March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day – non-uniform day
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evenings
April 11 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Holidays

Mr. C Minikin  
Head Teacher