



May 20th 2022

Platinum Jubilee Plans

On Thursday between 1.15pm-3.30pm we will be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and I hope that many of you and your family are able to join us. The Town Crier will open the event at 1.15pm and then we will sing the National Anthem. After that, there are a host of activities to entertain our children such as outdoor games, climbing ropes, Blacksheep Morris Dancers, Punch and Judy and many royal-themed events like 'Pin the tail on the Corgi!' All of outdoor spaces including the Railway Heritage Garden and Roundhouse will be open for everyone.

There will a stall selling refreshments, a tombola and raffle as well as FOMS second-hand uniform to pick up a bargain. If you are unable to join you may like to send your child in with some change so that they could get a tombola ticket, for example.

Miss Richardson sent out a letter for the cake competitions and we are delighted with the number of entries. Please be aware that these cakes are just to be 'judged' and not to be eaten or sold, just in case of allergies and can be collected at the end of the day.

Friends of Montalbo School, Mrs Bowron from school, and all of the staff have put a great deal of thought and time into the afternoon and we are really looking forward to seeing you then.

The event will go ahead whatever the weather so please prepare your child appropriately with anything from caps and sun cream to raincoats, depending on the weather! On this day, please send your child to school wearing clothing suitable for a Garden Party (no football shirts, sensible shoes). Thank you.

In order to keep everyone safe, I will be stationed at one gate and Mrs Miller will be at the other. When you arrive, please find your child's class on the school field. Once your child's teacher has acknowledged your child is with you, you will be responsible for your child. The class teacher will be with children where a family member is unable to attend, ensuring that these children work their way around the activities as a class.

Comic Strip Sales

This week Miss Crampton came to see me about a lovely gesture from three boys in her Year 3 class: Bobby J, Bobby H and Daniel P. They have been creating comic strip cartoons and selling them to raise money for the Ukraine Appeal! So far they have raised an amazing £40.31 which we will pass on to the Richardson Hospital's fundraising effort. Well done boys – I look forward to reading mine.

Home Walk Project

This week we registered for the Home Walk Project which is aimed at children in years 3,4 and 5. The children in these year groups should have received an information booklet, sticker booklet and stickers. The project aims to promote the health benefits of walking and talking with families when children are not at school. Hopefully, the booklets and stickers will be a good motivator for our children.

Holiday Gymnastics Day - Monday May 30th

Michael Connelly is running a Gymnastics Day during the Whit Holidays, as he did over Easter. Further details are available on Weduc or by contacting Michael on 07707320473.

Religious Education Visits/Visitors

As part of the Durham Agreed Syllabus, Durham schools teach about many religions. Year 3 children enjoyed a visit to St Mary's Church. Thank you to Reverend Harding for sharing information about different parts of the church. Thanks to our parent helpers for accompanying the children. On Thursday, Year 6 were visited by two visitors from the Islamic Diversity Centre. Daniel and Ishmael talked to the children about what it is like to be a Muslim living in the UK as well as reviewing the different ways that Muslims worship. Daniel showed the children what Arabic writing looked like by writing some of the children's names and treated us to a live performance by singing the 'call to prayer'. They ended their visit with a game of 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' to let the children show off the knowledge that they had retained.

Reception Walk to the Woods

Our Reception children visited the woods as this week they had been reading Little Red Riding Hood. They had a lovely time observing the wildlife and natural features in the area, followed by a picnic by the river. They even spotted a house through the trees, which they thought may be Grandma's cottage! The children behaved very well. Thank you to Ms Maier and Miss Connolly for helping with the walk.

Working Together to Improve School Attendance

The Department for Education released a document this month entitled 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance.' Over the last few years before and during Covid times, we have had very good attendance and this is something I am keen to maintain. The new document promotes the link between good attendance and attainment and the important role parents play in ensuring children attend and are punctual. It reminds parents that children's illnesses should be reported straight away and that term time leave of absence requests will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. The intention is that this will be guidance in 2022 and become statutory in September 2023. A link to the document can be found [here](#).

Sporting events next week

There are 3 sporting fixtures next week. Please see Dates for the Diary. All Year 3 will be attending the Orienteering event on Monday. The other fixtures have a limited number of attendees.

Uniform Ordering Reminder

Order before 19th June - for delivery to school or home before school closes for the holidays.

Order before 24th July – for delivery to home before school returns in September

A link and information are available on the school website.

Nursery pupils starting Reception in September will be provided with a book bag by school.

Dates for the Diary

May 23 rd	Year 3 Orienteering at Staindrop
May 25 th	Selected Year 3 Cricket at Raby Castle
May 26 th	Jubilee Event at School 1.15pm-3.30pm
May 27 th	Athletics (selected Y5/6 children) at Bishop Barrington
May 30 th -June 3 rd	Whit Holidays including Barnard Castle Meet
June 6 th	Teacher Training Day
June 7 th	Children return to school
June 8 th	Class Photographs
June 10 th	Year 6 to Kingsway

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher