



July 1st 2022

Reception Class Assembly

Today was our first class assembly in a long time and it was absolutely superb! Our boys and girls in Reception shone and looked super cute in their animal costumes, as they told us all about animals in different habitats. They sang, danced and spoke confidently in front of a large audience of children and parents which is not easy for some of our youngest children. There were certainly a lot of emotional staff and family members at the end as we saw what a jam-packed and wonderful year the children have had. I am so proud of the class for the assembly and progress they have made throughout the year- well done Reception!

A lot of time, thought and work went into the assembly. It was tremendous. Thank you to Miss Lauder, Miss Earl, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Wood for their help with this. Well done Team Monty!

Year 1 Class Assembly

Our Year 1 children's class assembly is on Wednesday July 6th at 9am and parents/families are welcome to attend. We are looking forward to finding out what you have been learning about.

Monty Does Musicals

The children from Y2-6 have been busy preparing for Monty Does Musicals over the last few weeks. Information regarding tickets was sent out via Weduc regarding both performances. Demand is so high that some people have said we have broken the internet! If you are struggling to make requests via Weduc, please email requests to montalbo@durhamlearning.net

Athletics Level 3 Event

Last week I mentioned four of our Year 6 children qualified for the next round of School Games, where they would be competing against elite athletes from all over the county. They performed tremendously with the results as follows: Miah finished 5th in her 100m girls' race; Jack finished 3rd in the boys' 100m; Todd finished 3rd in the triple jump; Bella won the long jump. Congratulations to all of the children and I hope you continue to enjoy these sports and others at secondary school.

Friendship Games

Today children in Year 6 travelled to Victoria Lane School in Coundon for the second leg of the Friendship Games. I hope they enjoyed the events and I will let you know more about this next week.

Transition to Secondary School

Teesdale, Staindrop and The Oaks transition days are timetabled for most of our Year 6 next week. Parents of children transferring to Teesdale should have received additional information this week regarding arrangements. I hope that all of our children enjoy the day(s), meet new friends and embrace the new opportunities.

Moving Up Day

On Thursday July 7th children will move up to their next class. The classroom layout of the school will be the same in September and on Thursday morning, children should enter school via their new classroom door. Pick ups will also be from your child's new classroom door unless they are in after school care. Staff will be around all doors to help ensure children are in the right place!

Reception children should enter through their classroom door for 9am and should be collected from the same door at 12pm. If your child does a full day in Nursery usually on a Thursday, then they will have their lunch and go into Nursery for the afternoon, as normal and be collected from there at the end of the day.

End of Year Reports

On Wednesday July 6th end of year reports will be sent home with the children. When families require two reports, please contact the school office to inform us whether the second copy should be posted/emailed etc. Additional information about your child's next class, assessment and attendance will be included.

Attendance

It has been a difficult balance for Head Teachers again this year with COVID affecting school attendance, particularly during the Autumn and Spring Term when cases throughout the country were high. Obviously, we do not want infectious children in school so if a child has symptoms, it was correct to keep them off school for the required period (currently 3 days for children).

More recently, schools are being asked to make school attendance a high priority by the Department for Education and do as much as possible to encourage good attendance, including giving parents as much information as possible. Below are some facts around the attendance figure in the end of year reports:

95% = 10 days absence (2 school weeks)

90% = 19 days absence (almost 4 school weeks)

85% = 29 days absence (almost 6 school weeks or a 'typical' half term)

The cumulative effect of these absences year on year are particularly concerning, where a child might have attendance below 90% for more than one year, for example. I have often highlighted in newsletters the link between positive attendance and attainment, and wherever possible, children should be in school. From September, I will publish our weekly attendance for each class and reward good attendance once more.

Women's Elite Rugby Visit

This week we were visited by Sophie Shams and her team mates to inspire our girls in sport. Sophie has represented England Sevens at the Rugby Europe Sevens Grand Prix, has played Premier 15s rugby with Darlington Mowden Park and also scored a wonderful try for Durham in the BUCS Final at Twickenham in 2019. She was signed last year to play for the Saracens who are an English professional rugby union club based in North London, England. As of the current 2022–23 season, they compete in Premiership Rugby, the highest tier competition in English rugby, as well as the domestic Premiership Rugby Cup and the European Rugby Champions Cup. The girls in Key Stage 2 worked with the squad on some games and drills. Thanks to Dr Greenwell for organising this.

Barnard Castle Rugby Sessions

Children from Year 1-6 have the opportunity to join Barnard Castle Rugby Club's Junior Academy. Sessions are on Sunday mornings starting in September. It is open to children with no previous experience to more confident players. To register an interest, please contact Andy on 0780180120.

Bikeability

Year 6s who are attending Bikeability training will need to remember their bikes and helmets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

FOMS Summer Raffle

We will be drawing the summer raffle on July 14th. Thank you to those families who have sold their tickets and returned the stubs and money. If you would like to contribute a raffle prize or would like more tickets please call at the school office. Thank you.

Sports Day

Nursery class will be holding a Sports Afternoon on Thursday 14th July 1.30 - 3pm. Parents and carers are invited along to watch some traditional sports day races on the school field, followed by a picnic and play in the nursey grounds. Mrs Patterson will post more details on the Weduc app nearer the time.

Sports Day for years Reception to Year 6 is arranged for Friday July 15th at 1pm. Parents/carers and families are welcome to attend.

Uniform Ordering Reminder

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

A link and information are available on the school website.

Dates for the Diary

I have added all of the dates for the diary for the rest of the academic year in the section below and as you can see there is a lot happening! Some events are added as they are confirmed each week so keep checking please! Details will follow for some of them.

July 4 th , 5 th & 6 th	Bikeability for Year 6
July 4 th	Year 4 Rugby Competition @ B.C Rugby Ground
July 5 th	Year 5 Netball @ Bishop Barrington
July 6 th	Year 1 Class Assembly @ 9am
July 6 th	Staindrop Transition (Y6)
July 7 th and 8 th	Teesdale Transition (Y6)
July 7 th	The Oaks Transition (Y6)
July 7 th	Moving Up Day
July 7 th	Nursery new starter visits
July 11 th	Dress Rehearsal (Y2-6)
July 12 th and 13 th	Year 2-6 Performance at the Witham (children to arrive 5.30pm; performances start at 6pm)
July 12 th	Reception Festival @ Staindrop Academy
July 12 th	Football Competition @ Staindrop Academy
July 13 th	Year 6 Festival @ Staindrop Academy
July 14 th	Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm
July 14 th	Year 1 Festival @ Staindrop Academy
July 14 th	Nursery sports afternoon and picnic 1.20pm
July 14 th	The Oaks Transition (Y6)
July 15 th	School sports day Reception-Y6 1pm
July 20 th	Leavers' Assembly
July 20 th	Last day of term
September 6 th	Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin

Head Teacher