



October 20th 2023

Last Year's Results

This week end of 2023 data was released and it makes pretty impressive reading. Our figures were 'significantly above national' in many areas and 'above' in every statutory assessment from Reception to Year 6. For example, in Key Stage 1 Writing and Maths at the expected standard, we were in the top 7% and 4% of all primary schools. In Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths combined - the top 3%; Grammar Punctuation and Spelling - the top 4%; Reading Higher Scores - the top 1%. Well done TeamMonty!

Cross Country

This week several children from Key Stage 2 attended a Cross Country Event at Staindrop. They all performed really well and special congratulations must go to Ruby from Year 4 who won the race in her age range. Well done to everyone who took part!

Felt Artist

Year 4 had a lovely day on Thursday with Mrs Priestly, a local felt artist. They spent the day building on their initial oil pastel designs, creating excellent feltwork pieces on the theme of 'light.' They also made some felt poppies which we can display around Remembrance.

Barnard Castle Band

Suzanne Hunter, who plays for Barnard Castle Band, is interested in attracting some children to the band. There are a number of children in Year 5 who may like to attend these sessions. They can attend, even if your child does not currently receive any tuition. The band players will help and guide them and will have instruments for the children to use. The first session is at Glaxo Sports and Social Club at 5.30pm on October 29th. There is no charge for these sessions. To confirm your interest, please email Suzanne – suzannehunter@hotmail.co.uk

Individual and Sibling Photographs

On Tuesday 24th October school photographs of individual children and their siblings will be taken. If your child has a younger sibling not in Nursery and you would like a photograph taken together please bring them to school for 8.30am. If your child is at our Nursery and does not usually attend on a Tuesday morning, please bring them in then too.

Parents/Carers' Evening

Parents/Carers' Evenings are on October 23rd and October 24th. Please book an appointment following the instructions on Weduc. Most of the appointments will be in your child's classroom, apart from parents/carers of children in Nursery and Reception. Reception meetings will be in my room and Nursery meetings will be in the Staffroom. All books will be located outside the rooms where your meetings take place.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be in school next week – please pop along on Parents/Carers' Evening if you would like.

Year 6 Height and Weight Checks

The school nursing team will be in school next week conducting their annual height and weight checks for Year 6.

Year 3 at Tag Rugby

On Wednesday, eighteen Year 3 competed in a tag rugby tournament at Staindrop. One team finished fifth and the other second. The children were commended on their excellent behaviour and team spirit. Well done everyone!

Year 6 Multiskills

The Year 6 children had a thoroughly enjoyable morning at Staindrop on Thursday taking part in different sporting activities as part of the Multiskills festival.

Roar Project

Next week, I have been asked to sit on the panel to judge our Year 6 children's work on the Roar Programme, in conjunction with Teesdale Lions. The children have been asked to identify a problem whether it be in the home, school or society and come up with an invention or solution to fix it. They will be presenting their ideas to a Dragon's Den type panel next week – good luck Year 6!

Clubs after Half Term

The after school clubs list for after half term will be shared next week. We are pleased to involve a couple of local artists and also have a computing expert who can help children make lego creations move using the PC to add to our clubs! Clubs for Reception children will begin after Christmas.

Mini Art Project

Mrs Patterson, our Art Subject Lead, has been very impressed by the children's artwork in the Helping Hands project. The work is displayed in the hall and you could see it next week during Parents/Carers' Evening.

Connections through Coffee and Chat

Thank you to Mrs Bowron for hosting the first Connections through Coffee and Chat afternoon. We will hold another next half term.

Harvest Collection

This week we had a nice Harvest Festival Assembly where all children, including Nursery were in the hall singing harvest songs. We have delivered a lot of food up to the Hub to help provide foodstuffs for local families. Thank you for your donations.

Christmas Fayre

School and FOMs will be hosting our annual Christmas Fayre on November 30th. I know that regular visitors really enjoy this and we do too. There will be a great mix of stallholders and activities to do. If you would like a stall at our Fayre, please contact the School Office.

Those who have been to a Christmas Fayre in the past will appreciate the scale of the event. We will not be able to offer after school care on November 30th as every available space is used.

Reception School Places

The window for applying for school places for Reception places in September 2024 is now open. To apply, please visit [here](#). Once on the site, you can apply online through the Parent Portal or if you prefer a paper application please contact Durham School Admissions on 03000265896.

Secondary school admission process

The application process for the Secondary School Admissions 2024 Intake is open. Parents/carers can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The closing date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2023.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team.

These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	98.5%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	97.4%
Year 3	97.4%
Year 4	96.5%
Year 5	98.6%
Year 6	93.5%
Whole School %	96.8%

Dates for the Diary

October 23 rd and 24 th	Parents' Evenings
October 24 th	Individual and siblings Photographs
October 25 th	Nursery/Reception Halloween Disco
October 26 th	Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 Halloween Disco
October 26 th	Height and Weight checks
October 27 th	Y5/6 Halloween Disco
October 30 th – November 3 rd	Half term
November 8 th	All Reception to Multiskills (Staindrop)
November 8 th	FOMS Meeting 5.15pm all welcome
November 10 th	Selected Key Stage 2 Children Cross Country
November 15 th	15 Year 1 to Multiskills (venue tbc)
November 16 th	All Year 4 to Multiskills

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

