



November 24th 2023

Dance Off

Today we have had one of our most enjoyable events of the year in our version of Strictly Come Dancing! The hall was packed as all of the classes from Nursery to Year 6 took part with each class watching and cheering on their schoolmates. We were visited by regular judge Motsi Ma Bowron and new judges Anton du Thom, Luna Ballas and Lewis Revel Marr. The judges were wowed by the choreography, energy and skill of our children. There were two Glitter Ball prizes up for grabs today: one competition between Early Years and Key Stage 1 and one between the Key Stage 2 classes. Congratulations to our Reception winners for their superb, lively and fun dance and to our Year 4 winners for their amazing Barbie dance! A huge thank you to Miss Richardson for organising and hosting the show, the staff for helping with class dances and our outstanding children for their amazing dances!

School Council Elections

Mrs Smith has handed out School Council Election forms which are due back in on Monday, should your child be interested. The class will vote two representatives for the year. One thing I would like school council to look at is playtimes and the types of activities and games they would like to have. I am sure the children will have lots of great ideas.

Children in Need

School raised an impressive £276.55 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Christmas Fayre

Next week our annual Christmas Fayre takes place on Thursday, November 30th between 5-7pm. There will be a huge range of stalls and activities to visit. Stalls include cakes, confectionary, jewellery, health and beauty products, knitted goods, artwork, resin casting, sewn goods, personalised water bottles and much more. There are refreshments on offer such as Tom's very popular wood-fired pizzas, Piggy Blinders, mince pies, mulled wine and more. The children in Key Stage 2 have also made some crafts to sell. We are hoping that a special visitor may join us too. FOMS are running some stalls alongside the huge Christmas raffle. Thank you to families who have dropped off prizes for the raffle. Please let family and friends know too. It is a lovely occasion and it helps disorganised Christmas present buyers like me at least make a start!

Luminaires

I am sure those of you who have been to the Fayre enjoy looking at the children's luminaire creations. If your child would like to make one please bring it in by Wednesday so we can get them ready to display in our Railway Heritage Garden.

Thursday's Clay Club and After School Care

Due to the Christmas Fayre next week's Clay Club and After School Care will not be available. Sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Brightwoods

This week Year 2 have been visited by Gemma and Louise from Brightwoods and staff from Durham Wildlife Trust to learn more about eco systems and foodchains. The children learnt about the importance of the peatland habitat in particular and how valuable this is to maintain for our environment.

Year 5 Christmas Lantern Parade

Our Year 5 children worked with TCR Hub to create some lanterns in preparation for a Light Up Barnard Castle event on Friday 1st December. The Year 5 children have been invited to form part of the parade from The Witham to the Castle starting at 5pm. We have been asked to provide numbers who will attend to help the organisers and Miss Richardson has sent a slip home to return to confirm your child's attendance. Parents are invited to watch the parade and meet the children afterwards. We may need a couple of helpers on the night to walk with us so if you are able to help please let Miss Richardson know.

Christmas Carol Service for Key Stage 2

Parents/carers and families of children in Key Stage 2 are invited to our annual Carol Service in St Mary's Church. We have confirmed the timing now and this event will begin at 1.45pm and will finish at around 3pm. If you are joining us, you will be able to collect your child at the end of the service or alternatively we can walk the children back to school.

Eco Committee

This week Eco Committee helped me collect many bags of leaves which we are hoping to turn into leaf mould. In the spring we will open the bags, then work the leaf mould into the soil in the polytunnel which will be great for the jungle plants we are growing.

The Key Stage 2 children from Eco Committee will join schools around the world on an online lesson for some insights into climate change as part of the Cop28 programme. They will share information with their classes after the lesson on December 6th.

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.

Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	88.1
Year 1	96.1
Year 2	87.3
Year 3	92.3
Year 4	94
Year 5	95.8
Year 6	96.7
Whole School %	92.7

Dates for the Diary

December 1 st	Light up Barney Parade (Y5 to meet at 5pm at The Witham Hall)
December 5 th	Reception Nativity (1.45pm)
December 6 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Play (1.45pm and 6pm)
December 11 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong(2pm)
December 14 th	Christmas Dinner
December 15 th	Christmas Carol Service in St Marys (Y3, 4, 5 and 6) @1.45pm
December 15 th	Our Christmas Jumper Day
December 18 th	Nursery/Reception Party (am) Year 1/2 Party (pm)
December 19 th	Year 3/4 Party (am) and Year 5/6 Party (pm)
December 20 th – January 2 nd	Christmas Holidays
January 3 rd	Teacher Training Day

January 4th

Children return to school

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.

