



December 1st 2023

Christmas Fayre

Last night we held our annual Christmas Fayre and it was magical! The wintery weather added to the festive feel and it was lovely to see so many current and former pupils enjoying themselves. It was nice to speak to many parents/carers, families and friends too who were also having a great time. It was lovely that many of our staff brought their families too who enjoyed themselves and helped out as well.

As you can imagine, an event like this could not happen without a massive effort from Team Monty and I include FOMS in this as they are very much part of the team. The organisation started months ago by Mrs Bowron, Miss Richardson and FOMS and without their time, energy and enthusiasm events like these would not occur. I am so appreciative of their help and thank them hugely for their efforts before, during and after the event. Thank you also to our amazing staff who always go above and beyond – we have a very special team. Many thanks also to Jonny Maude for pulling out Piggy Blinders who got stuck on the rather boggy school field!

I also wanted to pay tribute to our amazing, creative Luminaire designers. Weren't they great? They looked spectacular in our Railway Heritage Garden. I did not envy our judges at all. Congratulations to everyone who entered and I hope that you enjoy your chocolate santas/snowmen. A special well done to Theo G (Nursery) who came third with his digger, second placed Ayla (Y3) who made an amazing cake and the winner, Amelia (Y3), who made the enormous sleigh with me on the naughty list!

These community events are very much part of what makes our school such a special place and thank you all for attending, donating, buying raffle tickets and supporting the school. Whatever monies we raise, always goes back to providing resources and experiences for our children.

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 which takes place tonight around the Scar Top and castle. The Year 5 children have been invited to form part of the parade from The Witham to the Castle and need to be at the Witham Hall for 5.10pm and be well wrapped up! We have been given a collection point at the end of the parade which is near the 'Heart Installation' on the Scar Top. Please wait until Miss Richardson and Mrs Leonard have seen you before taking your child as it will be very busy. Thank you.

Reception Nativity and Year 1/2 Christmas Plays

On Tuesday afternoon, the Christmas joy continues and I look forward to watching our Reception children's nativity performance with their families.

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, it is the turn of our children from Years 1 and 2 for their Christmas Play. I know they have been rehearsing well and I look forward to seeing their two performances.

Mini Medics

On January 9th, a Mini Medics trainer will be in school from 3-5pm working with 10 parents/carers and their children on a free first aid course. This is the first session we have booked to date and plan to hold more over the year.

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	94.4
Year 1	99.2
Year 2	92.7
Year 3	91.7
Year 4	83.7
Year 5	94.2
Year 6	92.1
Whole School %	92.4%

Dates for the Diary

December 1 st	Light up Barney Parade (Y5 to meet at 5.10pm 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 4 th	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.

