



January 5th 2024

### **Welcome Back**

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a happy and healthy New Year. It has been so wet and windy but I hope that you still found time to get out and about into the local area or further afield and spent time with friends and family.

Welcome to our new families from children in Nursery and to some year groups where we had spaces. We hope all of our children have enjoyed the start of term. I talked in assembly yesterday about New Year's Resolutions and there were some amazing ones: from looking after pigeons to practising more at ventriloquism! I will be keeping track of these and others throughout the year...

### **Inclusion Quality Mark**

Just before the end of term, we received the excellent news that we had been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark. This shows that we do everything we can to meet the needs of all of our children, offering a holistic and aspirational approach. The report is very comprehensive and can be found [here](#). The assessor felt we could move to becoming a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion which we will work towards in the future. We are very fortunate to have such a skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated Special Educational Needs Coordinator in Mrs Channell and I thank her for her work towards this award and supporting our children in general. Thank you also to the whole team and some parents/carers who met with the assessor. Well done Team Monty!

### **Online Safety**

Part of our Professional Development Day on Wednesday was based on Online Safety and the figures shared showed the growth of children having access to technology as well as how rapidly the online world is changing. Whilst the internet and Artificial Intelligence can have huge benefits, there are risks associated and it is important home and school work closely together on this. Miss Lauder, our Computing Lead in school, ensures that each half term children across the school are taught different elements of online safety and there are some useful links that she shared via Weduc to give you advice on online safety. On Safer Internet Day, February 6<sup>th</sup>, each class will share some of their online safety advice with parents/carers from 2.55-3.15pm.

**One thing I would definitely recommend is for parents/carers to check their child's devices regularly to monitor chats, apps and the things your child is viewing.**

### **Year 5 Swimming**

You may be aware that Teesdale Sports Centre will be closing from mid-February until the summer for refurbishments, which include work on the swimming pool. We are hoping to have clarity from Durham's aquatics team about alternative arrangements for our Year 5 children and I will keep you informed once I know more.

### **Reception School Places**

The window for applying for school places for Reception places closes on January 15th. Applications submitted after this date will be classed as a late application. 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. This process applies to children who attend our nursery already too.

### Dates for the Diary

January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mini Medics parent/child session (fully booked)
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 swimming resumes
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics (no.s tbc)
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Reception and Y1 dental checks
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Swimming Gala (selected children)
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
February 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Netball tournament
February 19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half Term
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
March 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and 4 School Play

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.

