



**February 16th 2024**

### **Parents/Carers Evenings**

I hope that you found the meeting with your child's class teacher useful and enjoyed looking at your child's work. I saw many of you enjoying watching the videos embedded within their work too. It is amazing to see what they produce in half an academic year isn't it?

### **Reroofing the Nursery**

Please see separate letter regarding the reroofing of the Nursery shared via Weduc today.

### **Dr Blezard**

Dr Greenwell has changed her name and will now be known as Dr Blezard.

### **Don Kent Visit**

Today we had an inspiring visit from Don Kent, a brother of explorer and scientist Robert Swan. He had visited Antarctica with Robert several times and told us about the conditions, wildlife and landscape. The children from Y1-6 really enjoyed Don's stories, facts and humour.

Don told us that there is a 2041 treaty in place which means that no country is allowed to exploit or build in Antarctica. However, as we know, the finite nature of resources on Earth means that some countries may be eager to exploit this after 2041. Robert Swan is keen to ensure that this does not happen and to help spread this message is encouraging schools to sign up to being a 2041 School, which we are eager to be.

### **Year 2 Multiskills**

The Year 2 class had a great time at the Year 2 Multiskills festival where they took part in a range of activities – roll ball, obstacle courses, gymnastics, hoop ball, 4 in a row and races. The children behaved brilliantly and came back tired but happy! Well done Year 2.

### **Year 5 Netball**

Two teams from Year 5 went to Netball on Wednesday and showed a great attitude. They found the competition tough but never gave up! Well done netballers! .

### **World Book Day**

One of our priorities each year is to improve children's reading as we believe it is one of the most crucial skills we teach. World Book Day reminds the wider community of the importance of reading and we would like to invite parents/carers into school on the afternoon of March 7<sup>th</sup> between 3.15-6pm to look at a gallery showcasing their work from this day. It will have an Antarctica theme – please see below.

### **Half term Challenge**

Those of you who remember last year's World Book Day event around the book *Tuesday* will recollect the mix of written work and artwork on display in the hall – there were frogs everywhere! I wondered if children over half term might like to contribute to this year's hall display by creating some Antarctica artwork, models etc. They may even like to use some recyclable materials to create something – it might be penguins, whales, seals or icy landscapes. Please bring your artwork or creations in on March 6<sup>th</sup> so we can work out how best to display them.

## Half Term Science Competition

### GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM SCRAPS!

Did you know that you can grow your own fruit and vegetables from leftovers that you have after making meals? Growing our own fruit and vegetables can help to save money, reduce food waste and teach us valuable lessons about nature and sustainability. Please see Dr Blezard's Weduc post for examples!

## Sports next half term

The sports teachers from Staindrop Academy have made some slight changes to the festivals and competition dates for next half term. Please see dates for diary.

## Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	86.3
Year 1	96.9
Year 2	96.7
Year 3	93.3
Year 4	92.7
Year 5	96.9
Year 6	96.7
Whole School %	94.0

## Dates for the Diary

February 19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Half Term
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Parents/Carers SATS Information session
March 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 and 4 School Play
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming recommences for Year 5 at Woodhouse Close
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Multiskills at Staindrop
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	2 teams from Y2 Football at Newton Aycliffe
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Selected Y5/6 Girls Football
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 Orienteering
April 1 <sup>st</sup> – April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holidays
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
May 13 <sup>th</sup> – May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Training Day
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	School reopens – Nursery, Reception, Y1 and 2 in new classrooms
May 27 <sup>th</sup> – May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Whit Half Term Holidays
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children return to school
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening Check fortnight begins for Y1

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.

