



February 9th 2024

Safer Internet Day

It was great to see a number of parents/carers and family members attend the internet safety sessions at the end of Tuesday. The development of online games, video and messaging sites grow in number every day and children are accessing devices with internet capability at younger ages. I was really interested to learn some facts from the different classes on the theme of privacy and security, such as details on strong passwords and information we should keep private. These messages and others related to the online world are ones that we will keep repeating, developing and building on. One piece of information that was shared via the police to the Local Authority was that when devices are updated to a new IOS or an app updates, some of the settings may alter. The police advice is as follows: 'Due to inconsistencies in many of the Apps we would always advise users to check the privacy settings after every update. This is the only way you can guarantee that the settings have remained secure. I know this can be tedious but it really is the best way to keep safe.'

Children's Mental Health Week

Today I talked to the children about Children's Mental Health week. The theme for this year is My Voice Matters and looks at how to share feelings, uncomfortable emotions, kindness, respect and making connections. Over the coming weeks, Mrs Leonard (Senior Mental Health Lead) and I will lead a Wellbeing Assembly each week.

Don Kent Visit

Miss Richardson has been in contact with Robert Swann, the explorer, and his brother Don Kent, as we look to inspire children with different career choices. Don is able to come to school on Friday 16th February and lead an assembly to let the children know of some of their important work in Antarctica with a view to Montalbo becoming Champions of Antarctica and a 2041 School.

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 7th 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. I wondered if children over half term might like to contribute to the 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 6th so we can work out how best to display them.

Parents/Carers' Evening

The booking system for appointments for our Spring Term Parents/Carers' Evening is now open. The link has been shared on Weduc along with a 'Parent Guide'. If you have any issues booking an appointment please contact the School Office. Mrs Patterson has so many Nursery children to discuss, she has further appointments available from 1pm on Monday 12th February. We usually have well over 90% attendance at these events and I look forward to seeing you there.

Nursery Reroofing Work

I have been given a few more details about the upcoming work and will send out a letter to parents/carers next week about how the reroofing project will work and the changes that we will need to make to facilitate this.

Valentine Discos

Next week we will have a number of Valentine Discos in school. On Wednesday it is the Nursery and Reception disco; on Thursday is Years 1 and 2 then Years 3 and 4; Friday is Years 5 and 6. Children can come to school in partywear suitable for school.

Year 1 Farm Trip

Today the Year 1 children and staff braved the elements to spend the day at Explorers Farm as part of their Geography work. I will let you know some of the activities they took part in next week.

Year 5 Swimming

Durham County Council have informed us this week of the plans for the Year 5 swimming sessions after the closure of Teesdale Leisure Centre. Children will now go to Woodhouse Close swimming pool on a Wednesday afternoon, with the first session on Wednesday 13th March.

Bee Poster Competition

We have had some fabulous entries for the 3D poster competition which closes on Friday 16th February. The competition from Chartwells (our caterers) encourages children to make a colourful 3D flower garden for bumblebees. The entries to date are currently displayed in our hall with other displays children have made in some subjects. The birdhouses Y5 made in DT are very impressive as are the Y6 recycled artwork.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair periodically for head lice and seek treatment where necessary. Thank you.

Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	97.2
Year 1	96.2
Year 2	94.7
Year 3	97.3
Year 4	94
Year 5	95.4
Year 6	90.8
Whole School %	95.2

Dates for the Diary

February 12th and 13th

February 14th

February 14th-16th

February 19th-23rd

February 24th

March 7th

March 13th

March 13th and 14th

March 15th

March 20th

March 22nd

Parents/Carers' Evenings

Year 5 Netball tournament

Valentine Discos

Half Term

Children return to school

World Book Day – gallery in school 3.15-6pm

Swimming recommences for Year 5 at Woodhouse Close

Year 3 and 4 School Play

Comic Relief

Year 2 Football at Staindrop

Selected Y5/6 Girls Football

March 27th
April 1st – April 12th

Y3/4 Orienteering
Easter Holidays

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.

