



January 26th 2024

Curriculum

Staff have been updating their class pages on the school website. These pages give more information about the books children are reading in class and information about the different topics covered within each subject. To see this information, click [here](#) and then access the relevant class's Spring 2024 page on the right-hand side.

Mini Medics

Last week we were pleased to be able to host the mini medics session which taught children/parents some first aid techniques. I hope that the children and parents found this useful. We will try to arrange further sessions in the future.

Tractor Visit

We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Kearton for bringing in an old and new tractor last week for the children in Year 1 to compare as part of their history topic. The children got to sit in the tractors and were able to identify similarities and differences between the two tractors.

Year 2 Mapwork and Traffic Survey

Last week Year 2 braved the cold to follow a map around the local area as part of the Geography topic. Today they were out and about again to complete a traffic survey. Well done Year 2!

Year 1 Farm Trip

On February 9th children in Year 1 will visit Explorers Nursery and Farm as part of their Geography topic. Further details can be found on ParentPay.

Swimming Gala

Four or five children from each of the Key Stage 2 classes attended a swimming gala today. I hope that the children enjoyed the occasion and I will let you know how they got on next week.

Clubs and Wraparound Care Payments

It is important that parents/carers keep up with payments for clubs or care sessions attended and school dinners taken. This helps school finances and means that parents/carers are not accruing debts over time. Please try to pay in advance of your child's sessions for these. Thank you.

Safer Internet Day

On February 6th each class will be participating in Safer Internet Day. This year we are focusing on 'Privacy and Security' and will be completing some age-related tasks in class. Parents and Carers are invited into school from 2:55pm – 3:15pm, so the children can share their learning with you. As technology is constantly advancing, we feel it is very important to provide you and the children with information and tools to keep our children safe online. We hope to see you in school to share this learning!

Quad Station Visit

As part of Reception's 'People Who Help Us' topic, Reception are lucky enough to visit Barnard Castle's Emergency Service Quad Station on Wednesday 31st January. They are hoping to get the chance to explore the emergency vehicles, uniforms and to learn some useful safety tips.

Ice Cube Challenge

Dr Greenwell was very impressed with the entries for her ice cube challenge. The winners were Lucy (Y2) and William (Y6) with their astounding tower measuring 28 cm! Well done!

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.

Data Forms

We are still missing a few data forms from the start of the year. Mrs Collin has sent out some more data sheets to those parents/carers who have not returned them. Please complete and return these as soon as possible.

Attendance

You may have seen on the news recently some concerns around children's attendance, particularly since the pandemic and the negative effect low attendance can have on academic achievement and health and wellbeing. I have referenced this many times in the newsletter and it is worth remembering that an attendance of below 90% means children are missing the equivalent of a day's learning every fortnight (around half a term a year), with some children having these attendance figures year after year.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	91.4
Year 1	93.1
Year 2	98
Year 3	88.7
Year 4	90.3
Year 5	95.8
Year 6	94.6
Whole School %	93

Dates for the Diary

January 31 st	Reception to the Emergency Service Quad Station
February 6 th	Safer Internet Day
February 9 th	Year 1 visit to Explorers Farm
February 12 th and 13 th	Parents' Evenings
February 14 th	Year 5 Netball tournament
February 13 th -16 th	Valentine Discos
February 19 th -23 rd	Half Term
February 24 th	Children return to school
March 13 th and 14 th	Year 3 and 4 School Play
March 15 th	Comic Relief
March 20 th	Year 2 Football at Staindrop
March 22 nd	Selected Y5/6 Girls Football
March 27 th	Y3/4 Orienteering
April 1 st – April 12 th	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.

