



March 22nd 2024

Around school

This week has been time to catch our breath after World Book Day, Mother's Day and Shakespeare Rocks. It has been lovely to see the children being creative and having a number of opportunities to sketch, paint, cook and make as our Art and DT topics come towards their end goals for this term. The standards in these subjects are as high as other areas of the curriculum and it really is remarkable to see what the children produce. The electric light houses in Year 4, for example, combining the children's knowledge of science and DT, are wonderful.

Mrs Smith and I are huge advocates for Outdoor Learning and we got to see some excellent work by our Year 1s who cooked marshmallows and nachos over one of our fire pits. They were so sensible around the fire circle and had a fabulous time. We have invested a lot over recent years in equipment to support Outdoor Learning and I am sure that this is another thing the children will remember later in life about their time in primary school. Later that day, Year 2s made some brilliant outdoor artwork braving the Spring showers, based on the work of artist Richard Long.

Nursery have been busy learning how to be independent, practising things like turning their clothes the right way when they are inside out! They have been learning to cut carefully with scissors.

Year 3 have been writing some inspirational poetry including similes and metaphors. The standard of the work has really impressed us and the children certainly love poems.

I was impressed with the collages that our Year 5 children have made, each one unique and focused on different ecosystems and biomes. They were based on the work of Sieko Kato, who uses images from books, magazines and encyclopaedias in her work.

Reception have been learning in their changes topic about past and present. When I visited the class earlier, children were looking at photographs and deciding whether they were from the past or present day. They justified their choices brilliantly.

Year 6 had a brilliant day on Thursday making their curries from seasonal vegetables and eating them for this term's DT project. Some of the class mentioned that they may have added slightly too many spices! I doubt too many Year 6s get to do this in school at this time of year and it shows we do try to keep some kind of balance for the children, even in the run up to their end of key stage assessments.

Comic Relief

Thank you for your contributions to Comic Relief. Altogether we raised £243.06.

British Sign Language

This week our Teacher of the Deaf, Lauren Temple, visited the school and led an assembly on British Sign Language week. Lauren has worked closely with our school for a number of years supporting children with hearing impairments and is a much-valued colleague. The children were fascinated to learn some sign language and have been set a challenge. The children know quite a few signs already such as greetings and please/thank you. Why not see what your child can show you through sign language?

Easter Holidays

A reminder that Friday next week is Good Friday and the last day of the Spring Term is Thursday 28th March. Children return to school on Monday 15th April.

Dr Blezard's Spring Science Challenge

Dr Blezard has shared a couple of Science activities that your children might want to tackle on a weekend or after school. Please see Weduc for further details.

Congratulations to Rose (Y4) for winning the grow your own challenge for her amazing cherry tomato seedlings!

MP Visit

This week we were visited by Deheena Davison MP, Cllr Joanne Howey and Jane McBean, a member of their team. Year 4 wrote to Deheena as part of our work to become a 2041 School protecting Antarctica and we were pleased that she accepted their invitation. In assembly this morning, we also asked Deheena about her career and how she became a MP. The children raised some great points about improvements to the area, from sports facilities to improving local shops. When our visitors chatted to Year 4, they were very keen to learn more about the 2041 treaty and Deheena said that she would ask the Prime Minister about it in the Houses of Parliament. They were very impressed with our children's knowledge about the issue. Well done Team Monty!

Sporting Events

There were two festivals this week for whole classes and two competitions where numbers were restricted. Reception and Year 5 enjoyed the multiskills playing lots of different games.

On Thursday, Year 2 headed to Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre to take part in a football competition. The children were a little bit nervous but played exceptionally well.

We are very pleased to say that both of our teams finished first in their leagues and showed excellent teamwork throughout! A huge well done to all of the children who participated.

Today the Girls' Football Team went to St Johns and played 9 matches, winning 7. They scored so many goals! The girls finished third in their league and fifth overall out of twenty teams in the competition. Well done!

Nursery

Please see the Weduc post regarding Nursery from September 2024.

School Meals Price Increase

Chartwells, the school catering company Durham Local Authority schools use, have increased the cost of school meals to £2.81 per week, citing increased food costs and staff salaries as the reason for the increase, with effect from April 1st 2024.

Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	92.9
Year 1	95.6
Year 2	95.3
Year 3	86.7
Year 4	92.0
Year 5	97.7
Year 6	92.7
Whole School %	93.1

Dates for the Diary

March 27 th	Y4 Orienteering
March 28 th – April 12 th	Easter Holidays
April 15 th	Children return to school for the Summer Term
May 6 th	May Day Bank Holiday
May 7 th	Children return to school
May 7 th	Eco Council Visit to Cow Green
May 13 th – May 16 th	Year 6 SATs
May 17 th	Teacher Training Day
May 20 th	Teacher Training Day
May 21 st	School reopens – Nursery, Reception, Y1 and 2 in new classrooms
May 27 th – May 31 st	Whit Half Term Holidays
June 3 rd	Children return to school
June 10 th - June 14 th	Phonics Screening Check for Y1
June 3 rd – June 14 th	Multiplication Test for Y4
July 2 nd	Reception – Y6 Sports Day
July 3 rd	Nursery Sports Day
July 12 th	Move Up Day
July 15 th	Monty Does... rehearsal for Y3-6
July 16 th and 17 th	Monty Does... at the Witham for Y3-6

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.

