



April 19th 2024

Welcome Back

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break and spent some time with family and friends. The weather could be described as 'mixed' at best and as a keen gardener this proved difficult with the constant downpours!

However, despite the weather, many of you sent in photographs from the Take Notice competitions which were great to see. Hopefully the display will be up next week showcasing our children's photography skills.

New Reception Starters

Places were allocated for our September 2024 Reception cohort this week. Miss Lauder will be in touch in the coming weeks to arrange a New Starter's Parent/Carer Meeting and our new Reception starters will be able to meet Miss Lauder and her team on the Move Up Day on July 12th.

Around school

The children have settled back into school routines brilliantly and I have managed to spend a little time in each class.

This week Nursery's new book is 'Let's Go On A Journey' which links with their topic on vehicles. They have been looking at old and new trains as they begin to understand past and present.

In Reception the children have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. They read, '*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*' and created their own storyboard and retold the story. They are waiting for their own caterpillars to arrive and the children are excited to observe their transformations.

Year 1 children were set a challenge by Mrs Newton as they learn more about communication in the present day. Mrs Newton sent a message via Weduc and the children told her the answer the next morning. At the start of each term we look at some oracy skills and Year 1 have been learning how to politely express their own opinion. In Geography, the children have been naming the four countries of the United Kingdom.

In Year 2, as part of their oracy work, the children have been learning how to use hand gestures when presenting information to others. They are working towards a presentation on a special person in front of their peers. In Science they have started their new topics on Animals including Humans and been learning about animal's offspring. In Outdoor Learning the children have been playing team games, learning how to communicate with others effectively to meet the challenges.

Year 3 have been learning how to use interview techniques and have been interviewing a resident history expert on the history of Barnard Castle! They were excited to find a newt in the copse area during outdoor learning and have been enjoying a netball session in PE!

Year 4's oracy has been around politely challenging each other's ideas and they are working in groups to produce a nature report. In Maths they are learning about money which is always a good topic to reinforce or to practise at home. In Geography they have begun their work on Europe and in History they have begun their Romans topics.

In Year 5 during Maths, children are learning about angles, estimating and then measures acute, obtuse and reflex angles. The children were very excited to be learning how to programme microbits during their computing sessions. Using laptops, the children made lights flash on and off as they sequenced instructions to alter the pattern.

Year 6s have been working so hard in the run up to their Key Stage 2 assessments. I enjoyed teaching some high-level techniques to solve some really challenging Maths questions and I was so impressed with the children's skills and attitudes.

Monty does the Movies

In July our Key Stage 2 children will perform 'Monty does the Movies' at The Witham on July 16th and 17th. We really love these performances and hope you are looking forward to them too!

FOMS Family Night

Next Friday, April 26th, FOMS have organised a Family Night Disco at Glaxo Sports and Social Club. As well as the disco, there will be a couple of party games for the children and refreshments such as hotdogs and sweets will be available.

Miss Richardson and I met with FOMS this week and they have kindly agreed to support us with a storage shed for playground games and some play time resources suggested by our School Councillors. We are very grateful and sure that these improvements will be very popular with our children.

FOMS have also agreed to help support a funding bid around enrichment activities for children. I will let you know more about this should we be successful.

Local History Group

Miss Rudge and I will take our last half term's Local History Group to the top chamber of the Butter Market on Wednesday which will be a real treat!

Community Art Work

Thank you to those families who have sent in plastic bottles tops for the Community Art Work at Whorlton Bridge. We will need hundreds so please keep sending them in – there is a collection box in the school foyer. Thank you.

Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance and the year to date attendance.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	95.2
Year 1	91.9
Year 2	99.3
Year 3	93.0
Year 4	91.3
Year 5	96.9
Year 6	100
Whole School	95.2

Dates for the Diary

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 3rd
June 10th - June 14th
June 3rd – June 14th
July 2nd
July 3rd
July 12th
July 15th
July 16th and 17th

Children return to school
Phonics Screening Check for Y1
Multiplication Test for Y4
Reception – Y6 Sports Day
Nursery Sports Day
Move Up Day
Monty Does... rehearsal for Y3-6
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.

