



September 12th 2025

Teesdale Cancer Research Pink Day and Run

We have been contacted by the fabulous group at Teesdale Cancer Research. They will be holding their Turn Barney Pink in October and we are keen to support their work. On October 15th we will encourage children and staff to come in pink or have some pink on their clothes and take part in a run to support the charity.

Tax-Free Childcare

At a meeting I attended this week, one of the advisers at the Local Authority discussed Tax-Free childcare and asked us to make sure parents/carers are aware of this system. I know many of our families do use this but if you do not, please see below:

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2, to use to pay your provider.

What you can use Tax-Free Childcare for

You can use it to pay for [approved childcare](#), for example:

- childminders, nurseries and nannies
- after school clubs and play schemes

For more information please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

To apply for Tax Free Childcare <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>

For further information about the available childcare

support <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education>

Ghana Assembly

We are very excited to welcome Asha from Ankoma Outreach for a special assembly all about the work they are doing in Ankoma, Ghana. We will find out about some of the projects our fundraising and Mrs Smith will be involved in in February.

Mrs Smith was delighted with the fundraising efforts by our school community which will support her visit and pay for half the costs of renovating a classroom. Thank you!

Nursery Competition

Buttercup and Daisy class will be entering some artwork into the children's section at Eggleston Agricultural Show. Next week in class the children will be getting creative, making faces on paper plates. Mrs Patterson will then take them to the show, and they will be displayed and judged.

The show will take place on Saturday 20th September at Hayberries Farm, Mickleton; it is a great day out for all the family.

Y6 Visit

As part of the Year 6 World War II History topic, Mrs Channell has arranged for the children to visit an exhibition at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Friday October 17th. Please see ParentPay for details on costings and Mrs Channell's letter for further information. Thank you.

Sporting Festivals and Competitions

Please see the Dates for the Diary section for forthcoming sporting festivals and competitions for this half term. Festivals are for whole classes whereas competitions we can only take so many pupils due to stipulations made by the organisers.

FOMS

FOMS met last night with Mrs Patterson to discuss some of our events leading up to Christmas. Our huge Christmas Fayre will take place on November 27th. Please let the School Office know if you would like a stall! Further information will follow.

Reception Places for September 2026

The window for applications for Reception school places for children due to start school in September 2026 will close on January 15th 2026. School Admissions at the Local Authority organise this. Please see further information [here](#).

If you would like to visit our school, we will be having an **Open Afternoon** on September 23rd with tours each hour from 1.30pm to 5.30pm inclusive. Please let the school office know if you are intending to visit. If this date is not convenient, please contact the school office to arrange a visit.

Attendance

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Reception!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99.7
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	98.9
Year 3	98.3
Year 4	99.3
Year 5	97.3
Year 6	98
Whole School	98.4%

Dates for the Diary

September 17 th	Flu Immunisation (Reception - Year 6)
September 23 rd	Open Afternoon from 1.30pm
September 26 th	Cross Country Competition (6 children each year from Y3-6) a.m. at Staindrop
September 26 th	Basketball Competition (10 children from Y5) at Teesdale Sports Centre
September 29 th	Handball (Y6 full class) at Green Lane
October 9 th	Individual and Siblings Photographs
October 15 th	Turn Barney Pink Day and Run
October 17 th	Year 6 visit to the Discovery Museum
October 20 th	Multi Skills (Y5 full class) at Staindrop
October 21 st	Kurling and Boccia (Y2 full class) at Bishop Auckland College
October 21 st - 22 nd	Parents' Evenings
October 22 nd - 24 th	Halloween Discos
October 24 th	Tag Rugby (12 Y3 children)
October 27 th - 31 st	Half term holidays
November 3 rd	Children return to school
November 21 st	Dance Off
November 27 th	Christmas Fayre
December 5 th	Reception Nativity (pm)
December 10 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong (pm)
December 12 th	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Jumper Day
December 16 th	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (pm and evening)

December 17th-19th Christmas Parties
December 22nd -Jan 2nd Christmas Holidays
January 5th Children return to school

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.

