



February 13th 2026

Safer Internet Day

The children had a great day on Tuesday following the theme of this year's Safer Internet Day, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' Children learnt songs, raps, designed posters, talked to Alexa, had quizzes and much more as they found out more about Artificial Intelligence. Undoubtedly, AI will play a bigger part in our lives over the coming years and it is important children recognise the benefits and negatives of AI, to help them make good, safe choices online. Thank you to family members who were able to call in to the classes at the end of the day.

Valentine Discos

Our classes enjoyed the Valentine's Discos this week and I did notice a few more presents and cards around school this year!

Children with Asthma

If your child has asthma, please could you provide school with information from a health professional eg. an asthma plan to go alongside the information you have provided to school. Thank you.

Sportshall Athletics

Last week Year 5 visited Barnard Castle School to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics competition. They competed in running, jumping, throwing and obstacle races. The children were amazing and placed well in all of the events. They supported each other by cheering on their classmates. The event was part of a larger competition amongst many schools across the country. Our children came second amongst the schools they competed against which was a great effort - well done year 5!

Swimming Gala

Today 3-4 children from each year group in KS2 attended a swimming gala. These are always so competitive with many club swimmers taking part. We had several first places: Darcey (Y5) in Y5/6 Breaststroke and Y5/6 Freestyle; Roman (Y4) in Year 3/4 Breaststroke; Daniel (Y3) in Y3/4 Freestyle and Ruby (Y6) Rose (Y6) Darcey (Y5) and Caoimhe (Y5) in the Mixed Stroke Relay. We had lots of 2nd and 3rd places too. Eighteen schools were involved in today's gala - well done to everyone who participated.

New Clubs for After Half Term

Activity Clubs will be added to Arbor next Monday 16th March at 8.30am

Clubs will be allocated on a first come first served basis and payment will be required at time of booking. Once a club is full it will no longer be available to book / view on your app.

Please note TFC payers will also need to book activity clubs (and Breakfast & Afterschool clubs) on Arbor, there will no longer be a separate 'booking form'. Please see the posts from Mrs Teasdale on Weduc about how to book these activities.

We work hard to try and mix up the clubs to provide variety and are delighted to be able to offer Street Dance, with a new coach, and baking with our school cook, Anna.

World Book Day

Miss Lauder, who is leading on English whilst Miss Richardson is on maternity leave, has chosen our whole school text for World Book Day on March 5th. During the day the children will complete a number of book related activities and artwork which we will display in the hall after school for you to enjoy.

Mrs Smith in Ghana

Mrs Smith has arrived safely in Ghana and has been very busy. She has been teaching different aged children, reading with group, getting to know the school staff and how they work, discussing traditions and culture, running sports events and renovating classrooms! She cannot wait to share more details with us on her return!

Reception visit to the Quad Station

On Wednesday February 18th our Reception class will visit the Quad Station to find out more about people who help us. They will walk down to the Quad Station in the morning and be back to school in time for lunch.

Parking Around School

Due to the inclement weather, more parents/carers are driving to school at the moment which is understandable. Please be aware of pedestrians, other road users and residents. Please do not block the entrance to the school car park. Thank you.

Geography field trip for Year 3

As part of their Geography field work, Year 3 will be visiting the town's bridges and making some field sketches on Wednesday 18th. They will go in the morning and be back to school for lunch.

Parents/Carers Evenings

The Parents/Carers booking system are open on Arbor. I hope that you have logged in and are becoming more familiar with the system. If you need support on Arbor to book parents/carers appointments or for wraparound care/clubs please contact the School Office.

Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers

Mrs Channell would like to invite Year 6 parents/carers to an information session to explain the end of year statutory assessments that take place in May for our Year 6 children. The session will take place on Wednesday March 4th from 5pm to 5.30pm.

Careers

We are keen to strengthen our work on careers education with research suggesting many children begin to form ideas about careers in primary school. Dr Blezard is leading this work for school and is keen to make links with any parents/carers or local businesses who would like to work with school on this. We would love to hear from parents/carers about their jobs so please either call in to see us or email us please!

WOW Poster Entries

Thank you to the children who have designed a poster for the walk to school challenge. Please send any completed designs back to school by February 24th.

FOMS Community Challenge

Our fabulous FOMS committee have come up with a new fundraiser that will run right up to the end of this academic year, '£26 for 2026'. The aim is for children to earn £26 for doing something in the community to help others and they will be sponsored for doing so. FOMS are conscious that they do not just want to ask parents/carers for money all the time, so instead the plan is to widen the net to our local community. Last week Mrs Patterson shared information about this in an assembly, so most children will know about it. There were some super ideas that the children thought of, e.g. gardening, helping at lambing time, emptying the dishwasher, baking and selling cakes, helping in the garage, doing a litter pick etc. Sponsor forms have been handed out this week

and they detail all the information about the Community Challenge. Siblings are welcome to do a joint challenge if they prefer and they can share a sponsorship form.

First Aid Course Information

It can be scary if our children hurt themselves. First Aid Awareness - Dealing with a Sick or Injured Baby / Child is a half-day session to help you develop knowledge and skills that could be essential in the event of an emergency.

This course is suitable for complete beginners or can also aid confidence of learners that may already have some first aid knowledge and experience and want to refresh this.

There are sessions running from our Best Start Family Hubs - more info on the link below - click into the Paediatric First Aid for dates and venues

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/28163/DurhamLearn-courses-for-family-life>

Attendance-

This week and term's attendance figures are below. **Well done Year 2!**

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	94%
Year 1	98.7%
Year 2	99%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	94.1%
Whole School	96%

Dates for the Diary

February 16 th	OASES visiting school
February 17 th	Dance Event Barnard Castle School (all Year 3)
February 17 th and 18 th	Parents/Carers Evenings
February 18 th	Reception class to visit Quad Station
February 18 th	Year 3 Geography visit to town
February 19 th	Multi-skills at Staindrop Academy (all Y1)
February 23 rd – 27 th	Half Term
March 2 nd	Children return to school
March 4 th	Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers at 5pm (Y6 classroom)
March 5 th	World Book Day – display in the hall after school
March 20 th	Badminton Y5/6 (2 teams)
March 23 rd	Multi-skills (all Y6) Staindrop Academy
March 25 th	Football Y2 at Staindrop Academy
March 27 th	Girls Football Y4-6 at St Johns
March 30 th	Orienteering at Staindrop (all Y4)
March 31 st	Tennis at Parkside (all Y3)
March 31 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Multi-skills (all Reception)
April 3 rd – 17 th	Easter Holiday
April 20 th	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.

