



**February 6th 2026**

### **Welcome Miss Banks**

It has been lovely to welcome Miss Banks back to school this week and it is as if she has never been away! She will be a great asset to Team Monty and has already settled into the familiar routines and our ways of working.

### **Nursery Grab a Grown Up Event**

It was nice to see a number of Nursery family members attend the Grab a Grown Up PE sessions this week. I know your children really enjoyed playing the games with you – thank you for attending.

### **Sportshall Athletics**

Today our Year 5s visited Barnard Castle School to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics competition. I will let you know how they got on next week.

### **Reception visit to the Quad Station**

On Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. They will go in the morning and be back to school for lunch.

### **Parents/Carers Evenings**

The Parents/Carers booking system opened this week 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.

### **Around School**

For the past couple of weeks our Senior Leaders have been in each class around school, looking in particular at our whole school approaches to mental Maths and writing. It has been wonderful to see the journey from Early Years to Year 6 and the standards in each class are very high. Our children work hard and have very good learning behaviours. Well done Team Monty!

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Safer Internet Day**

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we will be marking Safer Internet Day by working on some information to share with you toward the end of the school day. Classes 1 to 6 would like to invite you to school at 2.55pm to give you some important online safety messages. Early Years will share their information via Weduc.

### **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 Reception!**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance this week (%)</b>
Reception	100%
Year 1	98.7
Year 2	97.2
Year 3	96.1
Year 4	94.7
Year 5	93.7
Year 6	94.8
Whole School	96.4%

### **Dates for the Diary**

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nursery Grab a Grown Up Event
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 4 Parents/Carers Evening
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sportshall Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre (all Year 5)
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day (parent/carer invited from 2.55pm)
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Years 5 and 6 Valentine's Disco
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4 Valentine's Disco
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS/Years 1 and 2 Valentine's Disco

February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming gala (selected Key Stage 2 children)
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	OASES visiting school
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Event Barnard Castle School (all Year 3)
February 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers Evenings
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reception class to visit Quad Station
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Geography visit to town
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Multi-skills at Staindrop Academy (all Y1)
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Children return to school
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers at 5pm (Y6 classroom)
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton Y5/6 (2 teams)
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Multi-skills (all Y6) Staindrop Academy
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Football Y2 at Staindrop Academy
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Football Y4-6 at St Johns
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Orienteering at Staindrop (all Y4)
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Tennis at Parkside (all Y3)
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Multi-skills (all Reception)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Holiday
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	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.

