



February 20th 2026

OASES Visit

On Monday, Year 4 had a great time learning more about renewable energy, working with Josh from OASES. He taught the children about different types of renewable energy and the children had the chance to make circuits using solar panels as the energy source and experimented with different blades for wind turbines. This is a really positive link we have with OASES who are always impressed with our children's eco awareness. Well done year 4!

Year 3 Dance

Year 3 performed their Dance Off dance at Barnard Castle School and enjoyed their time doing some other dance moves too! Well done Year 3!

Year 3 Visit to the town bridges

Year 3 enjoyed a walk to the three town bridges on Wednesday on a very cold morning! They photographed them all as it was a bit too cold to take field sketches! Thank you to our helpers who were able to accompany the children.

Reception Visit to the Quad Station

This half term Reception have been learning about people who help us and were lucky enough to visit Barnard Castle Quad Station on Wednesday. The children got to meet Firefighters, Police Officers and Paramedics and asked them lots of questions. They also got a tour of the emergency vehicles, set off the sirens and got to do some target practise with the hose, which was lots of fun! A key message from the Firefighters for parents/carers was to remember to regularly check smoke alarms at home, more information on this can be found here: [Detection - Fire Kills](#)
Thank you so much to the staff at the Quad Station and to our helpers who were able to accompany the children.

Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed a tremendous visit to Locomotion. They explored the new and old hall. They enjoyed looking at the different trains and identifying the type of power they needed. They had a workshop on George Stephenson with some role play which was great fun. The class behaved beautifully and staff and members of the public commented how brilliantly the children were, asking questions and being so engaged. Well done Year 2!

Year 1 Multiskills

Year 1 had a fantastic time at Staindrop taking part in a Multi-Skills Festival! The children enjoyed a carousel of fun activities, developing their teamwork, coordination and confidence along the way.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March 2026. Similar to previous years, this year we will not be dressing up. Instead, we will be inviting parents and carers to look around our whole school writing and art display from 3:20pm to 6:00pm, in the main school hall. Our chosen book this year is 'A River' by Marc Martin, inspired by Mrs Smith's recent journey. We look forward to sharing our wonderful creations with you!

A reminder that we are an allergy and nut aware school and all meals and snacks brought into school must be nut free. Please be vigilant when preparing packed lunches and snacks. We appreciate your support with this.

Durham University Trainee Teachers

This week we welcomed two trainees to school who will be working with our Year 2 and 4 children over the coming weeks. Miss Halsey will be working in Year 2 and Miss Merifield will be working in Year 4. They will be attending each Thursday for a number of weeks to get to know the class before beginning placements in later in the year.

Swimming Gala

This week we received an email confirming that overall we came 4th out of 18 teams that entered the different galas, based on combined times. That is a great achievement – well done to all who took part! Congratulations also to Caoimhe (Y5) who won the Y5/6 girls 25m Freestyle and I missed off last week's newsletter – sorry Caoimhe!

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 been busy again this week. She sent me a me some pictures of her renovating the classroom, working with others to improve the provision. Mrs Smith is a talented artist and has created an amazing mural on the wall. The children within the school were so excited to see the changes, jumping and cheering! They have made a book corner for the children to enjoy the donated books.

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.

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.

Half Term

It has been a long and busy half term and our children have worked very hard. We hope our families have a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd March.

Attendance-

This week and term's attendance figures are below. Well done 6!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	97.3%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	94.5%
Year 3	97.9%
Year 4	95.7%
Year 5	94.3%
Year 6	99%
Whole School	96.3%

Dates for the Diary

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.

