



March 6th 2026

### **World Book Day**

I hope that you enjoyed visiting the World Book Day display in the hall on Thursday. The children's work across each class was great to see and of high quality. I always enjoy following the progression through the school. It took a quite a bit of planning, falling straight after the half term. Then, from 1pm to 3.15pm was a huge effort! Thank you to Miss Lauder for coordinating this year's event and all of Team Monty for their extra work preparing the river, artwork and written work – it looked amazing!

It was lovely to chat to many of you who were able to attend and I think you appreciate the type of approach we have taken to World Book Day over the last few years, enjoying seeing your child's work displayed like this. Books are far more important than costumes!

We value and promote reading every day. Many parents/carers and other family members play a big part in their child's reading progress and any stories, poems or non-fiction books you share at home helps your child's reading fluency, comprehension, knowledge, imagination, vocabulary and confidence. Please see some further ideas to support reading at home [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Mother's Day - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2pm**

We would like to invite mothers/carers or other family members to join your child/children on a wellbeing walk this year. Come to school in your warm clothes and suitable footwear to walk through Flatts Woods with your child/children and enjoy the fresh air, nature and a chat with your child and friends along the way. We hope to send you and your child on your way with a nice hot chocolate too! We have a suggested route – through the back gate, along the lane by Hawthorn Drive and down Woodside to access the woods from there. We thought a good finishing place would be the Scar Top. In order to make the event easier, please send children from Reception to Year 6 with suitable footwear and coat. Some children will have wellies to change into already at school.

From 2pm on Friday if you are attending, please come your child's classroom door. We will sign children out on class registers and then the children will be in your care and will be your responsibility. If there are children who have not had an adult attend, we will take them together with staff on the same route.

### **Farrans Visit**

Year 5 had a very interesting visit from Farrans, the engineering company, who have been working with Northumbria Water planning and installing the new water pipes over recent years. The class found out about the range of careers involved in this type of work and had the chance to make their own 'pipeline' navigating certain human and physical features. The class really enjoyed this experience.

### **Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting for Year 6 Parents/Carers**

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended the SATs meeting delivered by Mrs Channell this week. Mrs Channell will send home a pack of useful information for families who were unable to attend the presentation.

## Social Media, Gaming and ChatBots consultation

The government have launched a landmark consultation on UK children's digital wellbeing, covering social media age bans, curfews, AI chatbots and gaming.

Parents, guardians, and young people across the UK are being urged to shape the country's next steps on children's digital wellbeing. The consultation will gather insights from the public on how to keep children safe online across social media, AI chatbots and gaming platforms.

More information can be found [here](#).

## School Meals Price Increase

Chartwells, working with the Local Authority, have announced new school meal prices, effective from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. The new charge for school meals will be £3.08 per pupil per meal. This is an increase of 4.41%. The increase is a direct result of ongoing food inflation, an increase to the National Minimum Wage.

## Meet Parade 2026

Miss Crampton will be running a Meet Club as we prepare for our 2026 entry to the town's procession on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme is 'Music and Dance' and look forward to learning about what we are doing! Further information about the club will be sent by Miss Crampton shortly. If you are unable to attend the club but would like to join us on the day, that is fine too. Once I know more about our entry, I will share it on a newsletter.

## Dates for the Diary

I have added some useful dates for the Summer term to the Dates for the Diary section below— new dates added or amendments are highlighted each week.

## 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.

## Attendance-

This week and term's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 3!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99.6
Year 1	96.7
Year 2	99
Year 3	100
Year 4	99.7
Year 5	94.7
Year 6	98.8
Whole School	98.3%

## Dates for the Diary

March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Event (2pm)
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 (selected children)
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 Y4)
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
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
May 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tri Golf (all Y3) at Barnard Castle Golf Club
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket (Y4) at Raby Castle
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Multiskills (all Y2)
May 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Whitsuntide Holidays (Parade May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
W.b. June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening (Y1)
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Sports Day
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Sports Day
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Rehearsal Day at The Witham
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	End of Year Reports send out
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	End of term
July 20-21 <sup>st</sup>	Teacher Training Days
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Teacher Training Days
Sept 3 <sup>rd</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.

