



June 12th 2026

Amazing Gymnasts!

Caoimhe (Y5) and Erin (Y6) qualified for the NGA national gymnastics finals, competing at gold level, in Liverpool on Sunday 28th June. Both girls have worked so hard to upskill their performances from Silver Level to Gold Level this year and it is great to see their hard work has paid off. We are excited to find out how the girls perform on June 28th and will let you know!

Marshall's Café and Market

On Wednesday our Year 5 children enjoyed a great day. As part of their DT topic, the children brought in fruit and went to the town market to purchase more to meet their recipe designs for their own smoothie. On the way back to school, they called into Marshall's Café where Rachel showed the children how to make a fruit smoothie and the class all had some. In the afternoon, the children made and evaluated their own Thank you so much to Rachel for giving up her time – the children really enjoyed the experience.

Monty Does Mash Ups

We are very excited for next month's Key Stage 2 show of Monty Does Mash Ups. The classes have been busy choreographing dances and the Y5/6s have just begun practising the script. Some information about tickets have been sent out today. Please also check with your child about any costumes they may need. We have provided a lot but there may be something that would be helpful to bring from home. Thank you.

Y5/6 Athletics

Today Miss Crampton and Mrs Spence took selected Y5/6 children to Shildon Athletics Club for an athletics competition. The children performed brilliantly and 14 out of 16 qualified for the finals. Children will find out if they qualify for County Finals once all of the trials have been completed. Our staff were hugely complimentary about our children's behaviour and sportsmanship, supporting our school superbly. Well done Team Monty!

Free School Meals Checks

As you may already be aware the Government have recently announced changes to the FSM eligibility from 1st September 2026. There will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals: Targeted FSM - which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less Expanded FSM - a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit

In addition to this, Transitional protections for free school meals will end. Transitional Protections have been in effect since 1 April 2018. This has meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement, even if their household circumstances have changed. Households must meet the new FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision, therefore it is vital all pupils complete a new FSM form and return to school as soon as possible to ensure a new check can be made before the Summer Holidays ready for September 2026.

Forms have been handed out to all children earlier this week. Please complete the form even if you are unsure as to whether you qualify, we can run the check regardless. Please do not assume you still qualify and not return the form - all pupils require a new check.

Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception-Year 2 inclusive will still be in place but it is still important that parents/carers for children in these years complete the forms.

Year 6 to Barnard Castle School

On Thursday afternoon next week our Year 6 pupils have been invited to a performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Barnard Castle School. They will leave after lunch and should be back around home time.

Year 5 Visit to Jarrow Hall

Year 5 enjoyed a great visit to Jarrow Hall as part of their work on Anglo Saxons, visiting a farm, village and house. They saw different animals the Anglo Saxons had on the farm and enjoyed a Anglo Saxon story around the fire. They enjoyed a Crime and Punishment workshop working out which one of the children had committed the crime and in the medicine workshop made a treatment for conjunctivitis using a mortar and pestle with onions, garlic and salt!

Reception to Hall Hill Farm

As part of our 'What a Wonderful World' topic, Reception have a fun day planned at Hall Hill farm. The children will be visiting the farm on Tuesday 9th June. Permissions slips have been sent home and voluntary contributions of £10 can be made via Arbor.

26 for 26!

Thank you to the children and families who have returned the sponsorship forms and money for the 26 for 26 FOMS challenge. Please try to return any forms and funds before the end of term. Thank you.

Father's Day Event

We are looking forward to our Father's Day event which takes place on June 19th from 1.30-3pm. We are hoping the weather will be fine but we plan to be outside whatever the weather so be prepared! There will be our usual mix of games (a few new ones too) so it should be good fun. Refreshments will be available from both school and FOMS. Any family member can attend and we look forward to seeing you there! Please bring some money for our refreshment stalls as we do not have a card machine!

Leave of Absence Requests

We have received more Leave of Absence requests than ever this year. Please try to book holidays within the school holidays as these cannot be authorised.

Please remember how important school attendance is and the positive, well-documented links between progress, attainment and well-being.

Attendance-

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 5!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	95%
Year 1	91.3%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	93.7%
Year 5	99.3%
Year 6	97.3%
Whole School	96.1%

Dates for the Diary

June 15th Piano and Woodwind concert 1.15pm (for children who are tutored)

June 16th -17th Year 6 to the Hub

June 18th Road Safety session for Y3.

June 19th Reception Class Assembly

June 19 th	Father's Day Afternoon (1.30-3pm)
June 24 th	Brass concert (for children who are tutored)
June 26 th	Year 1 Assembly
June 29 th	Y5/6 Rounders (selected children)
June 30 th	Year 2 to Kirby Stephen (back for lunch)
June 30 th	Nursery Sports Day pm
July 1 st	School Sports Day pm
July 2 nd	Jack Drum Arts Assembly then workshop for Y6 (pm)
July 3 rd	Year 2 Assembly
July 3 rd	The Oaks transition Day
July 6 th	Monty Does Rehearsal Day at The Witham
July 7 th	Year 4 Frisbee Festival
July 7 th	End of Year Reports sent out
July 7 th	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 8 th	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 9 th and 10 th	Staindrop Transition Day
July 10 th	Teesdale Transition Day
July 17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am
July 17 th	End of term
July 20-21 st	Teacher Training Days
Sept 1 st - 2 nd	Teacher Training Days
Sept 3 rd	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.

