



September 18th 2026

Roar Project

On Wednesday Year 6 worked with Bob and Helen, from the Teesdale Lions, on the Roar project. This is a great initiative to be involved with and we have worked with them for several years. It is a programme for Primary Schools designed to give a platform to young people to think big and positively change the world. After all, our children are the innovators and entrepreneurs of the future.

Over the next few weeks, children will work in groups, thinking of an idea which can improve people's lives or the environment. They will then design the product, make a prototype, build a working model, decide on their marketing and pitch their ideas to a panel. It is a fantastic experience, listening to Bob and Helen who have vast business experience. You can find out more about the programme [here](#).

Local History Walk

I really love learning about history and local history in particular, and on Tuesday enjoyed working with Miss Crampton, Mrs Wood and our Year 3 children. We went on a walk around Barnard Castle looking at where some of the building and factories were during the Industrial Revolution. The children listened very well, asked some great questions and behaved brilliantly on a long walk! Well done Year 3!

Year 6 Rugby Sessions

We try to work with as many local organisations as possible and we were keen to strengthen our links with Barnard Castle Rugby Club. Paul Davis, who coaches at the rugby club, has begun coaching our Year 6 children on a Wednesday and his sessions have proved popular. Towards the end of term, the children will enter a local competition.

Meet the Teacher

On Wednesday 23rd September between end of the school day and 5.15pm, we would like to invite you to a Meet the Teacher event with your child's teacher. This will be an informal drop in where you can start to get to know your child's new teacher and see how they have settled into their new class. You do not need an appointment. Please come to school via the main entrance and make your way to your child's classroom.

The Effective Learning and Emotional Wellbeing Team Parent/Carer Workshop

Coinciding with the above event, we are pleased to be able to host a workshop delivered by the Effective Learning and Emotional Wellbeing Team from DCC at 3.30pm on Wednesday September 23rd in the school hall.

The workshop will focus on attachment and supporting your child's emotional wellbeing at home. The topics covered within the workshop include:

- What is attachment?
- Shame and relationship repair
- Attunement
- Self-regulation
- Some ways of communicating with your child to build strong attachments

There will also be the opportunity at the end of the workshop to speak to the team privately about any concerns you may have or advice you may wish to seek. This is a valuable opportunity to

engage with experienced professionals. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers and hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend.

MacMillan Grab and Go! - Thursday 24th September

We are holding a cake stall to raise money for Macmillan Cancer support, and we would be very grateful for your support. If you are able to, we would really appreciate donations of cakes, biscuits, buns or other sweet treats for our stall. If possible, please make sure all homemade donations are clearly labelled with a list of ingredients - **Strictly NO NUTS as we are an Allergy Aware school.**

Please bring any donations to school on Thursday 24th September, we look forward to seeing lots of delicious treats! Thank you for your support.

Happy Healthy Life

Please see the attached link [here](#) for a message from a Healthy Families initiative by Durham County Council.

Harvest Festival

On October 12th we will have a Harvest Festival. We will be collecting food donations for TCR Hub to distribute amongst our local community. We would welcome any donations before this date if you are able. Thank you.

Individual School Photos

School photographs for individuals and siblings were taken last week. Children will bring home their QR code today. Please note where children have siblings in school there will only be one QR code for all children. Photos can take a week or two to be available, if you scan your code and enter your email address you will receive a notification once these are ready.

Flu Immunisation

I was at a meeting this week and one speaker was from Public Health Durham, who urged Headteachers to highlight the forthcoming flu immunisation programme to parents/carers. The 'Be wise, immunise' campaign is encouraging all eligible groups to take up the offer of their flu vaccines this autumn and winter.

- The flu nasal spray vaccine is free for children aged 2-3 years, those in primary schools and in secondary schools up to year 11.
- The flu vaccine is also free for children and young people who have a medical condition from the age of six months. It is given as an injection just like other infant/childhood vaccines.
- If you have children of primary or secondary school age, up to year 11, they will receive information from the School Age Immunisation Service asking you to give consent so your child can have their free nasal spray vaccination at school.

Be Wise, Immunise - Five reasons for your child to have the free flu vaccine
– you nose it makes sense!

1. Protect your child - The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
2. Protect you, your family, and friends - Vaccinating your child will help protect others especially grandparents.
3. Breathe easy – for most children there's no injection or needles - The flu nasal spray is painless and easy to have. If the nasal spray isn't suitable, your child can be offered a small injection instead.
4. It's better than having flu – Flu can be a nasty illness. A child with flu will usually feel very unwell and some may need to go to hospital; the nasal spray is the best protection. It has been given to millions of children worldwide and is safe.
5. Avoid costs - If your child gets flu, they could miss school and you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare.

Our flu immunisation date for Reception to Year 6 children is Wednesday 30th September You should have received an email Please check your emails including junk mail to provide consent. School do not have access to information regarding who has booked and who has not so this is a parents/carers responsibility to complete the online consent.

Flu immunisations for Nursery children

Nursery children are not part of the school flu vaccine programme but can still be immunised.

- The flu nasal spray vaccine is free for children aged 2-3 years.
- It is also free for children and young people who have a medical condition from the age of six months to 18 years.
- Children aged 2-3 years (as of 31 August 2026) can receive their flu vaccination either at their GP surgery (book appointment from 1 September at your GP practice) or at a participating pharmacy ([book online](#) for an appointment on or after 1 October). If you have not heard from your GP practice by mid-October, please contact them or arrange an appointment at your local pharmacy.

Open Afternoon

It was lovely to see some of our Nursery families and meet some new families today. If you were unable to attend and would like to visit the school please contact the School Office.

Christmas Fayre

I do not like mentioning Christmas at this time of year but we are keen to share the date of our Christmas Fayre – November 26th – and see if anyone would like a stall at the fayre. Please contact the School Office if you would like a stall. We have some new ideas this year which I am sure you will all enjoy.

Attendance

Please find below our first full week's assembly. Well done everyone!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99%
Year 1	99.6%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	96.3%
Whole School %	98.1%

Dates for the Diary

Sept 18 th	Open Afternoon (new Reception starters 2027) from 1.30pm
Sept 23 rd	Meet the Teacher 3.20-5.15pm
Sept 23 rd	Effective Learning and Emotional Wellbeing Team Parent/Carer Workshop
Sept 25 th	Netball competition selected Y6 Staindrop Academy
Sept 28 th	Handball Year 5 Parkside Academy
Sept 30 th	Flu immunisation team in school
Oct 5 th	Cross country (selected pupils Y3-Y6) Staindrop Academy
Oct 6 th	Pink Run
Oct 12 th – 13 th	Parents/Carers Evening
Oct 16 th	Football World Cup Y5/Y6 selected pupils at Staindrop Academy
Oct 20 th	Kurling and Boccia Festival Year 1 (In school)
Oct 22 nd	Halloween Parties (EYFS am/KS1pm)
Oct 23 rd	Cross Country Y3-Y6 (selected children) Staindrop Academy
Oct 23 rd	Halloween Parties (Y3/4 am/Y5/6pm)
Oct 26 th – 30 th	Half Term Holidays

Nov 2 nd	Teacher Training Day
Nov 3 rd	Children back to school
Nov 20 th	Children In Need
Nov 26 th	Christmas Fayre

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.

