

October 23rd 2026

A Busy Half Term

The Autumn term is a long one and important in terms of establishing high expectations with new classes and building on our children's impressive learning behaviours. This has been done well across school and the children are working hard and progressing well in all aspects. I have been impressed with many elements of school life and have particularly enjoyed One Life, which helps with personal development and enriching activities such as sports, music, visits and visitors and our increased focus on careers. It has been great to support the charities of Macmillan and Teesdale Cancer Research. Thank you so much for everyone who supported these and the FOMs raffle and bingo too. We are hoping that the funds FOMS have raised will support the installation of a trim trail which should be ready in the next few months. It has been good to see many of you at Meet the Teacher and Parents/Carers Evenings and hope that in the equally busy second half term will see you at the many Christmas events.

Welcome Baby Channell!

This week were delighted to learn that baby Eva Channell arrived safe and sound. Both Mrs Channell and Eva are doing very well and we pass on our congratulations to Mrs Channell and Dr Wes! We cannot wait to meet her!

Well done, Tommy!

Tommy was invited to the County Cross Country Finals after winning the previous year and I am delighted to report that he won again! To be the best cross country runner in the county is a huge achievement and we are very proud of Tommy! I look forward to keeping an eye on his progress in running and football in the future. Well done Tommy!

Fire Safety and Police Assembly

On Tuesday we welcomed the Fire Service and Police to our assembly to inform children of some important safety measures around fires and fireworks for the forthcoming events. PCSO Preet gave the children good advice about staying with their adults at Bonfire night and what to do should they get lost there or in town. He also talked about stranger danger.

Fire Officer Cinnamin gave children advice around fire safety, keeping behind the rope, how to handle sparklers and advice around fireworks on the ground. Thank you to Preet and Cinnamin for attending school.

Reading Workshop for Reception and Year 1 Parents/Carers

On Monday November 9th at 3.30pm Miss Lauder would like to invite parents/carers of children in Reception and Year 1 to a reading workshop. The presentation will give you more knowledge of how we teach readings and ideas of how best to support your child with their reading. I hope that you can join us.

After School Clubs

The new After School Club booking system for clubs beginning after half term is live. Please book and pay for these clubs via Arbor. Thank you.

Year 1 Careers Visitor

Year 1 had a lovely visit from Connor who works as the Learning Producer at The Bowes Museum. He came to talk to the children about his career and how he came to work at the museum. He

explained how his love of history started by reading the Horrible History books as a child, then he went on to study history in school, college and university. He has worked at lots of different places including Kirkleatham Museum. Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art and The Weardale Railway. He talked through the different skills he needed for each job like reading, tidying and organising. His advice for Year 1 who wanted to be historians was to read lots and visit as many museums as they could.

Year 4 Visit to Hulands Quarry

Our Year 4 class enjoyed a fantastic visit to Hulands Quarry linked to their Geography topic. The children explored the asphalt plant and lab as well as watching all of the process involved at the quarry. The children received a goody bag and an amazing lorry and digger which we will use in Wraparound Care. Thank you so much to Mr Harrison (Darcey's Dad) for arranging this with Mrs Smith and all of the staff at Hulands for making us feel so welcome.

Science Visits to Barnard Castle School

We are pleased to be asked by Barnard Castle School to be involved in some science activities with the teachers there. Year 3 will visit on the afternoon of November 11th to have a chemistry firework session and Year 6 will visit for experiments with eyes on November 16th. Thank you to Albie and Charlie S's Mum for arranging this with Dr Blezard, our Science Lead.

Luminaire

Our Christmas Fayre and Luminaire will be held on Thursday, November 26th and we will have a competition for the best Luminaire design. They will need to be brought to school between November 23rd and 25th so that they can be positioned to be displayed in the school garden. All lights must be battery powered. Please see poster for design ideas and prize information.

FOMS Bingo Night and Halloween Hamper

Thank you very much to FOMS for their continued support. I hope those who went had a good night at Bingo and were lucky! Congratulations to Luca in Nursery who won the Halloween Hamper.

The bingo event raised £677.55 and the Halloween Boobox raised £372.20. Thank you so much for supporting these – all money raised will go towards things for our children.

Halloween Discos

Our children and staff looked amazing in their Halloween costumes over the last couple of days and I hope that our children enjoyed the discos.

Attendance

The latest attendance information from the Local Authority and DfE informs enforces schools to challenge parents/carers where an undeclared term time holiday is suspected. Please provide school with evidence that your child has visited health professionals if they are off for more than 3 days. Also, 4 day holidays with a day of sickness/tiredness before or afterwards can be classified as unauthorised with the same fines possible.

Half Term

I hope that all our children and families enjoy half term. We look forward to seeing the children on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Attendance

Please find below our weekly attendance. Well done Year 3!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	99%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	97.4%

Year 5	95.3%
Year 6	94.3%
Whole School %	97%

Dates for the Diary

Oct 26th – 30th	Half Term Holidays
Nov 2nd	Teacher Training Day
Nov 3rd	Children back to school
Nov 6th	EYFS Stay and Play Session for Nursery and Reception 1.45pm -3.15pm
Nov 9th	Reading Workshop for parents/carers of EYFS and Year 1 children (3.30pm)
Nov 11th	Year 3 to Barnard Castle School for Science activity
Nov 16th	Year 6 to Barnard Castle School for Science activity
Nov 20th	Children In Need
Nov 26th	Christmas Fayre and Luminaire
Dec 4th	Reception Nativity (afternoon)
Dec 8th	Woodwind Concert 1.15pm (Parents invited)
Dec 9th	Brass Concert 2.30pm (parents invited)
Dec 10th	Nursery Sing-along (afternoon)
Dec 11th	Carol Service and Christmas Jumper Day (afternoon)
Dec 14th	KS1 Nativity (1 afternoon, 1 evening performance)
Dec 15th	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party (am)
Dec 15th	Panto at The Witham 1pm (R-Y6)
Dec 16th	EYFS Christmas Party
Dec 16th	Christmas Lunch
Dec 17th	Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
Dec 18th	Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
Dec 18th	School break up
Jan 4th	Staff Training Day
Jan 5th	Children back 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.