

November 6th 2026

Welcome Back

I hope that all of our families enjoyed the half term break. This half term is an exciting one for children in the run up to Christmas and there will be many events for you to enjoy over the next couple of months.

Nursery and Reception Stay and Play

It was lovely to see many of our Nursery and Reception children's family members attend the Stay and Play session today. I hope you all had a great time. Thank you to our EYFS team for arranging this.

Roar Project

On Wednesday afternoon our Year 6 children shone in the culmination of the Roar Project, a competition run by Teesdale Lions. They have been working with Bob Garton and Helen Hobson from the Teesdale Lions, learning about entrepreneurship and how to go from an initial idea into a finished product. The children worked in groups producing The Pup Patrol (a smart pet collar for tracking pets and seeing if they are unwell); Medi-Bot (a robot that delivers prescriptions to people who are unable to collect them); Robo Cleaner 2000 (a robot that cleans inside and outside of your home); Mind Blower (a flying car); Sea Sweep (a device that cleans up rivers, seas and oceans; Hearing Aids for All (an earring/air bud which acts as a hearing aid to reduce stigma). They all presented their ideas with great knowledge and confidence with the overall winner being the earring hearing aid! A huge thank you to the panel made up of Bob, Helen, Chris Foote-Wood, Suzanne and me and to Bob and Helen for their help over the last few weeks. The winners will go through to the next stage of the competition involving Lions groups in the North East and Scotland.

Remembrance

I am grateful to Mrs Morris who will accompany a couple of our year 6 children to St Mary's Church and then onto the Bowes Museum to lay our school wreath. I will lead an Assembly in school on November 11th. Poppies and other remembrance items are available in the School Office.

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.

Well done Arya!

We had a visitor this week from Usbourne Books who gave us a large parcel of books to give to Arya (Y2) who won the Big Barney Book Treasure Trail over half term – well done Arya! School also received a collection of books as a lot of Montalbo pupils had entered the competition. Thanks everyone!

Children in Need – Friday 13th November

To support Children in Need, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November. Children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes and can also wear Children in Need themed headbands or accessories and bring a donation if they wish.

Please note that this is also the day of our school Dance Off Competition, so some children may need to change into costumes or specific clothing for their dance.

We kindly ask that children wear clothes that they can easily change in and out of independently. Thank you for your support!

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.

Year 5 Takeover Day

As part of our Careers work, Year 5 have been given the opportunity to learn more about a number of roles within the Bowes Museum as they takeover on November 20th! Thank you to Dr Blezard for organising this.

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.

Attendance

Please find below our weekly attendance. Well done Year 6!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	98%
Year 1	90.7%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3	98.2%
Year 4	95.8%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	99.1%
Whole School %	96.5%

Dates for the Diary

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 13th	Children In Need (Non-uniform day)
Nov 16th	Year 4 visit from OASES
Nov 16th	Year 6 to Barnard Castle School for Science activity
Nov 20th	Year 5 Take Over Day at The Bowes Museum
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.