

Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

7th March - Parent/Carer Consultations 3pm-6pm
12th March - Professor Nitrate visiting school - Science Week
13th March - Year 3 to visit Archaeology Museum Durham
14th March - Year 4 assembly 9.15am
23rd March - Year 1 to visit Durham Castle
26th March - Meeting for Y4 parents re Gibside residential 3.15pm
27th March - Nursery/Reception Easter Bonnet Parade 9.15am
27th March - Easter Egg Competition (tall ships theme) Y1-Y6
28th March - Easter assembly Year 1 parents/carers invited 2.15pm
29th March - World book day (rescheduled)
29th March - 100% attendance for Spring term reward - Disco and ice-cream
30th March - 13th April - Easter holidays
16th April - School reopens Summer term
23rd April - Curriculum Overviews to go out
25th April - Year 4 to Gibside (residential)
1st May - Reception class assembly 9.15am
3rd May - Community room used for polling station (school remains open)
14th May - SATs week (free breakfast club to Y6 children all week)
22nd May - Year 1 class assembly 9.15am
25th May - School closed to children INSET DAY
28th May - 1st June - Half term holiday
4th June - School reopens
11th June - Phonic screening Year 1 (all week)
18th June - Nursery sports morning 9.15am
18th June - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sports day 2.00pm
19th June - Year 3,4,5 and Year 6 sports day 2.00pm
2nd/3rd July - Transition to Oxclose
2nd July - Tall ships week
3rd July - Health Roadshow
11th July - School choir singing for Tall Ships (venue to be announced)
10th July - Summer picnic event on school field (pm)
16th July - Year 6 to visit Nissan
18th July - Leavers assembly 5pm
20th July - Break up for summer (normal school day)
4th September - School reopens to children for new academic year

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Headteacher's Update

Thank you all for your support and understanding over the past week. We value the education we offer your children and we are all very conscious of the inconvenience school closures causes for families. Our school was closed for three days and this was a significant decision not taken lightly but it would have been unsafe to open to children - this is always our priority. We will all ensure that this closure will not have any negative impact on learning and we are delighted that school is up and running efficiently again.

As the end of the spring term draws near, we have many things to look forward to. This includes a class assembly for Year 4, Easter assembly, our annual egg decorating competition for Years 1 to 6 and Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery and Reception children. The theme for this year's egg competition will be 'The Tall Ships'. All completed decorated eggs need to be brought to school at 9am on Wednesday 27th March and Canon Hopper has kindly agreed to judge the competition for 2018. Good luck to everyone!

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Parent/Carer Consultations this week. I'm sure that you found the mid year report and update from teachers very informative.

Enjoy the Easter holiday when it comes.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

Headteacher

Rescheduled World Book Day

Due to school being closed last week and having lots of exciting events planned we have rearranged World Book Day to Thursday 29th March. Children can get changed after lunch into pyjamas/dressing gowns/onesies and will be served with a drink and cookie. Teachers will visit different classes throughout the afternoon to read traditional tales. Children can bring their favourite book into school to share with a friend. Children have been given a book token today to spend in local book stores. The results of the bedtime story competition will be announced in celebration assembly on Friday.

British Science Week - 9th—16th March

To help us celebrate and have fun with Science, Professor Nitrate will be joining us in school on Monday 12th March. All classes will participate in hands on, engaging workshops during the day. We have also arranged to have a Science morning on Friday 16th March when children will be given the opportunity to get involved in some exciting and practical activities. A suggested voluntary donation of £1 would help towards the cost of the visitor.

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Nursery Places

We still have nursery places for children aged 3 starting after Easter or from September 2018. The nursery sessions run from 8.45am until 11.45am. If you would like a visit to school please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Attendance

Our attendance for this half term is 96.7%. The winners of the spot prizes were Halle Klein, Belle Eden, Dominic Lamming and Ben Anderson. Children received a £5 galleries voucher. All children who are on track for 100% this term will be rewarded with a disco and ice cream on the last day of term. The class with 98.8% attendance for February will be rewarded with a movie and popcorn afternoon. The winning class will be announced on Friday in celebration assembly.

Washington Young Writer Competition

The Rotary Club of Washington has once again launched a competition for creative writing for Primary Schools in Washington. The competition is designed to support and encourage the development of writing skills. The topic for this year for Blackfell is 'The Tall Ships'. The competition is open to pupils aged 7-10 years. The piece of writing can be written or typed and should be on A4 page no more than 500 words. The winning prize is £75 for the overall winner and £75 for school winner with runners up winning £50. Please return all entries to the school office by Friday 20th April. The winners will be notified by Friday 18th May.



School Menu

To celebrate St Patricks Day school meals have changed the menu for Thursday 15th March.

- The menu will have an Irish Charm and children will be offered a choice of :
- Leprechauns Irish Stew served with Creamy Champ Potato and Seasonal Vegetables
- Shamrock Sub served with coleslaw, sweetcorn or baked beans and chunky chips
- St Patricks Fruit Jelly and Ice Cream served with a Blarney Stone Biscuit.

If your child is on packed lunch and would like a meal please forward £2 into school.



Easter Chicks

The eggs have arrived into Nursery and Reception. We hope over the next 2 weeks we will see the safe arrival of the chicks. All classes will get the chance to go and visit. We are unable to stream a live cam this year but are recording daily and this will be available to watch on the website in the next 2 weeks.

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School Visits

Year 5 visited Gibside National Trust this week. Children enjoyed geo-caching in the morning and orienteering in the afternoon. Despite the wet conditions, children were able to practise all the skills they have been learning in geography.



Year 2 visited the Centre of Life. The focus of the visit was to look at living and non living materials linked to their space topic. Children enjoyed a hands on workshop alongside a visit to the exhibition theatre and theatre show.

