



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 4th November 2024- Children return to school

Week beginning 11th November 2024- Parents' evening to discuss progress

Monday 18th November 2024- School photographs

Wednesday 4th December 2024- Christmas coffee afternoon with stalls and games (2-3.15pm)

Thursday 5th December 2024- Mass in school at 2.15pm. All welcome

Tuesday 10th December 2024- Polar Express Night 3.15-5pm

Wednesday 11th December 2024- Whole school visit to the pantomime (Sleeping Beauty)

Thursday 12th December 2024- Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December 2024- Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity (10-11am) all welcome

Tuesday 17th December 2024- Disco 3.15-5pm

Thursday 19th December 2024- Christmas carols around the tree (2.45-3.15pm) all welcome

Thursday 19th December 2024- Children break up for Christmas holiday

Monday 6th January 2024- Children return to school

Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during October



Isla A Martin Archie H Olivia L
Amelia P Milly-Faith



October Highlights

First Aid Training-

On Wednesday 2nd October, Year 1 to Year 6 learnt some basic first aid. The children were able to interact, learn and have fun with Flat Stan. Everyone was taught how to move someone into the recovery position and basic CPR.

World Poetry Day-

On Thursday 3rd October, the children came to school dressed in clothes on the theme of 'counting' - they all looked amazing! The whole school took part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the largest poetry lesson. The children also wrote their own poems on the theme of 'counting'.

Mini Police Training-

Throughout October, Year 5 have been training with the police to be mini police.

OASES Visit-

On Wednesday 9th October, Helen from OASES came in to deliver an assembly and work with Year 3 to Year 6. The children looked at different ways we could encourage wildlife into our school grounds.

World Mental Health Day-

On Thursday 10th October, our wellbeing leaders led a whole school assembly. We explored different emotions and who to speak to if you are feeling happy, sad or confused. They also led a mindful colouring, crosswords and word searches sessions for pupils at lunchtime.

Pirate Rob-

On Monday 21st October, Pirate Rob came in to school and delivered our assembly on keeping fit. He has left us a challenge to complete over the holidays. Children are required to complete pirate exercises throughout the week. All completed cards will receive a prize when he returns to run a dinner time fitness club after the holidays.

Silent Disco-

On Tuesday 22nd October, every child took part in a silent disco led by Go Well. They all had a great boogie!

Flooding Workshop-

On Tuesday 22nd October, Engagement North East delivered a workshop to Year 3 and 4 all about flooding. The children have been looking at rivers in their geography topic this half term.

Bonfire Night Talk-

On Wednesday 23rd October, the fire brigade came in to teach us about the importance of staying safe this bonfire night. The children had the opportunity to ask questions and think about stop, drop and roll.

Attendance

Children are required to be at school by 9am as our core subject lessons (English and Maths) begin immediately after registration.

Appointments should be made out of school time where possible please.

Holidays should be taken outside of term time.

The Department for Education deems that if a child's attendance drops below 90%, they become known as a Persistent Absentee. All absences are monitored thoroughly.

To celebrate great attendance, children with 100% in a week receive 10 dojos on a Friday. The class with the highest percentage will also receive 10 dojos per child.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for October:

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) – 92%

Mark (Year 1/2) – 95%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 96%

John (Year 5/6) – 94%

The government's target for attendance for primary school pupils is at least 95%.

Our whole school attendance for October was 93.8%.

A child is classed as late if they arrive at school after 9.20am.

0.7% of our pupils arrived late in October.

A child is classed as unauthorised absence if they arrive at school after 9.30am.

2.2% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in October.



Uniform

School uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

If your child is not in correct school uniform, we will ask for correct uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

Our uniform is:

- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers or skirt/pinafore dress
- Sensible, plain black leather shoes/ trainers



Jeans and leggings are not permitted. Skirts and trousers should be grey not black.

Homework

Homework reinforces and helps your child to retain information taught in the classroom. It also develops study habits and independent learning.

For Year 1 to Year 6, we kindly ask that your child is listened to reading daily and their reading record is signed. Your child will receive a dojo for each signature in their record.

For Year 1 to Year 6, your child will also receive maths and spelling homework each Friday to be handed back in by the following Thursday.

Times tables are extremely important for children in Year 3 to Year 6. In Year 4, children take a times tables test. Every child has log in details for Times Tables Rockstars - <https://ttrockstars.com/>
We would greatly appreciate it if your child could regularly practise their times tables at home.

READING EVERY DAY...

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.



PE

On PE days, children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.

Mark (Year 1/2)- Monday

Luke (Year 3/4)- Monday

John (Year 5/6)- Monday

Our PE uniform is:

- Plain white T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams



- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan or hoodie



- Suitable black trainers



If your child comes to school in PE kit on a day which is not their PE day, we will ask for uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

Jewellery and Hairstyles

Wrist watches are permitted but not smart watches.

Piercings (including earrings) are not permitted.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

brightly coloured, dyed hair, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories.

Eco Warriors Update

From Monday 14th- Friday 18th October, it was 'Recycle Week'. We led a whole school assembly on why we should recycle at the start of the week and at the end of the week, we had a whole school talk by Durham County Council on what happens to the items we recycle.

We also carried out an audit around school of our bins to ensure every room has a recycle bin and a non-recycle bin.

We are creating posters to go on each bin so everyone knows what goes in which bin.



Mini Vinnies Update

We have a sharing shelf for uniform and food in the main reception area. We would greatly appreciate donations. Please feel free to take items from the shelves.

On Tuesday 17th October, we enjoyed a game of just bowls with the residents of Rose Lodge Care Home.

This harvest, we have been collecting food donations for the local food bank. We thank all who have sent in donations. We also thank Aldi for donating £50 of items.



St. Joseph's Community Café

You are warmly invited for

coffee, cake and conversation

every last Friday of the month

from 2:30pm until 3.15pm

in the school hall.



Love Is Brewing!