

**9th February 2018—Our Latest News . . .**

Dear Parents,

**Exciting Times Ahead . . .**

Some of you may have seen in the Northern Echo today the fantastic news regarding a new nursery and school for Escomb! This was confirmed at County Council Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. We have longed for a nursery so that we can provide education for children from 3 years through to 11 years old. This means continuous provision for all children in the same school and will enhance progress and learning outcomes. This news couldn't come at a better time when housing developments close to our school are due to start which will invariably add to our numbers. Parts of our school building date back to 1853 and since this time the school building has been added to as we have grown in numbers. We have three classes already housed in demountable classrooms; a double demountable that has been in situ since 1997 and is in need of constant repair and a single demountable that is too small and not really fit for purpose. A new primary school with a nursery will ensure that all our children continue to receive the best education in one purpose built school environment. The housing developer has agreed to gift the required land for this and has also granted a £2.1M section 106 contribution towards the building costs estimated at approx £6.3M. A new school will also give the opportunity to consider traffic when deciding on access to the building, hopefully alleviating traffic on what we all know is a very busy road at school times. We are looking at the opening being in September 2020. We are really excited about this opportunity and will keep you posted with information as it becomes available.

**Championing our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors . . .**

On 30th January a teacher from Whinfield Primary School in Darlington came to our school to meet with some of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Whinfield School are keen to set up the scheme and came to see how it works for us. Thank you to Kristen and Keira in Year 5 for being fabulous representatives of our Anti-Bullying Team and for providing expert knowledge and advice to our visitor!

**Fighting Bradford's Project**

Year 5 children visited Beamish Museum on Wednesday 31st January 2018 to take part in sessions relating to our continued work on the Fighting Bradford's Project. The children worked in groups to find out about the life of a DLI soldier in WWI. They were real detectives; investigating the pit houses, school and chapel as well as talking to 'residents' and 'workers' to build a picture of life at that time and why someone would join up. Year 5 reported to me that 'it was a very cold day but it was fantastic!' Our children were praised by staff for their manners and excellent questioning! Well done Year 5.

**Year 6 information**

A meeting regarding Year 6 SATs and the forthcoming residential visit to Winmarleigh Hall was held on the same day. Thank you to all parents who came along.

**Sporting Opportunity**

On Wednesday 7th February Year 3 took part in a Cluster Multi-Skills Festival at St John's School. The children competed in a range of activities and developed their games skills.

**Musical Magic**

Year 5 children visited The Gala Theatre, Durham on Wednesday 7th February to watch a performance of 'Music through the Ages' by one of Durham's leading orchestral societies; The Palatinate Orchestra. The concert provided our children with an excellent fun-filled and interactive musical experience. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we hope that the experience inspires the younger generation to engage with all types of music.

**Super Scooter Skills**

WheelEducation were in school yesterday and worked with all children in Years 1 to 4. The children had fun as well as developing their scooter skills.

**Football Mania**

Our Year 3 & 4 Football Team played in the league at the Alun Armstrong Centre after school yesterday. Mr Jones and Mr Gillis reported that the team played really well; winning one game and losing two. Congratulations to Connie H, Ethan O'N, Finlay C, Lewis A, Ethan R, Charlie D & Finley B for being fabulous representatives of our school.

**Safety on-line!**

This week we have marked Safer Internet Day by delivering two assemblies in school. The focus has been on how children can keep themselves safe at all times when using the internet. E safety is also an integral part of our Computing Curriculum.

We are currently aware that a number of children in school (even as young as Year 1) are playing on games at home that are for 18+. These games contain violence and guns as well as use of bad language and some inappropriate images. Please can you check what your child is using for gaming and also who they are competing against on-line. Access to these types of games also encourages children to want to replicate some of what they are witnessing and this 'rough' 'aggressive' behaviour is totally unacceptable in school.

## Destination Judo

Today Years 2, 4, 5 & 6 took part in a judo workshop ran by Destination Judo. Leaflets have been given to the children should they wish to attend Destination Judo classes outside school. We already have a number of children who enjoy this community sporting opportunity.

## Travel news!

Mrs Collings and I are off to Mozambique tomorrow to work with our partner school Colegio Nyamunda in the capital city Maputo. Every class in school has prepared some work and cards for us to take with us to share with the children and they have also set Mrs Collings and I a few challenges to complete whilst we are there! We will be working all week in the school and presenting at a conference on the Friday. We will have photographs and information to share when we return as well as a joint project to work on.



Our Junior Road safety Officers, Ellie and Aaron in Year 6, have set all children a competition. Children have this to complete over half term.

We hope you have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Wendy Gill & Staff

Congratulations	
	
<h1>Star of the Week Award</h1>	<h1>Star of the Week Award</h1>
<b>1st February 2018</b>	<b>9th February 2018</b>
<b>Class Nominations</b>	<b>Class Nominations</b>
Reception Robbie S	Reception Daniel K
Class 1 Jessica C	Class 1 Robbie O'N
Class 2 Zak R	Class 2 Lily H
Class 3 Madelyn A	Class 3 Amelia O
Class 4 Oliver B	Class 4 Esme S
Class 5 Dylan C	Class 5 Macey D
Class 6 Lottie D	Class 6 Evi D
<b>Superstar of the Week!</b>	<b>Superstar of the Week!</b>
<b>* Lottie D *</b>	<b>* Amelia O &amp; Evi D *</b>

## ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:  
29/01/2018

Class 1

99.3%

**Well Done!**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Despite the reminder about attendance and lateness in the last newsletter, we still have children coming late to school after the register has closed. Whilst we appreciate there may be exceptional circumstances on the odd occasion, this should not be the norm. Please note that lateness after register has closed is classed as an unauthorised absence. Persistent lateness even before the register has closed is also unacceptable.

Attendance 90% and below is classed as persistent absenteeism and referrals are made to the Local Authority in line with policy.