

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another term, we would like to draw your attention to all the wonderful activities that your children have taken part in over this last half term.

SPORTING NEWS:

Year 3 & 4 Football team took part in the Football League with our cluster schools. They played every Wednesday for 4 weeks at Bishop Football ground and finished 7th overall—Well Done to the whole team!

Year 3 took part in a **Tennis Festival** at Bishop Barrington on 20th March. They enjoyed practising and improving their skills.

Cross Country: We had a Year 6 pupil, Matty R, who made it to the County Finals on 17th March. Matty finished 4th in the whole of the county which is a fantastic achievement. We are very proud of you Matty!

Skip into Spring at Maiden Castle on Wednesday 29th March: **Year 5** had great fun at this event; they practised and developed their skipping skills and were fabulous ambassadors for our school.

Bikeability: Year 6 have been improving their cycling skills. They have completed Bikeability Level 1 and are now working towards Bikeability Level 2. This award ensures that they are know how to be safe when out and about on their bikes. They will take part in a Year 6 Bike ride in the Summer term.

Year 4 have also been **swimming** on a weekly basis and have enjoyed developing and improving their skills in the water!

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT:

On **14th March Year 5** enjoyed an **Anglo Saxon** day. The children were fully immersed and taken back in time as Tanya re-enacted aspects of Anglo Saxon life. It was an amazing day and really brought their History Learning Challenge to life!

On **Wednesday 22nd March Konflux Theatre** delivered '**Play in a Day**' with **Year 4** 'Greece is the Word' which relates to their History Learning Challenge work.

On **23rd March** it was **Year 6**'s turn to work with Alice from Konflux Theatre. They performed '**A Midsummer Night's Dream**' which supports their work in English. Both classes performed their plays for parents at the end of the school day and did a fabulous job.

On Thursday 23rd March **Year 3** took part in an interactive on-line workshop base on their Learning Challenge about **The Stone Age**. The workshop reinforced their knowledge about The Stone Age and they wrote some wonderful stories set in that time of history. Well done Year 3—you are fabulous writers!

Jet & Ben Police Dogs were in school on Monday 20th March. Reception and Year 1 learned lots about 'Stranger Danger' and keeping themselves safe. They also got to try on police helmets which they loved!

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

We celebrated **World Book day** on Friday 3rd March. It was a lovely day with children in their PJs sharing their favourite books in their family groups. Reading is high on or list of priorities in school and it is so important that our children develop a love of books and reading.

We also celebrated **International Women's Day** in school. Each class researched a woman that has been an inspiration to us all and had a positive impact on our world. They made posters and shared their information in a special assembly.

We thoroughly enjoyed having mams and grandmas with us at our **Mother's Day Event**. Thank you for your kind donations—we raised £376 and donated a proportion of this to **Comic Relief** Charity.

Obviously the above events are just a snapshot of what has gone on in school this term and are enhancements to support our curriculum offer. All of the photographs relating to these events are available on the school website and Facebook page and I would urge you to take a look to share in what has been happening.
www.escomb.durham.sch.uk

You can also see who our 'Stars of the Week' are on the website!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

In line with reviewing our whole school approach to behaviour, we have looked at activities and the use of equipment at playtime and lunchtime. The playground has been separated into zones with equipment allocated to each zone. The equipment is changed on a regular basis so that children can access a range of activities. The field is also in use for those children with wellies as it is still very boggy in places and there is a supervised football game for year 5 and 6.

We have also begun our OPAL journey and I know you have had some information about this. Miss Maddocks is leading on this development and, although we are restricted somewhat by the building work, we are keen to develop some areas over the coming term to further extend our playtime/lunchtime offer for our children.

School Building up-date

As you can see, the demolition of part of the classroom of the future has taken place and they are now digging the foundations for the new office area and additional 2 classrooms.

The remainder of the classroom of the future (the classroom itself and the Headteacher's Office and meeting room) are to be refurbished and the cladding and roof replaced. I know that, at this point, it doesn't look like there is much progress but, the work is moving ahead! Thank you for your support with the arrangements for entry and exit to school. It is not easy for any of us but it will definitely be worth it when it's all completed!

Staffing

Some of you will be aware that I am retiring in July. I started teaching in London in 1985 and came to Escomb Primary School in September 1989 as a class teacher and progressed through the 'ranks' and was Deputy Headteacher for 8 years before being appointed as Headteacher in 2010. My commitment, passion and dedication to make Escomb Primary School the best place to be for our children has always been at the heart of everything that I have done. So, although retirement may seem a relatively straight forward decision to make, it has been a very difficult and emotional one for me.

Once the governing body have appointed my successor, you will be informed.

And finally . . .

We have had a lovely end to the term with our Easter Egg Competition and Easter Bonnet parade today. We had some fabulous creations—just a brilliant effort from everyone! So difficult to judge—everyone is a winner for me!

I would like to take the opportunity to 'Thank You' all as parents for your support throughout this term – we really do appreciate it. I would also like to say 'Thank You' (and I am sure you will join me) to all of our wonderful staff here at Escomb. They truly care about our children and do their very best always.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday 17th April 2023. Let's hope for some sunshine for the summer term!

Thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Gill
Headteacher