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Our Value of the Month for April is COURAGE and for May it is SELF-BELIEF



Newsletter – April and May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will hopefully be aware from a previous letter, our new Deputy Headteacher is Mr Seaton. He has had many positive comments from parents and family members about this and has been made to feel very welcome in his new role within school.

School Nutrition Action Group



The School Nutrition Action Group met with Mrs Slavin from Taylor Shaw last term and looked at the new menu. They were asked to speak to their classmates and see whether children wanted to keep 5 choices on the menu or change it to 4 choices. The elected SNAG members spoke to their year group and then counted the votes. From this term we are offering 4 choices on the menu as children decided they would rather have more portions of the foods they like and remove one choice that was the least popular. Many thanks to our elected SNAG group for their continued contribution to our school lunchtimes.

Science Week

During our recent Science week activities in school children were given the opportunity to experience an exciting aspect of Science. For example, some pupils made plastic out of milk, others planned a trip to Antarctic and thought about the issues that venture would pose and some made birds nest to name but a few of the activities. Well done to all our super scientists who continue to show what enquiring minds they have!

Medieval Banquet for Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 recently enjoyed a Medieval Banquet in school following on from their history visit to Lumley Castle. Miss Watson reported that all the children were in role and played the part of local nobility very well. You can find photos of this on Twitter.

School Nurse and Dentist Visit



We continue to work closely with our school nurse service and recently Claire Birks was in school to talk to children about health (including mental health) and hygiene. She spoke about how to stay healthy to our pupils and gave them the opportunity to ask her questions. Following this we had a visit for Mr Bennett from Cestria Dental Surgery who provided workshops on how to brush teeth and have good oral hygiene. To support this work we politely remind parents that children should bring water into school and only healthy snacks i.e. fruit.

FA Coach

Further to our recent health work with the school nurse and local dentist, Year 4, 5 and 6 are working with Ian Raine (a qualified FA coach) to develop their fitness and football skills. Mr Raine reports that the children he has worked with have shown great enthusiasm and skill.

Football Team News

Our school football team have earned themselves a place in the final on Thursday 3rd May. We are all very proud of them and they got a large round of applause in last Achievement Assembly. Last week they played at St Bennets at Ouston in the Cestria Cup and worked hard to get through to the final. Our school coach, Mr Dent, said it was a nail-biting finish and all the parents/family members cheered loudly when they won! We wish them the best of luck this week and would like to thank all the parents who have supported throughout the season. Also good luck to our Y4/5 team with their forthcoming semi-final.

Support For Families - Hardship Fund

Durham County offer a fund to support families who may be having financial hardship. The aim of this is to provide relief at the most difficult times, offering small grants to purchase shoes and coats. As a school we contribute to this to ensure that funds are available for pupils in our local area. If you feel that this may be something you would like more information on please contact our school office



Movie Making/Visit to Apple Store, Metro Centre

Year 5 visited Park View recently to complete a movie making workshop. The children explored character, location and plot before bringing it to life using costumes and props. This was then recorded and will be edited and sent to school so we can see the final version. They also continued their IT work with a visit to the Apple Store at the Metro Centre last week. The focus for this was coding and Mr Seaton reported that the children all showed excellent skills.

Miss Purdy's class developed their movie making skills when they produced their own version of Little Red Riding Hood for their recent class assembly. Fabulous acting and great characters brought their green screen work to life. Many thanks to our Y3/4 class for a great assembly.

150 Year Celebration



We were very proud to be part of St Barnabas Church 150 years celebration recently. Mrs Lees, our school governor and church warden, helped to organise the displays that the children had made in school to represent this important milestone. The Bishop of Durham led the congregation on the 150th anniversary and we were very proud to be part of the local history of our church.

E-Safety Workshops



As part of e-safety work we had a visit from our local PCSO recently to talk about internet safety to Year 5 and 6. The aim was to focus on social media and how children can keep safe by protecting the information they give out. He reported that our pupils were able to give many good ideas on how to stay safe, what information needs to stay private and they could talk about the need for privacy settings.

School Twitter Photos



If you haven't seen our Easter Egg Competition winners yet just a reminder that the photos are on Twitter. As always the standard was very high and Mrs Bell, our Chair of Governors, had a difficult time picking the winners. Well done to all our entrants and especially to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies



At the end of this term our Year 6 pupils will sadly leave us to head off to secondary school. They are a fantastic group of young people and will be greatly missed. To commemorate their time with us one of our Year 6 parents suggested that Leavers' Hoodies could be worn. This idea was put to School Council and they loved it! They voted that Year 6 should be able to wear their hoodies in the last half term. Our uniform supplier (Little Gems) are in school on Tuesday 1st May to measure the children who wish to have their names on the back so the hoodies can be made. The cost will be £15 for a hoodie.

Nursery Places



We have had many children join our nursery since we opened it in September and it is wonderful to see our youngest learners settling in so well. We offer 30 hours to eligible parents and an increasing number of parents are taking this up. If you know anyone who has a child aged 3 to 4 who is looking for a place then they can contact school. The following website provides details on 30 hours eligibility: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Botanic Gardens Visit - Reception Class



This week Reception class are going to the Botanic Gardens in Durham. On Wednesday 2nd May they will go to learn about the woodlands as part of their curriculum work. This follows on from their work with Music Bugs last week where they sang woodland themed songs. We look forward to finding out about their visit.

Year 1 and 2 Class Assembly



On Thursday 24th May it will be Miss Watson's class assembly. Year 1 and 2 have been working on their ideas already to get prepared. Parents and family members are welcome to come along at 9am to watch their performance.

Half Term Holiday

JUST A REMINDER THAT HALF TERM ENDS ON FRIDAY 25^{TH} MAY AND WE RETURN ON TUESDAY 5^{TH} JUNE (**MONDAY 4TH JUNE** IS A TRAINING DAY AND **SCHOOL IS CLOSED**). ALSO BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY IS ON THE 7^{TH} MAY.

Yours sincerely Mrs L A Snowdon