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Our **Value of the Month** for March is **RESILIENCE** and for April is **COURAGE**



## Newsletter – March and April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parents' Evenings – booking via text



Parents' Evenings this term are on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to arrange an appointment please respond to the text that has been sent out today so you can choose your appointment slot. Nursery parents receive a telephone call to arrange an appointment. Please note that due to time constraints it is only one appointment per child and with a limit of 1 adult (maximum 2) per appointment. If you have any issues booking a slot please contact the school office who can support with this.

### Member of Parliament Visit

We look forward to welcoming the Rt Hon Kevan Jones on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March when he visits our school. The children have come up with some fantastic questions to ask him to find out more about his role as an MP, the important decisions he makes and many other topics. He has been the MP for North Durham since 2001 so we look forward to finding out more about him and the important role he has.

### Red Nose Day – 17<sup>th</sup> March



Red Nose Day this year is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. On this day children can wear non-uniform, dress up or wear red if they would like to. Any donations for the charity will be gratefully received. One of our parents is a qualified barber and he has kindly offered to do boys haircuts for £3 – all monies to Red Nose Day. Mr Turnbull said he will agree a date with school for this so if you are interested please phone us so we can put a list together. Your child will need to be accompanied by an adult for this during the haircut.

### Easter Egg Competition



It is time to start thinking about designs for our Easter Egg competition as it getting closer. Each pupil can enter an imaginative design (maximum A4 size please) that they have made at home. There are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for the winners in each class. Entries need to be in from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March so they can be judged by our Chair of Governors on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Prizes can then be awarded. Good luck and we look forward to seeing what the children come up with this year. Our Chair of Governors is looking forward to coming to school to judge the competition.

### World Book Day



We had a fantastic time this year on World Book Day. The children looked amazing in their dressing gowns, pyjamas and comfortable clothes for our theme of 'bedtime stories'. The feedback was great as pupils could relax with a story and enjoy reading for pleasure. Our Junior pupils shared stories they had written with our younger pupils and some photos from this can be seen on our twitter feed (home page of our website). Thank you to parents and carers for supporting this national day and to the pupils for being so keen to learn about new books as well as share their favourite stories.

### School Rebuild or Refurbishment Programme

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March schools that have been chosen as part of the Department of Education rebuild programme were invited to an information meeting. At this meeting we were told that the schools identified will be categorised into Group 1, 2 or 3. The group we are allocated to will decide our start date. We look forward to being contacted regarding this in due course and more information will follow once it is available.

## **Mental Health Week**



Thank you to parents and carers for the support shown for the If You Care Share Charity during Mental Health Week. We appreciated the children wearing non-uniform and putting their clothes inside out to reflect how important it is to share how we feel on the inside. Children were able to take part in workshops to discuss their feelings and how to look after their emotional well-being. The members of staff from the charity were brilliant and managed to get this information across to children in a fun and age appropriate way. Many thanks to Miss Hartley for organising this through her role as PSHE co-ordinator.

## **Parent Governor Vacancies**

We have vacancies for parent governors to join our governing body. The role of governor is so important and ensures that we continue our school improvements through our meetings and training. Our governing body already has great expertise and we are looking for parents to join who can enhance the essential and strategic work carried out. If you would like to discuss this, please contact Mrs Snowdon who can explain the role in more detail.

## **Healthy Eating Workshops**



Our catering company Chartwells provided healthy eating workshops for the whole school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Megan came along from the company with all the ingredients and equipment needed to demonstrate to children how we can make healthy food to try and enjoy. Megan said the children were so polite, engaged and positive. Chartwells offer this free to schools so we look forward to welcoming them back to work with our pupils again.

## **Year 6 SATs PowerPoint for Parents**

Year 6 SAT tests are taking place this year and will be held on week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (starting Tuesday due to the extra bank holiday). Mr Seaton has put together an informative PowerPoint for parents and this will be uploaded to Teams soon. All pupils in Year 6 have their own Teams log in so they can find it and share it with parents. Other statutory tests this year are: Key Stage 1 SATs, Year 4 times tables test and Year 1 phonics. We continue to support our pupils as they work towards these national assessments.

## **Nursery Places**



Children can join our nursery the term after their third birthday for their free 15 hours (as well as free 30 hours for eligible parents). If you are looking for a nursery place please contact our school to discuss this or arrange a visit. Our nursery was praised by Ofsted where it was noted that children in Early Years get off to a flying start so if you would like to speak to a member of staff about putting your child's name down for our nursery, please contact us.

## **Events and School Holiday Dates for 2023**

Below is the list of dates for your information. Please ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school – you can find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website.

Red Nose Day	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March – non-uniform, dress up or wear red!
Easter Egg competition judged on...	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March (entries in that week please)
Easter 2023	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March to Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
SATs week for Year 6	Week beginning Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May (children return 9 <sup>th</sup> after bank holiday)
Summer half-term 2023	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Staff training day (school closed to pupils)	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June and Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June
Summer 2023	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July

**JUST A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15PM ON FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH FOR OUR EASTER HOLIDAY AND WE RE-OPEN ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023.**

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)