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Our **Value of the Month** for January is **DETERMINATION** and for February is **Honesty**



## Newsletter – January and February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back. The children all worked so hard in Autumn so I hope you all had a good Christmas and they had a well-earned break. We would like to say a huge thank you for last term and all the support we received, including the kind words and gifts for staff. Our Spring term has started so well with all the children coming back ready to learn. We had our first Achievement Assembly award winners last week and it was lovely to share all the hard work going on.

### **Safer Internet Day**

This year the theme of Safer Internet Day is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. and we will be joining in with this global event on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of February. On this day, our local PCSO Dean Regan will be working with Year 5 & 6 on how to be safe online. He will focus on the negative impact of malicious communication and what to do when this occurs. In all year groups, children will learn about how to be safe online and will complete activities to support their learning. You can find out more information about this by clicking on: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>

### **School Policies and Curriculum Information**

You can access our school policies by clicking the following link in the 'Policies' part of our website:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/>

The following link lets you see what your child is learning across the year (including this term's topics) so you can continue to help at home. Your support with this is greatly appreciated:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/curriculum-content/>

### **Chinese New Year Celebrations**

As part of our work on Chinese New Year, we will be looking at the traditions and cultures so children can learn about the 'Year of the Dragon'. We look forward to welcoming Lip Lee, a member of the Chinese community, in school presenting an assembly and demonstrating his fantastic origami skills. Lip Lee is coming into school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **Chartwells Food Day**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of January a member of the Chartwells team (who provide Durham County school lunches) will be coming into school to work with each class. The workshops will promote healthy eating through food preparation as follows:

Early Years:	Healthy Eating - the 5 senses
Year 1/2	Healthy Eating – caterpillar making
Year 3/4	Healthy Eating – making rainbow wraps
Year 5/6	Sustainability – where does food come from?

### **Governor Vacancies**

We currently have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors and would be keen to hear from you if you would like to find out more. You can speak to Mrs Snowdon about this and also look at the <https://www.nga.org/> website which sets out the role, expectations and provides details about this strategic position within school.

## School Closure Procedures

In cases of extremely bad weather this winter we may have to consider school closure. We always avoid this option but at times it is required. If our school has to close because of adverse weather conditions, any announcements will be made by: text, via the school website ([www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk](http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk)) and local radio stations i.e. Metro Radio and Radio Newcastle. Please make sure we have your up to date mobile phone number so you can be contacted.

## Class books and reading

We promote reading in our school as it is such a vital skill which supports children in all their learning. Whether children are reading in history, geography, science or a story book, developing a love of reading supports them in primary school and beyond. If you would like some ideas for books that your child might like then you could look at [www.booksfortopics.com](http://www.booksfortopics.com) as this site has lots of suggestions especially linked to History, Geography or Science. This may help with the new topics your child will be learning about this term and please see the 'Curriculum' section of our website for these.

Also try looking at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

## Attendance

Each term we look at attendance as part of our ongoing monitoring and you will receive a letter with your child's attendance certificate later this term. Last term we had a number of pupils who achieved 100% and they received a wrist band in recognition of this great achievement. We wanted to say thank you to parents for telephoning the office when their child is off school before 9am.

Below is our current % attendance for each year group and also the current national averages:

	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
School	90.6%	95.8%	92.4%	95.5%	95.7%	95.2%	94.4%
National average (to date)	93.6%	94.3%	94.7%	95%	94.9%	94.7%	94.5%

## Earrings in school

Please support us to be an earring-free school by removing your child's earrings before they come to school each day. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

## Key Dates

Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website. You can click on the link below to find them. This will ensure that holidays are taken out of term time to allow your child to attend school. You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website. School holiday dates and PD days for 2023-24:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/50/2023/05/School-holidays-and-PD-days-2023-2024-1.pdf>

**We close on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March for the Easter Holidays (Good Friday is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March ) and we re-open to pupils on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

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