



Lambourne Close, Bournmoor, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 6HF 0191 3854291
e-mail: bournmoor@durhamlearning.net web: www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk



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



Newsletter – January and February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year to you all and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. The children have come back to school so positively and everyone is working very hard already as they start their new topics. You can find out what your child will be learning this term by clicking the following link to find the curriculum grids for each class:

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

Each week we have our achievement assemblies where we celebrate all the great work in each class and we look forward to seeing who will be our shining stars in the Spring term. Last term we celebrated Green Team winning the most stars – well done to them! Children are presented with Lunchtime Supervisor Awards as well as our Presentation Award, Rockstar Reader and Star of the Week. Also, we celebrate our Value of the Month and our value in January is 'Determination' which matches the New Year and achieving our best.



Wonderful baby news!

We are delighted to let you know that Mrs Patterson had her baby during the Christmas holidays and is the proud mam to her lovely daughter. Both mam and baby are doing great and Mr and Mrs Patterson have enjoyed their first Christmas with their daughter. What lovely news!



Reception School Places for September 2026

Applications for places in Reception class closes on 15th January 2026 so please ensure that you apply for a place before this date. If your child currently attends our nursery you still need to apply so please contact admissions on <https://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces> to find out how to apply. Our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Claire Donnelly, can also provide guidance on the process if you have not done this before and would like to talk to her about it.



School Closure Procedures

In cases of extremely bad weather this winter we may have to consider school closure. So far, we have not had too much snow or ice. However, if we are affected by heavy snow, we will contact you via text to let you know if school has to close. 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 and local radio stations i.e. Metro Radio and Radio Newcastle. Please make sure we have your latest mobile phone number so you can be contacted.



Keeping warm in winter

As the weather is so cold at the minute, we appreciate you sending your child in with a warm coat, waterproof shoes (or boots/wellies), hat and gloves. We like to use our school field in the winter when it is frozen as it allows children to play outdoors together and enjoy the chilly weather in their warm clothes. When we have snow on our field it is great fun for everyone to make snowmen. Your support with ensuring your child has suitable, warm clothing is appreciated and waterproof footwear. We kindly receive donations of clothes from our families so if your child has had outgrown their coat, etc it is worth phoning the office to see if we have any spare clothes.



Safer Internet Day – 10th February

This year the theme of Safer Internet Day is **Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**. We will be joining in with this global event on Tuesday 10th of February so children can learn about how to use technology safely. 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 which has lots of helpful information <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

Chinese New Year – 13th February



We look forward to welcoming Lip Lee to school on Friday 13th February as part of our work on Chinese New Year. The Year of the Horse begins on 17th February and in preparation we will be learning about Chinese culture and completing arts and crafts activities with Lip Lee. Each year he comes to our school to widen our knowledge of Chinese culture. On Friday 13th February our school lunch will have a Chinese theme so children can enjoy this as part of their activities.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March



We celebrate World Book Day in school each year as part of our promotion of reading for pleasure. Each year our School Council help to decide the theme for the day and last year it was 'favourite bedtime stories'. We will let you know the theme nearer the time but children are always able to come in non-uniform on the day.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March



Comic Relief's Red Nose Day this year is on Friday 20th March and children can dress up, wear non-uniform or red clothes if they would like to. Any donations for the charity can be sent in on the day and we thank you in advance for your support with this.

Attendance

Each term we look at attendance as part of our ongoing monitoring. Last term we had a number of pupils who achieved 100% and they received a wrist band in recognition of this great achievement – well done to them! We also brought back the very popular 12 Days of Christmas for a daily infant and junior attendance goody bag prize draw. Some of the prizes for this were donated from our local Tesco at Houghton-le-Spring so many thanks to them for adding to our prize bags. Thank you to all the parents who telephone the office when your child is off school to let us know. We want every pupil to attend every day but we appreciate that when a child is unwell, they need to be off so we appreciate you keeping us updated each day.

Current school attendance per year group:

R	1	2	3	4	5	6
95.6%	87.3%	93.6%	95.9%	93.8%	94.7%	81.7%

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/>

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 2025-26:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

<https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-holidays/>

We close on Thursday 2nd April 2026 for the Easter Holidays (Good Friday is 3rd April) and we re-open to pupils on Monday 20th April 2026

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