



17th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are at the end of a very busy term. The children continue to impress us with their resilience and hard work, we are proud of them all.

Safe Half-term holidays

Despite the weather storms coming our way Governors and staff would like to wish you all a safe and happy half-term holidays.

Class trips/workshops

Teachers have started to book and some year groups have already been out on year group trips and we want this to continue now that COVID-19 is enabling us all to go out and about again. Lots of the museums and the Centre for life are also running workshops in school and we are keen to embrace this too. We are looking into joining a science trial, where staff from the Centre for life work with our children to promote positive scientific enquiry. We are all excited about this new opportunity – so watch this space!

World Book Day

World Book Day is going to be celebrated on 3rd March 2022. This year our theme will be *'A magical day of books!'* as it is the 25-year anniversary of Harry Potter. There is an amazing wealth of wonderful authors out there who have created fantastic magical characters for our children to enjoy.

Following on from last week, a couple of parents have contacted school to say how disappointed they are at school are not allowing pupils to come in dressed up in fancy dress or wear their own clothes for world book day. I am sorry you feel that way but as a school we have to consider all of our families, especially those who experience financial hardship. For those of you who are in the position to buy wonderful outfits for your children that is great but too many families are not in that position. We want no child to be left feeling awkward because their family cannot afford outfits or worse yet families choose outfits over food and heating; all children will come into school on an equal footing and enjoy World Book together as a fantastic celebration of stories, books authors and illustrators.

Advance news of new born lambs visiting school

We are delighted to inform you that we are going to be having some new born lambs visiting school at the end of April. All the children will have the opportunity to see the lambs and speak to the farmer who owns them. It is a wonderful real-life experience and we know that your children will love it. All the appropriate hygiene (antibacterial gel) and

hand washing will be followed. I wanted to give you advance warning, as if you are pregnant you may want to maintain an abundance of caution and change your child out of their school clothes as soon as they get home that day to wash. We will text all parents to alert you on the day – obviously it is dependent on the number of lambs being born and the weather.

Forest School

All year groups are taking part in outward bound activities and forest school including fire making and adventurous activities. The children who have taken part so far have loved it – so we are getting him in to work with all of our children.

North East Languages Festival

Our children are all taking part in this great celebration next month and on the 18th March they will all submit a competition entry as part of their in-school work.

British Science Week

Mr Peacock, as science coordinator, is busy planning a myriad of fabulous and exciting activities for our children to take part in during science week. Keep an eye out for news as it comes.

Mass

A huge thank you to Father Martin, who lead us in a whole school mass this morning. All the children lifted the roof with their singing, it was wonderful to listen and be a part of.

Winning House Points House

Well done to St Cuthbert's who won the house point challenge last term. Their reward was delayed until now as we have only just started to be able to meet again in the altogether. They enjoyed a great afternoon with Mr Bonnar in the hall with a film.

History Timeline

We are delighted to let you know that we have a 30mx2m outdoor timeline being fitted on the fence in the outside school yard next week. I know that the children will come home and maze you with facts they have read.

And finally...

We wish a fond farewell to several of our children who are leaving us to start at new schools after half term. New houses and new schools beckon, we will keep you all in our prayers.

We continue to keep all of our families in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head Teacher