



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back Mrs Reed!

This week we welcomed back Mrs Reed, our caretaker, who we have all missed in school. I must say a huge thank you to Miss Hannant and Mrs Demopoulos, who have worked incredibly hard to help cover some of her duties in school during her absence. Thank you so much!

Open the Book

We must say a huge thank you to our friends from church for organising their Open the Book session this week. The story was 'The Marvellous Picnic' based on the feeding of the five thousand. They really help to bring Bible stories alive with acting, songs, sound effects and actions too. Children who volunteered to do part of the acting really enjoyed the experience too. We can't wait for their next visit.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival takes place on the 19th October and some of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have been working very hard to take on more responsibility for the planning and delivery of this service developing their leadership skills. They have been working with Claire Mead, who leads Messy Church. All our children will be involved with the Harvest Service and all family and friends are welcome to attend. Children usually bring in a donation on the day of the service.

Winter Illness information

This week in assembly we have been talking to the children about the importance of handwashing and the use of tissues, in order to minimise the spread of the Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Bug) and Flu. Please support us at home, by following the advice detailed on the NHS Leaflet attached, this will minimise the spread within the school and also help to protect vulnerable members of our families and our community. Although Covid test kits are no longer routinely available if you do know that your child has Covid then they need to remain absent from school for 3 days after testing positive.

Help with heating costs

The Warm Home Scheme can help to support homes over the winter months, a payment of £140 is credited to your electricity account in March, this is a means tested grant for families on low income and/or in receipt of certain benefits. For details of this scheme, please click on the link below: -

<https://www.uswitch.com/gas-electricity/guides/warm-home-discount/>

Feed the Family sessions If you are concerned about the cost of living and about managing over winter The Hub are offering Feed the Family sessions showing ways to cut the cost of making family meals. Please have a read through the flyer at the end of this newsletter that offers further information.



Financial Support available from Durham County Council

Durham County Council are providing schools with some funds, to help to support families who are experiencing financial difficulties. We may be able to help you with funding for the items detailed below. Please contact the school office for further details.

- Essential school uniform and equipment including stationery, school bags.
- Winter clothing (including coats, hats, gloves, underwear /socks)
- Footwear
- PE kit

Halloween Fun

The Hub, Barnard Castle, have some Halloween activities organised for school age children. You can also call in to find Halloween costumes for your child-I think this is a great idea. If you child has outgrown their costumes please drop off at The Hub or leave them at school for us to donate. Please see the flyer attached to the end of this newsletter.

Half Term Holidays

The Hub have a lot of activities running during the October Half Term, see the attached flyer, booking is essential. Please click on the following links to see what is going on at the Bowes Museum and Darlington town Centre too!

<https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/halloween-at-the-bowes-museum/>

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/events/event-item/?id=112228>

We have the following Church & Community Events, coming up shortly. All are welcome to attend

Table-Top Sale - Saturday 8th October, Gainford Village Hall 10am to 4pm

Gainford's Got Talent! - Thursday October 13th 7pm. I will be taking a group of children to sing two songs If your child is in Class Tees or Class Wear and they want to take part please remember to reply to the operoo message.

Messy Church - Sunday 16th October at 3:30-5.30pm at St Mary's Church.

C Riley

Quick Reminder

Please ensure packed lunches are nut free and please do not send your child to school with nuts for a snack.

Packed Lunches should not contain sugary drinks, chocolate bars, chocolate biscuits or sweets

Please label your child's clothing including PE kit, hats, scarves etc as this will help us return any lost property to the correct pupil.



Attendance w/e 07.10.2022

Our Minimum Target is 96%

Well done to all classes who have achieved attendance above our minimum target.

A special well done to **Class Tees** for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	96.40
Wear	87.10
Tees	100.00

Gold Headteacher Awards

Awards this week were for Maths
Well done for the fabulous work this week

Class Swale	Angus Lewis
Class Wear	Joe Bethany
Class Tees	Sophie Oliver

Next week the award is for helpfulness

Diary Dates

Staindrop School Tag Rugby: Wednesday 19th October (Class Wear)

Harvest Festival: Wednesday 19th October -St Marys Church 9.10am All welcome

Staindrop School Sports Festival: Thursday 20th October (Class Tees)

Staindrop School Sports Leaderships: Friday 21st October (Details TBC)

Break up for Half Term: Friday 22nd October

Return to school: Monday 31st October

Flu Immunisations: Wednesday 16th November

School Closed to pupils: Monday 21st November (Staff Training)

School Disco: Wednesday 23rd November

Nativity (Class Swale): Wednesday 7th December 10am & Thursday 8th December 1.30pm

Pantomime at Darlington Hippodrome (Whole School): Wednesday 14th December (details to follow)

Break up for Christmas: Tuesday 20th December

Return to School: Thursday 5th January

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Multi-Sports

With Kyle for Y2-Y6
Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Forest School Session Y2-6

With Mrs Muir
Wednesday 19th October 3.30-5pm £6.75

Still Places Available

Mini Disciples delivered by Claire Mead
crafts, songs, drama, Bible stories and so much more!

Open to Class Wear & Tees Wednesday 3.30-4.40pm
5/12/19th October 2/9/16th November

First session free then £10 for 5 more sessions.
You can still sign up only £2.00 per session.



Friends of Gainford School (FoGS)

We would love to see more volunteers supporting our school so if you are interested in volunteering or just finding out more please contact gainfordfogs@gmail.com .

Last year our parent action group, FoGS, worked tremendously hard to help raise money to benefit all of the pupils in school. On behalf of all of our pupils and staff I cannot thank them enough. This term they have already offered funding for coach transport for Educational visits for Bowes museum and the Pantomime in Darlington, helping to keep the cost down for all families.

They have listened to what school council would like to see in school and they are planning to run and support many activities across the year. They have already planned to hold two discos, one for Class Swale and one for Tees and Wear. These will be held on Wednesday 23rd November and you will soon hear more information about these via Operoo.

Our school would really benefit from a mobile staging unit to replace the heavy wooden units we currently have. We could then use this across the year rather than just for end of year performances. So, FoGS are going to work towards raising enough funds to buy this, hopefully in readiness for the Class Tees production in July.

We are a Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting Article 30. The children have been learning about the right to enjoy their own culture, practise their own religion and to use their own language.

HOUSEPOINTS/DOJO points

Well done for all the hard work and effort in school this week! The Dojo points have been totalled up and those Fantastic Foxes have come out on top!

<u>DIZZY DOGS</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>FANTASTIC FOXES</u>	254
<u>LEAPING LIONS</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>COOL CATS</u>	218