



# Newsletter

March 2021 - No2



The past 3 weeks have gone very quickly and we've packed in lots of great learning and fun activities! We have also carried out assessments so that teachers have a clear understanding of children's learning needs, ready for the summer term when we'll continue to work hard to support all children.

As you know, we break up for the Easter holidays today and return to school on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. Please note that on our return, the staggered start and finish times will continue, but the time slots will shorten. We have monitored children coming into and leaving school and have found that the majority of children are picked up or dropped off at the beginning of the time slots. We have therefore decided to shorten each slot so that we can increase teaching time. Drop off and pick up times will be as follows:

	<b>Drop off times (10 minute time slots)</b>	<b>Pick up times (10 minute time slots)</b>
Reception	8.50am – 9.00am	3.00pm -3.10pm
Year 1	8.45am – 8.55am	3.05pm – 3.15pm
Year 2	8.55am – 9.05am	3.15pm – 3.25pm
Year 3	8.45am – 8.55am	3.05pm – 3.15pm
Year 4	8.55am – 9.05am	3.15pm – 3.25pm
Year 5	8.45am – 8.55am	3.05pm – 3.15pm
Year 6	8.55am – 9.05am	3.15pm – 3.25pm

Please help us by keeping to these specific times, as we need to keep each class bubble separate as they enter and leave at the end of the day.

## *Thank You to Witton Gilbert Charity, 'Children's Hopes and Dreams' (CHAD)*

We are very grateful to the charity 'CHAD' for their generous donation of £750 towards our school garden. We were able to receive our second delivery of materials last week and staff family members are working hard to complete the building of the vegetable beds. The donation from CHAD, together with funds raised by parents during our sponsored fun run last term, will help us hopefully complete the garden next term. Further updates will follow.

## ***National Day of Reflection – 23<sup>rd</sup> March***

We all marked National Day of Reflection in school on Tuesday, by observing a minute silence during the morning. Children and staff reflected on the past year and thought about families who had lost loved ones. We thought about what reflection is and how it can help us to be calm and think deeply. We were helped to reflect by taking part in some meditation with Rainbow Relaxation.

Children then designed a reflection area for our school. Somewhere they could go to relax and reflect. They had some great ideas and we'll try to incorporate some of these in our school grounds.



We had a great time completing our Comic Relief assault course on Friday for Comic Relief. Children enjoyed jokes, physical challenges and water balloons – and even the rain didn't dampen our spirits! Thank you to those who made donations to Comic Relief. We raised £160!



## ***World Down Syndrome Day - #LotsOfSocks Campaign***

We enjoyed wearing odd socks to raise awareness for World Down Syndrome Day earlier in the week. We learned more about Down Syndrome, read stories and completed some great art work. Well done everyone!

## ***Parents' Evenings – Week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> April***

As outlined in the previous newsletter, Parents' Evenings will take place during the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> April. These will be telephone consultations and texts will be sent out to book appointments after Easter. Class teachers will arrange their parent consultations on the following days, between 2pm and 6.00pm.

Reception	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 1	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 2	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 3	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>
Year 4	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>
Year 5	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 6	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>

## ***Fun and Food activities***

We have been asked to share the information below, which you may be interested in over Easter.

*'Whether it's finding fun things for the kids to do, paying for extra childcare, or even just all that extra food they seem to eat, the school holidays can be a struggle for many families. Covid-19 has meant that many people's incomes have been reduced and children and young people are keen to get out and spend time with their friends.'*

*This Easter we have launched our Fun and Food programme, providing fun activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people. Activities are provided by range of partners including schools, voluntary and community sector groups, sport and leisure services and our Family Centres.*

*For information on Fun and Food activities during the Easter holidays check out [www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFood](http://www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFood)*

*Activities are being added every day so please keep checking our webpage.'*

## ***Summer Holiday Clubs***

We wanted to let you know that we are planning to hold 4 days of holiday clubs in the summer holidays on the following dates:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

We are just in the planning stage but activities are likely to include Bushcraft, sport, gardening, cooking and making the most of being outside. Further details will follow next term.

## ***Testing***

Just a reminder that if your child or a member of your household develops symptoms of COVID 19 they will need to take a **PCR test** (which must be booked, <https://www.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus>). **Lateral flow testing is for asymptomatic testing of people who don't have symptoms** so is not to be used when there are symptoms.

The main symptoms of COVID 19 are:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste



You should arrange to get a test if your child experiences at least **one** of these symptoms. We also ask that parents share confirmation of COVID tests with school. If your child displays symptoms in school, we will contact you to collect your child/ren immediately and children will need to be tested before returning to school.

Thank you to all parents for your support in helping to reduce the spread of the virus and keeping children and staff safe.

## School holidays 2021

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Easter 2021	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Summer half term 2021	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
Autumn half term 2021	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
<b>Training Days</b> Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Spring half term 2022	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
Summer half-term 2022	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	To be confirmed