



Dear Parents,

We have had another brilliant week in school with lots of exciting learning going on in each class. We are having a big push on the 'fundamental skills' this year, ensuring children have a strong foundation of skills (in reading, spelling, handwriting, number and speaking & listening) in which to build upon throughout their primary education and beyond. It has been a pleasure to go and see some of the spelling and handwriting sessions being delivered around school this week; we are seeing a great improvement in children's handwriting, resulting in high-quality outcomes across the curriculum. They should be very proud of the effort and care they are taking with their work!

I also had the pleasure of speaking to a group of children about Science on Wednesday afternoon and they were incredibly excited to tell me about some of the fantastic experiments going on around school. On Wednesday, Y3 children were crumbling chocolate (they resisted eating it!) to demonstrate rock formations, Y4/5 were using materials to test thermal insulation using ice cubes and our after-school Science Club made their own lava lamps! Lots of exciting activities which really brought their learning to life.

We hope you all have a good weekend,

Mr. Donaldson and Mr. Cope

### Y6 SATs Meeting

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our parent information session on Thursday afternoon about the upcoming end of key stage 2 SATs. All Y6 parents should have received an email today with an attachment detailing what we discussed; if you have any questions about any of the content, please do ask.

### Gurdwara Visit

Next Wednesday, Year 3 and Year 6 will be visiting the Sikh Gurdwara in Darlington. Please ensure you have signed and returned the consent form to allow your child to attend this important visit to support our Religious Education curriculum. If you require further information, please let us know.

### Pre-loved Uniform

The PTFA are very kindly collecting unwanted and outgrown school uniform for a pre-loved stall. If you have any items to donate, please do pass them on!

### Let's Celebrate!

See who has been awarded in Celebration Assembly this week!

	Mrs. Dozēy	Mrs. Hollocks	Mr. Donaldson	Mrs. Tunmore	Miss Weeks	Mrs. Kawai-Calderhead	Mr. Cope
Care – Aspire – Excel Awards	Daniel	Freya	Henry S	Faye	Livy	Bea	Grace E
	Robin Class (Rec/Y1)	Kingfisher Class (Y1 & Y2)	Goldfinch Class (Y3)	Partridge Class (Y4 & Y5)	Woodpecker Class (Y6)		
Curriculum Award	Dougie	Sebastian	Thomas	Tai	Grace S		
Aims Award	James	Lacey	Cora	Holly	Joey		
Team Points	Richmond						
Presentation Prize	Dougie R						
Golden Spoon	Jack A						
Monarch	Margot A						
Tidy Class	Kingfishers						

### Diary Dates

Please keep checking the dates below as some may change at short notice!

When?	What?	Who?	How?
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Y3 & Y6 Visit to Sikh Gurdwara, Darlington	GF, WPK	Information sent
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Wellbeing Week	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	RE Parent Drop-ins @ 9am	All	Information to follow
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Carlton Lodge Parents Meeting @ 4.30pm	Y5/6	Information to follow
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Internet Safety Day	All	See newsletter
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Richmond Station Art Exhibition	All	Information to follow
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Mid-Year Reports Home	All	See newsletter
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closes for Half Term	All	See newsletter
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	School Opens	All	See newsletter
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring Concert @ 9am	All	Information to follow
26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5/6 Residential to Carlton Lodge	Y5/6	Information sent
W/C Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Book Week	All	Information to follow
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	'Big Read' @9.00am	All	Information to follow
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Visit to Piercebridge Roman Fort	Y3	Information to follow
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Music Parent Drop-ins @ 2.45pm	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm	All	Information to follow
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Labyrinth	All	Information to follow
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	School Closes for Easter Holiday	All	See newsletter
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	School Opens for Summer Term	All	See newsletter
W/C Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 SATS Week Begins	Y6	Information to follow
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	School Closes for Half Term	All	See newsletter
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School Opens	All	See newsletter

### Around the Classes...

**Robin Class:** This week in Robin Class, we have enjoyed taking part in the RSPB birdwatching by taking part in a number of bird-inspired activities! We've also been very creative this week in our exploring time, creating vending machines, laptops and binoculars just to name a few! We've continued learning different facts about space with a little help from our 'Look Inside Space' non-fiction text! We have also been working incredibly hard with our handwriting and our letter formation is really coming on – well done to all of the Robins!

**Kingfisher Class:** Another busy and fun week in Kingfisher Class. This week, we continued to develop our understanding of multiplication as 'lots of' by exploring arrays in Maths; we have also enjoyed investigating alternative versions of our text 'Jim and the Beanstalk' in English. We are enjoying learning more about Hinduism in our R.E lessons and investigating 'Why are there so many dairy farms in Devon?' in our Geography work. Well done Kingfisher Class – keep it up!

**Goldfinch Class:** We got off to a super start, embracing our learning in Geography which has seen us delve deeper understanding how New Zealand has been affected by earthquakes in the past and what is considered as 'serious' on the Richter scale. We have come to the end of our 'Me and You' journey in English, where we consolidated writing our own narratives. We have grasped the start of multiplication and division, being real risk-takers in our work! We were inquisitive during our Sikhism session and will end the week with a fantastic Big Read.

**Partridge Class:** This week, we have started our multiplication and division topic in Maths. The children have been deepening their knowledge of multiplication, learning about factors and multiples. In R.E, we explored how Hindus show their faith at home by creating our own Mandir. The mystery of the Endurance has had us all hooked in English, with some of the children being very impressive and completing their own research at home. Well done Partridges.

**Woodpecker Class:** The children have continued to impress us with their knowledge of fractions this week, where we have been converting between improper fraction and mixed numbers before adding up to three fractions with different denominators. In English, we have moved on from persuasive writing to planning our own piece of discussion writing, considering both sides of an argument. We continued to explore how climate change is affecting the world, this week visiting Australia and learning about the impact of rising temperatures and how this results in more bushfires. Finally, we will have our half-termly Big Read to end the week, with the children sharing some stories with our younger children in school, sharing their passion and love for reading!

### Safeguarding Reminders

Mr. Sam Donaldson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mr. Gavin Cope is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs. Louise Wyatt is the Safeguarding Link Governor.

If you have worries or concerns about a pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the people named above, in confidence.