

March 2018



Our next event will be our Special Ladies' stay and play on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March** from 10am - 11.30am and 2pm - 3pm. Please 'sign up' on the office door ASAP if you would like to come along so that we can organise refreshments. (Any ladies in your family are welcome!)

**Opportunities for the children...**

**World Book Day Selfies** - thank you for the photos that have been emailed through - it was lovely to see the funny places the children were reading their favourite stories! All children involved will receive a prize and certificate before we break up for Easter. We also loved the 'snow day' photos that you shared with us on our Facebook page... they cheered us up no end!

**Woodhouse Close library** has invited us for Storytime on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 11am - 11.30am and 2.30pm - 3pm**. The children can dress up in their World Book Day outfits if they have one and can walk in it. Please pick up your child from there.

**'Each Peach, Pear, Plum' workshop** - some of our older children will be taking part in an Each Peach, Pear, Plum (lovely rhyming storybook full of Nursery Rhyme characters) workshop at Wharton Park, Durham. We will look forward to hearing about their adventure.

**Spanish lessons with Lingotots** - We are in the final stages of securing some funding, via Councillor Tanya Tucker, for the children to have Spanish lessons at Nursery. Availability from the Lingotots has dictated our sessions (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons). Again, our older children will probably manage the sessions better. We are hoping to start straight after Easter and continue up until the end of the academic year. We will confirm a start date as soon as we can.

**Easy Peasy App** - A big thank you to those of you that have been trying out the games and for the feedback too. We are pleased that the children are enjoying them - it is surprising how much the children will be learning whilst having fun.



**Easter Bonnet Parade** - On **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March morning and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March afternoon** we will have an Easter bonnet parade and competition. Please bring in your child's creation on either day. We will have 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes for each session.

**Ready, Sett, Read project** - During the Autumn Term, our Nursery was involved in an early reading project designed to raise the profile of reading for pleasure and language and communication development, through the repeated reading of a selection of picture books. The local library was also involved with the project, and members of their team visited the Nursery each week, to share a story with the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed the stories shared and the activities provided. It was also lovely to see the children retelling the stories to their friends and parents, and to hear that many of them are now accessing the local library. We loved your emails and photos too!

We have given our feedback to the project leaders - we suggested that the book given to parents and carers was tricky for you to write on; that some of the books were out of print and therefore tricky for us to buy and also that one of the books was very long for young children.

The children were observed and anonymous data from 10 children was used to write up the case study. All of these children made at least expected progress.

**Great Yorkshire Show Trip** - We have sent out an expression of interest letter - please return the slip by this **Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> March** if you would like to go.



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Blake, Ruby M and Kayden as well as Mrs Staines  
and Mrs Barraclough. We hope you all have a lovely time celebrating!

On behalf of staff and children I would like to say a very big **'thank you'** for your donations to school fund.

This month we have bought:

- Our daily healthy snacks
- New footballs (at the children's request)
- Storybooks - I'll Always Love You, Chicken Licken and We're Going on an Egg Hunt
- Chinese New Year resources and foods
- New prints and frames to go on the wall of our 2s room
- Twig trees for the children to self-register
- Subsidised the bus for the Wharton Park trip

**Please remember to tick your child's name in the folder next to the Mickey Mouse money box.**

Tyne House Mobile Beauty (one of our Mums) is offering clients £10 off a Hollywood white laser teeth whitening session if you take along a leaflet.

These are available from the unit in our Nursery cloakroom - help yourself.

#### Did you know?

In September 2017 we had 2 children that are entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium funding. Now we have 10 children!

These children are now having their weekly swimming lessons paid for.

Call in the office if you would like us to check your eligibility - we just need your name, National Insurance Number and date of birth.

**Your child's safety is very important to us... please avoid driving down the approach to the school as this puts other children and parents at risk. Please also be mindful of our neighbours.**

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

#### Dates for your diary...

**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> March:** Trip to Wharton Park for those that have booked and paid for places

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Special Ladies Stay and Play (10-11.30am and 2pm - 3pm) Please sign up.

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Storytime at Woodhouse Close Library 11am - 11.30am and 2.30pm - 3pm (please pick children up from there)

**Weds 21<sup>st</sup> March:** Zoo Lab in school morning and afternoon sessions

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Easter bonnet parade and competition

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Break up for Easter break, returning on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April

**Various dates in April:** Parent/carer consultations - letters to follow

#### Governors

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Mrs Dransfield has stepped down from her Governor role with us. She continues to be very passionate about the children and families of Bishop Auckland and will be sorely missed. We are very grateful for all of her support since 2011 and will keep in touch.

Finance and Curriculum committees met in February.

Miss Marley has met with Mrs Jenkins to look at staff development and performance.