



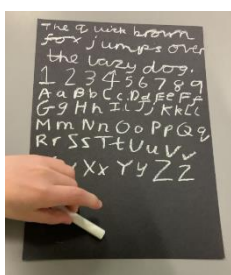
Challenge, Equality & Opportunity

News, Information and Reminders

KS2 Victorian Day



Beamish couldn't go ahead but that didn't stop the fun in KS2 last Friday. Some children (and their parents/carers) got a shock when their Victorian teachers came out in the morning and greeted the children with a Victorian drill. Class registration has moved on vastly in 100 years! The day then continued with lots of Victorian activities and everyone enjoyed themselves. The children were very stoical and sensible about the cancellation of the visit and we are all looking forward to visiting Beamish in the spring/summer.



Cases of Covid-19

It won't come as a shock to any of you to hear that we are currently struggling in school with rising cases amongst pupils and staff. Our mitigations remain in place in school and have increased in one class where the numbers have now met and exceeded the threshold on our Outbreak Management Plan. We are continually monitoring the situation and working hard to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We are very appreciative of your support and patience. Please continue to be vigilant about symptoms. Most of our children who have tested positive have had typical cold symptoms and some have had none at all. This is why we are asking you to book PCR tests (at a test centre or by post) if your child has cold symptoms, headaches, stomach pains, sore throats etc as well as the listed symptoms for Covid-19 (temperature, cough and loss of/change to taste/smell). LFD home tests are useful but cannot be relied on to rule out Covid-19.

Our staff have worked together to make sure that school is running as 'normally' as possible and have stepped into different roles to cover absences and make sure that everything is running as smoothly as possible. We have had occasions where supply staff have been unavailable and this has put considerable strain on school. However, we have been lucky to be able to book a supply teacher for Mrs McMeekan's absence. Mrs Choudhury will be with Class 6 until Mrs McMeekan returns, we hope this will be the end of next week. If any Class 6 parents/carers need to talk to a member of staff, please ring the office or continue to pass on messages in the usual way.

Christmas Events

We are currently still hoping to go ahead with the events below. KS1 and KS2 events are outside on the yard and so we are fairly confident at this stage that they can go ahead. Although since I started writing this letter, we have been informed of three more cases in KS2 and so we will be keeping our fingers tightly crossed!

Because our Reception nativity can only take place indoors, this is currently under review. Public health has given schools guidance around events and suggested some mitigations to make them safer, if schools choose to go ahead. **If we do decide to go ahead, these are as follows:**

- Do not attend if you have Covid 19 symptoms or are self-isolating
- You must wear a mask/face covering unless you are exempt
- You must do a lateral flow (home test) on the morning of the event before coming to school
- If you need to bring younger siblings, you must be confident that they will stay on your knee or can be held – there is no room for pushchairs

If we are unable to go ahead, this will be because we continue to have rising numbers of Covid-19 in school, if we have any staff absences related to Covid-19 in Reception or the wider school or if Public Health advises us against going ahead. Miss Storey is planning on making a film of the Nativity next week so that if we can't go ahead, we can still share the nativity with you all at home.

Apologies to Reception parents and carers for delaying this decision. If we were to make a decision today, then we would not be able to go ahead due to the current numbers of cases (staff and pupils). However, if next week is more stable, then we hope to be able to continue with our plans. We will review the situation at the end of today and on Monday, and we will let you know as soon as we can. Thank you for your support.



Date and time	Event	Who is invited?	What do you need to know?
Wednesday 8th December 9.15am	Reception Nativity in the hall	One parent or carer from each family in Red Class	See above
Thursday 9th December 9.15am	Reception Nativity in the hall	One parent or carer from each family in Blue Class	
Thursday 9th December 2.45pm	KS2 Carols on the yard	One parent or carer and preschool children from each family in KS2 (Classes 5, 6 & 7)	Do not attend if you have Covid 19 symptoms or are self-isolating Please try to maintain some distancing Wear a warm coat!
Friday 10th December 2.45pm	KS1 Carols on the yard	One parent or carer and preschool children from each family in KS1 (Classes 2, 3 & 4)	

Parties

We are continuing to plan for parties in school in the last week of term. These might be slightly scaled down, but will be as much fun as usual for the children. Teachers will let you know what the arrangements are for each class/KS.



Seesaw

Seesaw is still in use for children who are self isolating in Y1-Y4 and occasionally for homework in some classes. However, if you have a message to pass on to your child's class teacher, it's better to use the admin email address or to phone school so that you can be sure that we have picked up your message in good time. Thank you.

BEFS Kindness Advent Calendar

The tradition continues! Please find attached a Kindness Advent Calendar which we will be using in school. We hope that this encourages the children to think about others and to be kind every day.

PE Advent Calendar

You can also track advent with a PE calendar which has been created by imoves and recommended by the PE team. It can be accessed here [PE Advent Calendar](#) and is something that everyone in the family can do!

Children in Need

Thank you for your contributions for Children in Need. We are delighted to be able to let you know that we raised £317.00!

PTFA Raffle

Please see attached some information from the PTFA about the Rainbow raffles!

Message from Brian Burnie at Daft as a Brush:

SWITCHING ON OF 200,000 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT DAFT AS A BRUSH HOUSE, GOSFORTH



*As you will be aware, the switch-on of the Christmas lights last Saturday had to be cancelled due to storm damage. This has now been rescheduled for tomorrow, **Saturday, 4 December 2021 at 6.00 pm**. As previously mentioned, this will involve Beaver & Cub Scouts, 102 Battalion REME Pipe Band, Salvation Army Band, Mr Winton Keenen (Chief Constable of Northumbria) and Professor/Sir John Burn (Chairman of The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).*

We would love to see many people there on the night especially schoolchildren and their families from our local community; it will be a sight to behold and so impressive when the 200,000 lights are switched on.

New Build Update

Things continue to move on very quickly and everything is still on schedule as far as we know. Here is an up to date (as of last Friday) pictures for you. It's great to see the building with no scaffolding and to see the playground area taking shape.



Have a lovely weekend everyone and stay safe!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna
Headteacher