



Dove and Rainbow News

1st February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

After being back at School for three weeks now, all children have now settled back into school routine. Well done to all our new Nursery children who have made a fantastic start to their school life.

The weather has turned quite cold over the last week and more cold weather is forecast. Please can I ask, that your child comes to school with appropriate winter clothing to help keep them warm during this cold spell.

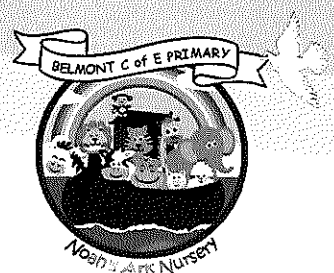
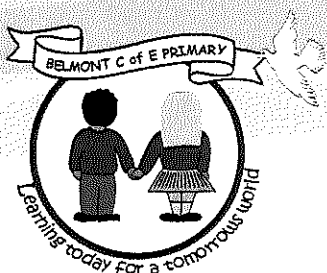
Thank you.

Kindest Regards

Mrs Harrison-Brown

Nursery News

On Friday 25th January, we had two special visitors to Nursery - two police officers. They talked to the children and told everyone about what they do and how they help us. They gave the children the opportunity to ask their own questions and then they showed us all of their equipment. At the end of the session, the children were allowed to try on the vests and hats. The children thoroughly enjoyed this visit and they are still talking about it now. Some of the children are even discussing that they would like to be Police Officers when they grow up.



EYFS – Thank you!

Thank you to all of our EYFS families for your very kind donations of resources and toys for Nursery and Reception.

Mobile Phones

A reminder please that mobile phones are not allowed to be brought into school. They should only be brought into school for emergency reasons and will need to be handed in to the school office.

Statutory Tests – Years 1, 2 and 6

Important Dates for 2018-2019

KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests – May 2019

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests – Week beginning Monday 13th May 2019

Year 1 and 2 Phonics Screening Test – Week beginning Monday 10th June 2019

It is really important that all children in these key year groups, are in school during the weeks the tests must take place. If they are absent at these crucial times, they cannot take their tests at any other time.

Year 1 Children

The KS1 Phonics screening takes place during the week beginning Monday 10th June 2019.

Year 2 Children

Their KS2 Statutory Tests will take place during the month of May. These children will not be made aware that they are taking tests. Please ensure that your child is in school during May, so that all children can take the tests at the same time as their peers.

Year 6 Children

The KS2 Statutory Tests take place during the week beginning Monday 13th May and again, it is essential that children are in school during this week.

We really do appreciate you supporting us at these crucial times in school – thank you. A meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th February at 5.00p.m. for Year 2 parents and 6.00p.m. for Year 6 parents, so that we can talk you through the tests and expectations.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 30th January – Christingle Service Durham Cathedral

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children attended a very special service at Durham Cathedral to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Christingle. This was quite a high profile event with over 1,000 children as well as 5 Lord Mayors, the press and a camera crew. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and

represented our school admirably. The children were asked to bring a donation for the wonderful work that the Children's Society does and we presented this during the service – thank you.

Thursday 31st January

Year 1 & 2 Visit to Durham

Year 1 & 2 visited Durham on Thursday morning as part of their History topic.

Friday 1st February

The School Nurse visited Year 2 for a hand and dental hygiene workshop.

Week Beginning 4th February

Well – being week for all children and staff

We have a number of activities planned for staff and children including silent disco, relax kids sessions and yoga. Our teachers take great pride in marking books and giving feedback to the children. In support of this week, oral feedback will be given to the children, rather than written to allow teachers to engage in afterschool wellbeing workshops.

Next week in our Well Being week, the children will be completing some activities in the afternoon, based on the theme, 'Brilliant Me'. Activities have been supplied by Relax Kids, who have already completed some work with Year 4 in the Autumn term and are currently delivering a KS1 after school club.

The Relax Kids programme uses movement, games, stretching, breathing, peer massage, positive affirmations and visualisations, to help develop your child's concentration, self-esteem and confidence, as well as improving their peer relationships and social skills, all whilst having lots of fun!

At the end of the week on Friday, children will enjoy an assembly hosted by Relax Kids to reflect upon the theme 'Brilliant Me'.

Safer Internet Week & Chinese New Year Activities

Monday 4th February

Destination Judo workshops for KS1 children. Please ensure your child has their full PE Kit in School.

Tuesday 5th February

Destination Judo workshops for KS2 children. Please ensure your child has their full PE Kit in School.

Year 1 to Durham City Gym for a Gymnastics session

Thursday 7th February

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visit to Beamish Museum

Open the Book Worship

Persistent Absentees

Any child whose attendance drops to 90% or under, needs to be monitored very carefully and these children are now recorded by the government as persistent absentees. It is really important that you are aware of your child's attendance, as only a few days off school can make a big difference to the overall percentage.

Our attendance letters will be sent home again after our February half term holiday. We aim for every child to be in the green zone for attendance of 95% and above.

90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ a day missed every week!

90% attendance = 1 day missed every other week!

90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons missed a year!

90% attendance over 5 years of school = $\frac{1}{2}$ a school year missed!

World Book Day and Reading Week

Our reading week this year will begin on Monday 4th March. During this week, we have a number of different events planned, including a dressing up day on World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) when we ask the children to come to school dressed as their favourite character. EYFS and KS1 will have a bedtime story day on Friday 8th March and will be invited to wear pyjamas and to bring their teddy bear. We will also have the Book Fair in school during the week.

PE Kits

Please can we remind you that your child should have a full PE Kit in School at all times.