



Spring Newsletter 2



Staffing News

Due to the resignation of Mrs Taylor, we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Knox onto our school staff. She will work across the school, delivering intervention programmes and supporting in class.

Wharton Park Banner

This banner, which was designed by our children from Year 2 upwards and painted by our Year 6 children is superb, reflecting the changes seen in Durham between the years of 1858, when the park was opened and 1871, when the first ever Miner's Gala was held there.



A local writer, historian and musician will be coming in to work with Year 5 on Friday 4th March, bringing the history of the park to life through creativity and song.



Youtube Risks - Uploading Video

Many children spend a lot of time watching vloggers (Video Log) such as Zoella. (Zoella can have over 3 million hits on her uploads!)

Some children chose to emulate these Vloggers, and in doing so without careful thought can leave themselves open to bullying or online grooming by revealing personal details and making videos and comments available to anyone.

This is not illegal but the minimum age to create a Youtube account is 13. Having an account for a younger child breaks the terms and conditions of the site. It is not possible to upload videos without creating an account. The following links provide additional information for parents and teachers :-

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802272?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=2803240 and
<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools/youtube>

Support for Merryoaks Community Bid

If you shop at Tesco and are local to Merryoaks, you can help further improve recreational facilities there by voting to support their bid for funding. You can vote with every Tesco purchase- the more votes the project receives, the more funding will be provided by Tesco.

World Book Day

We celebrated this in school on Thursday. The children dressed up as a character from a science-fiction story book. Alongside many story related activities, a professional story-teller, Chris Bostock, worked with all the children throughout the day. Well done to everyone

Sporting News

Congratulations to our Five-a Side Football Team, who have won the Chester-le Street league this term. A tremendous effort from all the boys concerned! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who have helped with transport to sporting events this term.

Changes to School Lunches

The deadline for making changes to lunch choices for the first Summer half term is on **Friday 11th March**.

School Uniform

The next deadline for ordering uniform is **March 23rd**.

Parking

Please take care when pulling in or out of a parking spot, when picking up or dropping off at school. There have been a few near misses of late- please ensure that you do not block the pavement as this forces children to walk on the road. Our neighbourhood PCSO, PC Debbie Saddler-Watson will be carrying out random spot checks in the near future.

Diary Dates



- 3.3.16 - World Book Day
- 4.3.16 - White Class Worship @9.15
- 11.3.16-Y2 and Y4 to perform their Liturgical Dance in St. Margaret's Church at 6pm
- 14-18.3.16- Food Bank Collection
- 18.3.16-Red and Blue Class Easter Worship @3pm
- 24.3.16- Easter Service in St. Margaret's Church

We break up for Easter at 3.30 pm on Thursday 24th March and return on Monday 11th April.