



Dear Parents/Carers,

The term is well underway and I really enjoyed delivering my first whole school assembly face-to-face here at BMS after all this time! I am also looking forward to meeting Martin and Amy from Bellingham Parish Council on Monday and showing them all the wonderful opportunities we have to offer here.

Staff are busy preparing for our Open Afternoon/Evening events and we may be seeking some help from some of our fabulous pupils to help showcase different subjects. If your child brings home a letter requesting that they attend, please could you sign and return their permission slip as soon as possible. We have several new subject leaders who have joined us this term and they're all busy adapting and improving our curriculum offer. New Autumn term overviews will be shared with you next week – we've got some great topics and enrichment opportunities lined up!

You will be aware from government announcements and media coverage that healthy children aged 12-15 years will be offered the opportunity to have a first dose COVID-19 vaccine very soon. School vaccination services will offer this vaccination and parents will be asked to give their consent. This follows the same process as the flu vaccination. Before this is rolled out, further information will be provided to allow parents and children to decide if they wish to take up the offer of COVID-19 vaccination. The Government have asked that the immunisation team start this preparation next week. This means that all the flu dates will be changed as they must prioritise those schools with the relevant cohort to this campaign. **Therefore, our whole school flu vaccination programme will now take place on Friday 1st October.**

Have a lovely weekend!

Lindsay Hamilton

Attendance this week:

96.4%

Thank you! We really appreciate all your efforts in getting to school on time, ready to start our day promptly.

Did you know...?

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98 – 100%	Excellent	0 to 4	Less than 1
95 – 98%	Good	5 to 9	1 to 2
93 – 95%	Satisfactory	10 to 13	2 to 3
90 – 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 to 19	4 to 6
>90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19	More than 4

**The government expects your child's attendance to be 95% or better.
Schools are held to account for your child's attendance.
Please remember holidays in term time will be unauthorised.**



Buzzing About Books!

KS3 had a great time this week choosing their novels from this year's Bookbuzz initiative. This allows pupils to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles. They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



Congratulations!



Huge congratulations to Alice, who last weekend came second in the Cross Country Riding Competition with her pony, Paddy! Alice beat many other competitors and we're sure you'll agree, this is a fantastic achievement for someone so young!

Well done!





(Not so) Quiet Club!

Our new lunchtime, 'Quiet Club' is proving to be very popular as it provides a space for pupils to play games, do jigsaws, read or just chill! Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Ingledew have been fantastic in getting everything set up and ready for pupils returning. We now need to look at a new name (as it's never very quiet)!





DURHAM
CATHEDRAL
THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

Chorister Experience

Saturday 2 October

12.30 p.m. - 6.15 p.m.

Durham Cathedral are offering a wonderful opportunity for girls and boys in Years 2 to 6 to have a first-hand experience of being a Chorister. Children will enjoy meeting the current Cathedral Choristers, hearing them sing and making music together. They will also have the opportunity to have a tour of the Cathedral, play the organ and do a craft activity together.

Chorister Experience is a wonderful opportunity for boys and girls in Years 2 to 6 to have a first-hand experience of being a Chorister.

Schedule for the day:

- 12.30 p.m. Registration at The Chorister School, Durham, DH1 3EL
- 12.50 p.m. Welcome
- 1.10 p.m. Choir Practice
- 2.00 p.m. Craft activity, tour of the Cathedral and organ playing activity
- 3.30 p.m. Break *with a snack provided*
- 4.15 p.m. Choir Practice in the Cathedral
- 5.30 p.m. Evensong

A separate schedule for parents/guardians will run alongside this.

The day is free of charge and all children in Years 2 to 6 and their parents/guardians are welcome. No previous experience is necessary, just a love of singing and plenty of enthusiasm! Children are asked to wear their school uniform please.

For more information or a booking form, please contact Rebecca Dodd by email on music@durhamcathedral.co.uk or by phone on 0191 374 4066.



School News



From today, pupils will be able to choose a piece of fruit instead of a dessert from the lunch menu. There is no need to specifically order a piece of fruit; a range will be available on a daily basis in our dining hall.



A plea from Mrs McGregor – could she have any donations of recyclable materials for future Art and DT projects please?

Plastic bottles, newspapers, cartons, cans.....

But please, DO NOT send glass.



Enrichment Homework tasks go 'live' on our website on Monday and form tutors will go through the choices with pupils and where to find them on our website. The due date for all pieces is Monday 18th October.



Our school library has now moved and 'merged' with our IT suite to create our new Learning Resource Centre. This space is open each lunchtime for pupils to complete homework, change their reading book, complete their Accelerated Reader quizzes online, or just sit quietly and read. Mrs Batey has worked her socks off getting it ready and she's done a fantastic job! Watch out for photos next week!



If you're off to Corsenside Parish show this Saturday, watch out for two of our wonderful Y7 pupils. Lucy S and Lucy P will be running a jewellery-making stall and any money they make will be donated to BMSPTCA! What stars! THANK YOU so much girls. We can't wait to hear the results of your enterprise!



Haydon Bridge High School

Open Evening - Wednesday 29th September 2021 from 4.30pm till 6.30pm

We welcome all prospective students and parents (not just those in Year 6 or 8)

- See the fantastic facilities in our newly refurbished school buildings
- Meet staff and students of the school
- Take part in engaging and interactive sessions in each subject area
- Headteacher presentations at 5pm and 6pm

Come and see for yourself what HBHS has to offer for your child.



Dates for your diary...

Monday 20 th September	New Intake Evening (6:00pm – 7:00pm)
Monday 20 th September	School Photographs
Monday 27 th September	Open Afternoon (1:30pm – 3:00pm)
Tuesday 28 th September	Open Evening (6:00pm – 7:30pm)
Friday 1 st October	Nasal Flu Vaccine Programme – NEW DATE
Friday 8 th October	Partnership Sponsored Walk
Friday 22 nd October	School closes for half-term
Monday 1 st November	Teacher Training Day – school closed
Monday 2 nd November	School re-opens