



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you've all had a lovely week. We've lots of news to share this week as the time appears to be flying by! I must say a really big 'THANK YOU' to Mr Robson who has been jet-washing some of our outdoor areas: they've spruced-up very nicely! Also, just this afternoon, Mrs Parkinson and her wonderful team of Y5 gardeners have created the most beautiful hanging baskets for our school entrance – they really are something special. Have a very lovely (extended) weekend!

Lindsay Hamilton

Reciprocal Reading



We are really impressed with the progress our pupils are making as a result of BMS being part of the Reciprocal Reading Project. Reciprocal reading is a structured approach to teaching reading comprehension strategies. It involves the repeated use of four key strategies (predict, clarify, question and summarise) on small sections of text, so that students develop their understanding of the text and become increasingly confident in the use of the strategies. It is already widely used internationally and has shown to be effective. However, until recently there has been little research evidence of its impact from the UK. Last year, FFT Literacy and Queens University Belfast combined to run and evaluate a reciprocal reading project, and BMS were asked to take part. From the sessions, we can already see an increase in confidence in the way pupils approach a text and their abilities to analyse language is filtering across subjects. A huge 'thank you' to Mrs Batey who has invested an enormous amount of time and effort in ensuring this venture is a success, and especially well done to our pupils for all of their hard work!



Well done in particular to this group: Phillip, Erin, Ebony & Bobby!

Our reading superstars!



Super Chefs!

Y8 were given the task of baking a quiche this week, and they certainly rose to the challenge! The aroma which filled our school on Wednesday afternoon was incredible! As you can see, the results were incredible too. Well done, Y8!



Star bakers:
Arthur,
Shane &
Anna.



More chefs in the making: Callum, Elliot and Hayden.



North Tyne Youth

Thursday's lunchtime youth club for our Y8 pupils is always popular – especially when it's warm enough to meet on our school field! Lisa, who runs the sessions along with her assistant, Nat, writes: *“Nat & I really enjoyed the session and the great turnout! Special mention to Owen for being supportive and considerate; to Max for helping with the tidy-up effort of his own volition; to Emily for her amazing bowling skills; and thank you to the whole group for listening, playing fair and respecting us and the equipment and one another.”*

Well done, Y8 – what a super bunch!





Dramarama!

Y5 have demonstrated some wonderful drama skills today, acting out a scene from their current novel, 'Kingdom by the Sea', by North-Eastern author, Robert Westall. Pupils were developing their improvisation skills in pairs through role-play and were given the really tricky task of one pupil being the 'angry farmer' whilst the other had the job of being the 'calm policeman'. Acting out the scene first will help pupils greatly next week when they come to write their very own police report.



Their abilities to portray anger were quite impressive!



School News



We bid a sad farewell today to Irene Urwin, who leaves us to begin her well-deserved retirement. Irene first joined BMS in 2006 and has served children from both the middle and primary school. She has been a fantastic kitchen assistant and an absolute pleasure to work alongside! We will miss her greatly and wish her a very long and happy retirement.



Our new school-lunch system is getting better by the day and our pupils have enjoyed trying a wide range of delicious, new choices. Mrs Breckons has worked really hard to develop a slick system to serve meals and get them delivered to classes quickly. We're looking forward to welcoming all pupils back into our dining room to eat their lunch as the novelty of eating in classrooms has definitely worn off! Pupils are ready for a more 'social' experience – hopefully it won't be too long before this can happen.

Pupils are providing us with feedback on a daily basis regarding menu choices and, naturally, when we review the options, there'll be a few alterations. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch so far – we appreciate all feedback so that moving forward we can ensure our provision is as popular as it can be.

We would like to say a big **'thank you'** to Neil and his team at The Boe Rigg for their hard work and efforts in providing us with such hot, tasty food.



Glitz, glamour and gold is the order of the day as our Y8 pupils have chosen a 'Casino' theme for their end of year prom! They will be making some backdrops and decorations in school, but if anyone has any further props which will turn our school hall into a casino, we'd love to borrow them! Please get in touch if you can help: middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk



A quick reminder that the date for Y8 HPV vaccinations is Friday 21st May. If you have not returned your child's form yet, please can you do so as soon as possible.