



“Inspiring Learning”

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

I'd like to begin by thanking all of our families for supporting pupils in collecting sponsors for our walk this afternoon! Pupils returned their forms yesterday and their efforts have been tremendous. Monies raised will be split between supporting Young Minds and our own Enrichment Programme. Look out for the winners of our in-house pamper day, which will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Last Thursday, we sent out an electronic questionnaire, via Parentmail, asking for your views and opinions regarding provision during lockdown earlier this year. So far, we've had a 50% response from parents and I've taken a lot of time reading through your responses and detailed comments. I appreciate your honesty and your words of kindness too. It's important that if we ever find ourselves in another lockdown situation, we do as much as we can to support your child's learning as well as their families. Therefore, we will be using the results from our questionnaire to alter some areas of our practice, should there be another lockdown. If you haven't yet completed a questionnaire, the link is still viable and won't close until Wednesday 7th October.

It's been great to see a super uptake of appointments for tours of our lovely school and its fantastic facilities. Appointments have now been extended into a third week and I've had the pleasure of meeting lots of very eager children (and parents)!

Thanks again to the BMSPTCA for promoting our request for board games. As the weather gets colder and wetter, there will be times when it is not possible to go outside for breaks and lunchtimes. Having board games for pupils to use is not only a fun way to pass the time, but encourages positive interaction and builds communication between peers. A special thank you to Mrs Trill and Joyce Knudson for their contributions so far. All games will be cleaned, sanitised and quarantined, ready to distribute safely after half-term.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Lindsay Hamilton

Healthy Eating Week

This year's British Nutrition Foundation Healthy Eating Week lasts seven days from 28 September to 4 October. The aim of the week is to bring the UK together, focusing on key health messages and promoting healthy habits. We are lucky enough to have been supported in this venture by local Bellingham business, 'Jennings' Fruit and Veg'. Pupils have been given delicious fruit each day this week to enjoy during their break times. Thank you very much, George Jennings!



Some of the key health messages which we have been aiming to satisfy this week!



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SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



We are really excited to announce that we have booked, ‘Clued Up Kids’, into school next Friday, 9th October. This organisation uses videos, scenarios and interactive voting to build data that will provide us with a detailed overview of our pupils’ opinions of subjects that effect their well-being. These results will be used to create a tailor-made programme of learning, specific to our pupils, which will be covered in our daily wellbeing sessions at the end of each day. Topics covered in the interactive voting will revolve around healthy eating, breakfast habits, bullying, bedtime, social media habits, relationships, emotions and online safety. Our older pupils in KS3 will also cover the topics of sexting, homophobia and grooming.



The start of a new academic year, with a fresh, new school-council, is a great time to rethink our school vision and values. This year, staff are working very hard to ensure our curriculum is well-sequenced in terms of knowledge and skills so that our pupils’ time with us means they leave well-prepared for the next stage of their education. Making sure we have the right core values which underpin our curriculum is the key to success. Therefore, next week, our school council will begin some very important work with their classes, thinking about what makes BMS special and what qualities they feel are important to develop whilst here as a pupil. We will also be gathering our parents’, carers’ and governors’ thoughts and ideas as part of our BMS family so that everyone contributes to our school vision and values. Originally, this was planned as a series of coffee mornings and parent forum sessions. However, in light of the current situation, I will be holding a series of online meetings which parents will be invited to attend in the week beginning 12th October. Further details will be published in next week’s newsletter.

WHEN A FLOWER DOESN'T BLOOM,
YOU FIX THE ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH IT GROWS, NOT THE FLOWER.

~ ALEXANDER DEN HELJER



From time to time, all children experience some form of anxiety or worry which can manifest itself in many different ways. In order to support our pupils as much as possible, we are delighted that Rachel Lawson from the specialist teaching service at Northumberland County Council, is visiting us on Monday 19th October to complete a sensory audit across our school so that we can support all pupils with worries or anxieties in the best possible way. Rachel is going to guide us in developing our very own sensory room in school – a valuable space where pupils can release a build up of energy or simply escape for a while when it all gets too much.

Don't forget
parents
evening!

As parent evenings cannot happen this term in the usual way, we will be offering telephone conversations with form tutors during the week beginning Monday 19th October. This will cover any issues returning to school and provide an overview from different curriculum subjects. Further details about booking an appointment will be available in next week’s newsletter.



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Future Leaders...

In PE this week, Year 8 have been progressing with their Sports Leader lessons. This week, the focus was on resourcefulness and creativity with the pupils working in groups to plan a games session using limited equipment. Next week they will be delivering the sessions to their peers - no doubt we'll be witnessing the first efforts of future coaches and teachers!



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

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| Monday 5th October | School Tours – by appointment only |
| Friday 9th October | ‘Clued-Up Kids’ – interactive PSHE sessions |
| Monday 12th October | Online meetings – Vision and Values |
| Tuesday 13th October | Flu Vaccinations in school |
| Monday 19th October | Home/School Contact Week |
| Fri 23rd October | Wear pink day in support of Breast Cancer Awareness |
| Mon 2nd November | Teacher Training Day – no pupils in school |
| Tues 3rd November | Start of second half of Autumn term |
| Fri 18th December | End of Autumn term |



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