



March Newsletter

Attendance Matters!

Due to a particularly nasty virus doing the rounds in January, attendance for the first half of the year dropped to 95.2%. The attendance team, Mrs Ord, Mrs Lindley and Mrs Clapperton have sent out over 50 letters offering support to families - we have already seen a very positive impact so hopefully the percentage will continue to rise to above our target of 96% soon. As ever, please contact school as soon as possible on the first morning of your child's absence



Mrs Middlemiss has had a busy time of late - she left work on a Friday as normal and by Sunday morning she had given birth to a lovely son, Thomas. Mother and baby are both very well.

We are very happy to announce that Mr Taws and Mrs Clark have joined the teaching staff, both are very experienced Middle School teachers and have settled in very well already.

BEST IN THE AREA!!

It was a wonderful day in court on Saturday 4th March as the Y8 Mock Trials team took on 13 schools from Northumberland, North Tyneside and Durham. The pupils took on individual roles after being given a case and were marked on their clarity, points made and their professionalism. The months of preparation by the pupils, Miss Curry and Mrs Mason paid off as Team SSMS came joint first, beating many larger Middle and Secondary Schools. This means that we are through to the Regional Finals in May!! We were delighted to welcome Janet, one of the magistrates involved in the competition, to a very



special assembly where she presented the trophy to the pupils. Well done all - a wonderful achievement.

Another happy occasion took place earlier this month when a member of our lunchtime and cleaning team got married. We wish the new Mr and Mrs Douglas every happiness.

Similarly we wish Miss Cairns all the very best as she becomes Mrs Young in the Easter holidays.

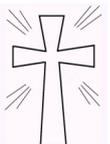


Rehearsals for the Y8 Showcase are in full swing. Tickets are available to Y8 families for the show which is on Thursday 6th April at 6.30pm - details are on the school website.

Thank you to all who have brought in sponsor money for the Readathon which will raise money for books in school - however we believe there is much more to come in so please can it be brought to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.



School finishes for the Easter Holidays on Friday 7th April 2017 at 3.25pm and reopens to pupils on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 8.50am. Happy Easter to all!!



Skipping Festival Year 5 recently took part in the annual Skipping Festival at Blyth Sports Centre. They had worked very hard in Skipping Club every Friday night after school since October in preparation and on the day, they participated in group and individual competitions. We were awarded 3 Golds, 2 Silvers and 3 Bronzes as well as a Gold for our skipping dance. Well done to Miss Bonham's Skipping Stars!!

RED NOSE HILARITY!!

Thanks to everyone who supported the event last Friday. £150 was raised from the cake sale alone and money is still coming in for non-uniform. We will let you know the final total in due course. In the Jokeathon, 8S and 7N were the winners - here's the 8S one, performed memorably by Cameron Crawley on the day!!

What's the difference between a Kangaroo and a Kangaroot?

One's an Australian Marsupial and the other is a Geordie stuck on the toilet!



POLITE REMINDER

Please be considerate when collecting pupils from school by car. Avoid coming into Alston Grove and parking in dangerous places. The pupils are able to walk that extra few metres - it will be good for them!! The Astley Arms Car Park is the best place to park.

Lovely aromas have been coming from the Food Technology room recently. Here's Mrs Clark's recipe for Spring Rolls.

Ingredients

1 carrot	1 x 15ml groundnut oil
¼ cabbage or pak choi	1 x 5ml reduced salt light soy sauce
1 pepper	1 x 5ml rice wine vinegar
1 garlic clove	2 sheets filo pastry
1cm piece of fresh ginger	Oil
½ red chilli	

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C or gas mark 6.
2. Prepare vegetables for stir-frying: peel and finely chop carrot; finely slice cabbage; deseed and finely slice peppers.
3. Finely chop garlic clove, grate or finely chop fresh ginger and deseed and finely chop the red chilli.
4. Heat the wok over a high heat and add the oil, garlic, ginger and chilli, then stir-fry for 30 seconds. Add the mixed vegetables, light soy sauce and vinegar and cook for 1 minute. Spoon the vegetables into a sieve over a bowl and allow to cool slightly.
5. Cut each sheet of filo pastry into 4 rectangles - approximately 15cm x 12cm.
6. Place a spoonful of the cooked vegetable mixture mix at one end of a filo rectangle, in the centre. Roll the filo around the vegetable mixture until halfway along the filo sheet, then fold each side of unfilled pastry into the centre. Continue rolling into a cylinder and lightly brush with oil to seal.
7. Place the rolls on a baking tray and lightly brush with oil. Repeat with the remaining pastry sheets.

Out of school achievements

Many of our students continue to participate in a variety of different activities out of school.

Recent successes have included Issy Dickerson-Weedy who came 1st in the Welsh Lifesaving National Finals Line throw competition. She has also been selected to swim in the Welsh Youth Stillwater Championships, representing Blyth Lifeguard and Swimming Club.

Rowan Custance has been picked for the County U11 football team and many of our students are involved in productions at the Tyne Theatre, the Sage and the Phoenix Theatre - good luck and well done to them all.

In addition, Osca Erskine (Y7) and Ellen Erskine (Y6) have both reached the Regional Finals of Teen Star 2017. To be held on April 23rd at the Tyne Theatre, they will be singing and dancing respectively for a place in the area final. We wish them all the very best, please contact school if you would like more information about how to be there on the day in the audience.