

## Important Dates

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Open Evening (4pm-6pm)
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – RNLI Water Safety
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October – National Poetry Day.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Space Week.
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October – World Mental Health Day.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Y5 Family Assembly (9am)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Planetarium visit to school (Y3-Y6)

## School Council Elections



Earlier this week Ellie and Tom, our head girl and boy, led primary and secondary assemblies encouraging all children to consider running for election for school council. We have an active school council which works well because it is led by students for students. Charles (Y11 Prefect) shared his experiences of being on the school council in previous year and students were encouraged to think about the skills they have which contribute to the effective running of the council. The outcomes of the democratic vote which took place on Friday morning, will be announced in assemblies next week.

## Year 11 visit to the Metro Radio Careers event

Skills North East is an interactive and inspiring two-day event for 14 to 19 year olds and the people that may help and influence their future job and career choices. It provides young people with the opportunity to try a wide range of jobs and training opportunities and to gain inspiration for their future careers. Our year 11 students had an extremely useful visit which gave them a chance to explore the vast career options available to them.



## Firedamp and Davy Lamp

To support their current topic, Year 5 went to Beamish last week. It was a very busy day for the group; a walk down the drift mine, touring the Victorian village, producing their own versions of the artwork of Norman Cornish and, of course, the highlight being a visit to the sweet shop!



### **Y6 Barclays Coding Playground**

This week Y6 were visited by Barclays Digital Eagles to complete a coding workshop. They learned about servers, APIs and what the internet is. They were then taught how to create a game using coding on Scratch. They had great fun, even putting themselves into their game and developing an understanding of the importance of coding.



### **Sporting Achievement**

Last weekend, Y11 student Verity Kell took part in the British Trampoline Championships which took place in Birmingham. It was a very hectic weekend at the championships, Verity and her synchro partner just missed out on a medal. Verity is pictured with her coach Gary Short. It was his last competition with Verity as he has taken up a new position with British Gymnastics in Telford.



### **Free School Meals**

Parents can help to increase our school's funding by applying for Free School Meals, even if you would prefer for your child to bring a packed lunch, or if your child is receiving universal infant Free School Meals. This is because the Pupil Premium grant is allocated to schools based on the number of students who are known to be eligible for free school meals at any point and for Looked After Children. The additional funding can be directed to make improvements to your

child's education and provide additional educational resources for him/her.

The purpose of the Pupil Premium grant is to address national inequalities between the achievements of children eligible for free school meals or children in care when compared with their wealthier peers.

Your child might be able to get Free School Meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support;
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190);
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit;
- Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get);

Please visit:

<https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/index.php/families>. If you require any help including completing the forms or further advice, please contact Miss Baronet, Mrs Watson or Mr Turner.

### **Parent Pay and Cashless Catering**

After months of planning we are pleased to announce that we will soon be ready to launch a biometric cashless catering system, this will link to Parent Pay. This will make it much easier for parents to make payments for school meals and activities. More information will follow soon.

## **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – RNLI Water Safety Assembly (Primary)**

The local lifeguards will be delivering workshops to Y1-6 on recognising the dangers when near water and how to best react in an emergency situation. Please talk to your child after this event so they can share what they have learned about staying safe.



## **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October – National Poetry Day**

Primary children will be reading, writing and most of all enjoying a day of poetry. If your child has a favourite poem that they can recite, staff would be delighted to hear it on the day.

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Primary Fun Run (4pm).**



Dig out your trainers, vest and shorts!

Further to the success of last year's event, the PTPA are holding the run again to raise health awareness and school funds. An entrance and

sponsorship form is to be given out to primary children on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Y5 Family Assembly.**

**9:00am**



Our Y5 pupils will be delivering a presentation on what life was like for children who worked in the coal mines in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. No tickets required, any

Y5 parent/carers wishing to attend will be able to sign in as a visitor on the day.

## **Favourite Lines on Friday**

A new initiative in primary is proving popular and is helping to promote the love of reading. When pupils have read a sentence at home or school, that has jumped out and made them say, "Wow!" they can write them down on a special slip and explain what they liked about it so much.

Three are chosen each week and are read out, by the child, during Friday's Celebration Assembly.

Remember to encourage your children to read widely to improve and stretch their vocabulary and imagination.



## **Y5/6 Football**



Training is underway and the first fixtures are to be played next week. The first game is on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the 9 a side team travel to Valley Road. The minibus and the players will be back in action for another away day on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at Castletown Primary, when the 7 a side team get their season underway. Good luck to them all!

## **On this day in History by Charles West (Y11)**

- 551BC Chinese philosopher Confucius was alleged to have been born.
- 28/09/1066 – William the Conqueror invades England landing at Pevensey Bay, Sussex; marking the last time for England to have been successfully invaded.
- 28/09/1787 – Congress vote to send the newly completed United States Constitution to state legislatures for approval.
- 28/09/1841 – French Prime Minister, Georges Clemenceau born. His strict stance on constructing the Treaty of Versailles after the First World War earned him the nickname 'The Tiger'.