

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff and children have been working with Dr Tom Robson. They have been learning about how they can become more independent and better 'learners' by developing different Powers - *Diamond Power, Emerald Power or Ruby Power*.

Children develop *Diamond Power* by doing things for themselves, solving small problems and not expecting adults to do everything for them. (*Obviously, if there are tasks which are very difficult or dangerous we don't expect children to do these things.*) What we can do to help your children is to encourage them to do normal every day tasks—to encourage them to be more independent, for example, putting their own clothes on, using a knife and fork, making their bed (this may require a little behind the scene tidying—but at least let them feel responsible), doing their homework, carrying their own bags into school ...etc.

Another area which Dr Tom has been focusing on is *Emerald Power*—this is developed when we are moved out of our comfort zone and confronted with a challenge. It's all about times when we are scared, excited, anxious, fearful, but, we are prepared to 'have a go' and when we don't succeed ... 'have another go'. It's about developing resilience. In our lives we will face many problems and it is important that we help children to be able to face problems without giving up at the first hurdle.

Ruby Power is about being positive about yourself and others. Children create *Ruby Power* when they think of something positive about another person, and if they turn those positive thoughts into positive words and then into positive actions they make more and more *Ruby Power*.

To find out more about what we are doing in school and what '*power*' the children are developing, ask your child to tell you which '*power*' they are focusing on and they'll be able to tell you how they can build up their '*power*'.

Best regards,

Miss J. Jones
(Executive Headteacher)

School Incentives and Rewards



Attendance Incentives/Rewards:

Our school recognises the importance of school attendance which is vital for children to feel part of the school community and ensures that children do not miss out on important elements of their learning.

Certificates for 100% attendance will be awarded each term—with attendance data taken on a term by term basis. This means that child may achieve 100% in one term but may have missed a day or more in the previous term. The challenge is ... *can your child achieve 100% attendance in a term?*

For those children who achieve the 100% challenge they will be placed into a special prize draw.

29 children achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn term.
All 29 received a certificate and were placed into a prize draw.



Our Attendance Champions Autumn 2022!

Reading Incentives

In order to encourage children to read more at home we have introduced a Reading Book Incentive scheme.

Each week if children have read at home and complete their homework they receive points. Once they have 10 points they are given a golden token which they can use in our Book Vending Machine.

Reading is a very important skill—please work with the school by encouraging your child to read at home.



Current School Issues



I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Parking:

Many thanks to all parents/carers who ensure that they park sensibly both outside the school and in the church carpark. However, we have had some concerns raised recently regarding cars parked in the 'red zones' and across the track leading passed the main school gates. These areas should be avoided since they cause issues for other drivers and can potentially lead to accidents. Please park sensibly.

Uniform:

The school prides itself on its uniform, however, we have a number of children coming to school not wearing the correct school uniform. From Monday 27th February any child coming into school without the correct uniform will receive a letter and a copy of the school uniform policy—teachers will highlight any areas of concern on the policy.

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Holidays during term time:

Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless parents can prove there are exceptional circumstances relating to the holiday request. The school must be informed of any planned holidays.

Half Term:

Last day of term: Friday 17th February '23

School reopens: Monday 27th February '23

Possible Strike days

The NEU have issued directives to their members regarding industrial action. It is therefore expected that members of this union will take part in strike action on:

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Thursday 16th March 2023

If action goes ahead the following classes will be closed:

Class 1—Reception children

Class 2—Year 1

Class 4—Year 3

Parents will be notified prior to class closures.

Planned events

2nd March '23: A team of children from Y1 and Y2 will be attending a football tournament at Soccerena.

3rd March '23: World Book Day—children will be coming into school dressed as their favourite story book characters. (Characters are to be based on children's story books.)

6th and 8th March '23: Destination Judo Workshops—all children will be given the opportunity to participate in a Judo workshop.

7th March '23: Vision Screening—

7th March '23: The Romans—Y4 Class trip to Durham University.

9th March '23: Y3/4 Football tournament—A team of children from Y3 and Y4 will be attending a football tournament at Soccerena



The week beginning 13th March '23 is British Science Week.

22nd and 23rd March: Flat Stan First Aid. All classes will participate in First Aid workshops where children will be taught about how to respond to basic First Aid situations.



31st March '23: A Day for Easter. This is a special day where staff and children focus on activities and stories relating to Easter.



Easter Holidays:

Last day of term: Friday 31st March '23
School reopens: Tuesday 18th April '23

19th April '23: The Lion King—at the Sunderland Empire. Don't book tickets—all the children will be going!

24th April '23: Anglo Saxons—Y4 children will be participating in an Anglo Saxon Workshop.

New School Gateway App

Just a reminder that parents will need to download the School Gateway App to receive future push notifications.

We have now *discontinued* the use of OurSchoolsApp and notifications will come via the new **School Gateway App**.

If you do not have this downloaded, you may miss vital notifications.

If you would like any help with this, please contact Mrs Fox, who will be happy to assist.

Some of the things we've enjoyed this year!



Learning about the Durham Light Infantry.

Going to the Gala Theatre!



Meeting Oslo!

Performing in the Christmas Nativity and Carol Service

