



## Headteacher's Monthly Update

### **Developments**

I can confirm that I have a building project meeting in school on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, we will get a start date confirmed then.

As soon as we have confirmation from Mark Cusack (School Transport) about the Travelsure contract, we will inform the families concerned.

Next term, teaching staff will be working with the Gateshead Teaching Schools Alliance to carry out external moderation of pupil work and assessments, as well as strengthening subject leadership skills and capacity. We are also working with the Diocese and Alnwick Partnership schools, in order to develop an effective transition plan for when we have Year 6 pupils so they are well-prepared to move to The Duchess' High School or elsewhere.

### **Curriculum**

Our Creative Curriculum Topic for the Spring Term is 'Visual Variety'- see curriculum overview. Year 1 to 5 will be visiting The Shipley Art Gallery as part of this project (EYFS visit is still in planning phase). More detailed information is currently being added to the website for each Key Stage, in a web or grid format; this will be completed before Christmas.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, we will hold an after-school drop-in for parents/carers to see the curriculum information and expectations and unpick some of the terminology that may be new to you. This will run from 3pm until 5pm. Some 'Time Zone' pupils have offered to stay and help demonstrate some of their learning methods and skills.

Please check the curriculum section of the website to see the reading, writing and maths expectations for each year group for Term 2.

A reminder, that from January, Year 4 and 5 pupils will not be swimming for two terms. These pupils will have an hour of additional Creative Curriculum lesson time with Mrs Stapleton, followed by PE. Reception pupils will start swimming from January, but Nursery aged pupils will remain in school.

A 'Maths through Art' club will take place on Tuesday lunchtimes, initially open to Key Stage 2 pupils (KS1 the following term).

A lunchtime recorder club will take place on Thursdays, initially open to pupils in Years 2 and 5.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Diane Lakey December 2016

