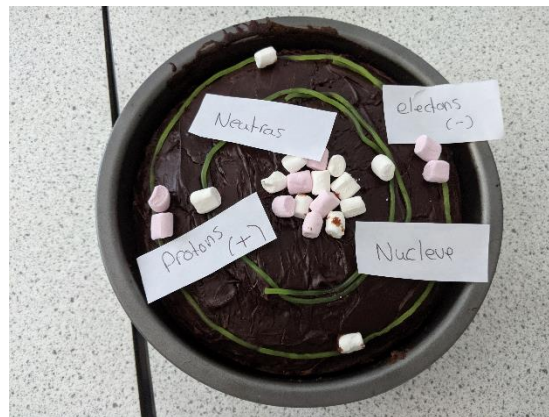


4th October 2019

Dear Parents

As we enter October, the summer seems very much left behind. Our grounds are covered in leaves and conkers, the wet weather appears to be here to stay. The pace of school life continues, however. This week Mrs Jones has shared with me some pictures of the amazing homework she has received from Year 9 Set 3 Chemistry this week. They had to produce a labelled 3D model of an atom for their Chemistry homework and they definitely rose to the challenge! She tells me that she has had some really creative models handed in from lots of students, including Tilly Snowball who made a chocolate cake atom and wanted to share it with the whole class at the end of the lesson. It was absolutely delicious and really epitomised our Community spirit!



On Wednesday afternoon Miss Rachel and her new Reception dancers were having lots of fun in the Old Gym. The children were pretending to be different animals and exploring how they may move through dance. The children were accompanied on Piano by Mr Atkinson who plays weekly for Ballet classes. Miss Rachel tells me that It is not too late to sign up for this very beneficial activity which helps develop so many valuable skills.



In the Senior School we are gearing up for the annual production, which takes place next week. There was an unusual occurrence in Reading on Thursday – as Mrs Barker describes in this report...

Senior School were treated to a 'flash mob' style performance of extracts from this year's school production 'I Hate Shakespeare' during Reading on Thursday. After an excellent form reading from 11R on 'Black History Month' and our Polam Prayer delivered by Mrs Reid, Alex Peart, playing Hamlet, interrupted proceedings with 'To be, or not to be...'. This was then continued by response from Lily Singleton playing the Unhappy Audience Member who simply does not understand what all the Shakespearean fuss is about! Jessie Linfoot and Genevieve Ferrari then followed with a hilarious duologue of traditional and modern Juliets respectively with Ellie Baker, playing the British Literary Historian then bringing the performance to a close with some particularly interesting theories about the bard! Performances are next Thursday and Friday at 7pm, tickets are available on ParentPay!

I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to come and see our students at their best on our stage!

As ever, there has been plenty of sport this week. Mr Galley has asked me to say well done to the U12 football team who competed in Round 1 of the ESFA national cup. They unfortunately lost the game against Trinity Catholic College but competed extremely well. Finlay Gaines was awarded Man of the Match – well done Finlay!



Mr Wilkinson has also sent me sports reports:

On Tuesday we played Wyvern Academy in the Football league losing the game 3-2. We were 3 nil down at half time after some silly defensive errors but managed to come back in the second half after some tactical changes. Hugo Navarro held strong in defence and Adam Leslie covered the entire pitch showing excellent determination and effort. Well done lads, you can look forward to more action next week.

On Thursday we played Teesside High at Rugby and won the game 45-20. The first half saw tries from both sides and many missed tackles. We played much better in the second half, managed to steal the ball on a number of occasions and pass the ball better to score some fantastic tries. Try scorers included Aaron Clark, Harry McCue, Henry Jewkes, Ethan Grundy, Adam Leslie and Oliver Hemingbrough. Well done lads!



We have a regular feline visitor to our grounds these days – and Mrs Joyce has taken some photographs and sent me the following for inclusion in tonight's newsletter:

After school on Wednesday this week, I was able to snap some photographs of our guest Polam Hall cat. She lives nearby and often comes to hang around in our lovely grounds. She is confident, friendly and more than happy to be stroked and talked to by our pupils.

If you love cats, as I do, it's a pleasure to have an emotional support feline around the place. As no one seems to know her name, we all call her different things – to me, she is Mounsey-cat and to the cleaners, she is Eric! What do you call her?



Mr Robson has asked me to again promote the fact that Polam Hall Vocal Ensemble are pleased to have been asked to support Backworth Male Voice Choir at a concert in North Shields, Tyne and Wear, at 7pm on Saturday 12 October 2019. If anyone would like tickets priced at £7 adult, children free, please contact him to get these: robson.p@pfs.woodard.co.uk

Mrs Goodwin has told me that 2M continue to lead the Reading Challenge this week in Junior School – I hope that there will be plenty of reading going on this weekend amongst children from the other classes – surely they can't make it three weeks in a row...?

Some of our local residents have written to us this week with concerns about inconsiderate parking by parents who are dropping off before and after school. I know that many parents try to drop off as close to school as they can, particularly when the weather is wet, but please can I urge you to consider our neighbours and avoid parking over driveways, on pavements and blocking entrances and exits? We have been fortunate this week that Darlington Council have put up the promised bollards and railings on Grange Road to increase the safety of those walking to and from school, for which we are very grateful.

I hope that we do have some dry days over the weekend for you and your family to enjoy.

Best wishes

Kate Reid

Junior School 4C Heroes (Two week's worth as I was unable to get you all the names last week!):

Friday 27th September

1M	Evangelina Smithson
1B	Mason Gurung
2M	Connie Fisher
2E	Penny Chapman
3J	Angel Grace Smith
3S	Emily Robinson
4DH	Thomas Gilligan
4T	Elena Dawson
5B	Briony Heljula
5H	Emi King
6G	Jayden Hayre
6B	Eliza Lataka

Friday 4th October

1M	Adam Siddique
1B	Bronte Samuels
2M	Zoe Moffatt
2E	Niall Hopps
3J	Lilly Allison
3S	Maisie Hayward
4DH	Thomas Gilligan
4T	Misha Krishnan
5B	Evie Fisher
5H	Rachael McCann & Freya Shepherd-Pegman
6G	Sam Crosby
6B	Louise Fedyk