

Happy Friday!

Hello everyone - welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed a nice half-term break. We break up for **Easter** four weeks today so, naturally, there is a lot of work to get through between now and then. I have worked closely with all class teachers this week to review progress made by children across school so far this year. It is really promising to hear the teachers talk about the hard work our children are putting in and the successes they are enjoying. This term, with it being so short, is often one where children can sustain their efforts and make particularly pleasing progress. As always, any work you can do at home to support us is hugely beneficial. We would encourage you to help with **homework**, **read with your child wherever you can** and log into **Times Table Rockstars** (Years 3-6) to help to build confidence and fluency in all subjects. A '*little and often*' approach is proven to make a massive difference to progress and attainment. By the time we break up (on Friday 31st March), the sun won't go down until 7:32pm and winter will be behind us and we'll be heading into the Summer Term. Before then, I hope you all enjoy the weekend. Take care, Mr Routledge



Mrs Mason

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you all that our lovely **Mrs Mason** has decided to retire at the end of this term. I say mixed emotions because whilst we are all sad that she will be leaving us, we are thrilled that she will have more time to spend with her young grandchildren. Mrs Mason has worked at Beaconhill for around 20 years and has been a **huge part of our lives** for so long. I am sure that many of you who attended Beaconhill in the past will have fond memories of her. We wish her all the very best in her retirement - **she will be a huge miss!**

Nursery Places

Nursery places for both the **April** and **September** intake are filling up quickly. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in a place, please get in touch. We are always happy to show prospective parents around for a visit. Nursery applications can be found on our website or at the school office.

Newcastle United

I hope you all enjoyed the video that **Eddie Howe** sent over to **Beaconhill**. I am sure that many of you were bitterly disappointed with the result on Sunday but I enjoyed the **sense of community** that the cup final helped to cultivate - this included the delightful commiseratory biscuits baked by one family for the staff! I am already looking forward to **Black and White Day 2.0** in the not too distant future.

World Book Day

It was wonderful to see so many of our children dressed up in a range of creative **costumes**. Hats off to our office staff who teamed up wonderfully in their **Alice in Wonderland gear!** World Book Day is always an enjoyable day in school and we hope that it helps **inspire a love of reading** for all. I enjoyed sharing my favourite story, The Tiger Who Came to Tea, in assembly and I'd encourage you all to find a time to share a bedtime story with your own children even if they're already an accomplished reader.

Beaconhill Community Primary School

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Online Safety

As you will know, social media is widely used by many people, including many children. The recommended age restriction for **Snapchat** is 13+ and for **Whatsapp** is 16+ but I am aware that some children have access to these at home. If you choose to allow your child to use these apps, it is essential that you recognise the **potential hazards** and so you're aware of the **steps to manage any risks**. I would encourage you to read through the two '*What you need to know*' advice documents to keep everyone safe online. These can be found in the News section of the school website.

Beach

This week groups from Years 2, 3 and 4 have all visited the beach with Mrs Wharton and Mrs Black. Year 4 were finally able to take part in their **Holy Island** visit after the weather had scuppered previous trips. The pictures were amazing and it was great for our children to visit such a **historically significant location**. Year 2 were looking at a birds eye view of the beach to picture what the beach looks like from a different vantage point. Year 3 had a science theme to their beach trip and were learning about **different types of rocks and stone**.

Conjunctivitis

We have a couple of isolated cases of conjunctivitis. To ensure that it doesn't spread any further, could you please help us to encourage good hand hygiene.