

# NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Dear Parents and Friends

I find it hard to believe that we're already over half way through another school year. Part of what we do is to look back and see how the children have changed and improved their work. They are often really surprised when they



see how far they have come. You will have the chance to see for yourselves when we have the **Open Learning Day and Parents' Meetings on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. If you haven't had a letter to sign up please contact the office as soon as possible. During the day you will have the chance to see learning in classrooms and in the evening you are invited to come along with your child to discuss their progress so far this year. Nursery and reception parents are invited to join in the children's learning throughout the year, so watch out for the Stay and Play sessions. Thank you for coming along to support our **EYFS CHATTERBOX CHALLENGE**.



We had some very strange characters in school last week!

**Can you name the characters and the books here? Answers please to Mrs Chevaugon by Friday for extra prizes**

Thank you for your support with the costumes. We had probably the best year yet with such a wide range of characters showing great imagination. More importantly the children were able to tell us from which book their character came.



## WORLD BOOK DAY.....

Our winners were:

Nursery

Reception

Year 1

Cole Turnbull

Steven Elford

Amy Kennedy

Harry Potter

Postman Pat

Alien from 'Aliens Love Underpants'



Year 2	Josh Ayre	Willy Wonka
Year 3	Sam Browning	Gangsta Granny
Year 4	Ellie Nichol	Madame Doubtfire
Year 5	George Pegg	Cat in the Hat
Year 6	Carly Gibb	Agatha from 'The Accidental Time Traveller'

As you know one of our priorities this year is to really get children engaged as readers and writers. Some of our older children read regularly with younger ones. We are having a **Read Write Inc.** session for parents in reception on Friday, 28 March at 9.00a.m. Please come along to find out more about how we teach reading and how you can help.



We also had a very successful **Big Yellow Friday**, to support one of our favourite charities the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. The school was a sea of yellow; children iced cakes to sell and took part in a whole range of yellow activities! Thanks to all the hard work and your generosity we raised the **magnificent sum of £390.75!**



Please consider also joining the Organ Donor Register.

Our Y6 children now all know which secondary school they are moving onto at the end of this year. We maintain our links with the new Blyth Academy and the transition programme is improving each year. For the first time our Y4 children spent a half day there recently and really enjoyed it. **A representative from the Blyth Academy will be at our Parents' Evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, so look out for them.**



Y4 also took part in an Arts Project run by Woodhorn Colliery Museum on the **Pitmen Painters**. We are very keen that our children should know about their local area and its recent past. The children produced some amazing pictures.





We had our usual Valentine’s Disco and in addition Y2 did some Valentine’s science investigations where they put carnations into blood red water! Mrs Wealleans is a science wiz and we’ll be running more science events later in the year.

You will no doubt be as pleased as us to see the work on the roof coming to an end. Don’t we look posh! It’s fabulous to have the upper school yard back in commission and the children are really enjoying the space. You may have noticed that there is some work being done in what was the Parent and Toddler room used by Sure Start in the past. **This will provide provision for 2 year old children**, so if you or anyone you

know has a toddler let us know. It’s hoped this will be up and running by September. To be eligible for a free place you must meet certain criteria – details at the Information Point in the foyer. There is also a **free childcare** phone line – ring 01670 623592 to confirm your eligibility - further information can be obtained from your Health Visitor, local Children’s Centre or Northumberland Families Information Service on 0800 023 4440 or 01670 623563.

We continue to have a focus on punctuality and attendance. If you have problems getting your child into school on time please consider bringing them to **Breakfast Club** which is on in the dining hall every morning from 8am. It costs 50p and the children who attend have a great time and are never late! Mrs Jennings varies what’s on offer with crumpets and even the occasional croissant. Our learning starts at 9.00am, so if your child is 10 minutes late, 10 times they miss 100 minutes of learning time. We try to make sure that they have the opportunity to catch up at break time but this isn’t quite the same. For most children it’s an occasional late and is unavoidable, but when they get to 6 lates we talk to them about how we can help with any missed learning. **Persistent lateness** - over 15 times - can trigger a visit from the Education Welfare Officer, so if you’re having problems talk to us.

Attendance is also checked by the EWO every 2 weeks and as you know it is now impossible to approve absence in other than the most exceptional of circumstances. Thank you to those of you who are still keeping us informed – we can always tell you what your child’s attendance is if you’re worried.

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98 – 100%	Excellent	0 to 4	Less than 1
95 – 98%	Good	5 to 9	1 to 2
93 – 95%	Satisfactory	10 to 13	2 to 3
85 – 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 to 28	3 to 6
Below 85%	Persistent Absence	More than 29	More than 6

To finish, we always enjoy hearing about past pupils and this week we were delighted to find out that Josh Fiddaman won the first Athlete of the Month Award with the Blyth Running Club. Several of our children go to the junior section of the club – so perhaps encourage your child to give it a try. See the web link below:

[http://www.blythrunningclub.org.uk/juniors\\_main.html](http://www.blythrunningclub.org.uk/juniors_main.html)

They meet on Monday evenings at the Blyth Sports Centre and are open to children from 9 years of age. Mrs Irving has been running Beep Tests with some of the older children and they have already improved their times.

We have the link for Parent View below and I know some of you have used it, but I also know some of you like the paper version so I've attached it below. Please take a few moments to fill it in and return it to school before next Monday - <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Kind regards

Jackie Chevaugon

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Tuesday, 18 March	Years 1 and 2 Trip to Whitehouse Farm
Wednesday, 19 March	Year 5 Transition Event @ The Blyth Academy
Thursday, 20 March	Parent & Child Sharing Learning Event Learning in Classrooms 9.00 - 10.00 and 2.00 - 3.00 Y1 to Y6 Parent and child Assertive Mentoring Meetings 3.30 - 6.30pm
Friday, 21 - Sunday 23 March	Sports Relief
Week commencing 24 March	Nursery Stay and Play
Tuesday 25 - Thursday 27 March	Year 5 Trip to London
Thursday, 27 March	Reception Visit - "How Do I Get About?"
Friday, 28 March	Read Write Inc session for Parents - letter to follow
Thursday, 3 April	Easter Stay and Play EYFS
Monday, 7 April	School Closed for Easter Holidays
Tuesday, 22 April	Back to school
Wednesday, 30 April - Friday 2 May	Year 4 Residential to Berwick
Monday 5 May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday, 6 May	Year 4 - Ceilidh Dancing
Wednesday 7 - Friday 9 May	Year 5 Bikeability
Week Commencing Monday 12 May	Key Stage 2 SATs
Tuesday, 13 May	Year 4 Ceilidh dancing
Monday, 26 May	School Closed for Half Term Holiday
Monday, 2 June	Back to School

# HORTON GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Questionnaire for parents and carers

Please read the following statements and tick the answer which best fits what you think about the school. Please only tick one box per statement. If you cannot answer leave it blank.

	(please tick)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child feels safe at this school.				
2	My child is making good progress at this school.				
3	This school meets my child's particular needs.				
4	This school ensures my child is well looked after.				
5	My child is taught well at this school.				
6	This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics.				
7	There is a good standard of behaviour at this school.				
8	My child's lessons are not disrupted by bad behaviour.				
9	This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively. (Bullying includes persistent name-calling, cyber, racist and homophobic bullying).				
10	This school helps me to support my child's learning.				
11	This school responds well to my concerns.				
12	This school keeps me well informed.				
13	I would recommend this school to another parent.	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
14	If you want to explain any of your answers, or if there is anything else you want us to know, please add it here.				

If you would like someone to call you please add your details here.

