

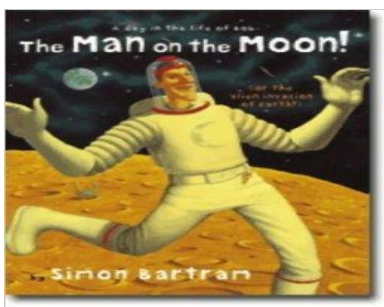
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the November Newsletter. Last half term was very busy with lots of interesting learning. (don't forget to catch up on our facebook page) .

Thank you to everyone who came along to our **transition meetings**. You have told us that you really value these opportunities on your comment cards, but if things crop up during the year that you think we should have included please let us know.



As you know **reading** is still one

of our whole school priorities this year. We know that the children are becoming more skilful at decoding words but we want to really get them hooked into reading. As part of our continuous focus on developing a love for reading, **Year 2** children visited the Briardale Centre to see a performance of The Man On The Moon. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, have since read the story in school and have followed this up with their own story writing. If your child would like to read

other stories by the same author they include: 'Up for the Cup', 'Bob and the Moontree Mystery' and 'Chlone Chaos'. Perhaps these could be ideas for Christmas!

I informed you in our last Newsletter that **Maths** was a big priority for us this year. Staff have been working to ensure that maths happens right across the curriculum so that the children understand how maths can be used in real life and in different contexts. Our **maths parents open day** was a great success and I would like to say a big thank you to all who attended. The children loved having you in their classroom and sharing their learning with you. The feedback on your comment cards suggested you really valued the opportunity as well and so we plan to make this a more regular event - further information to follow. We have listened to your feedback and the next time we hold an event we will have two sessions throughout the day to allow parents more time in each classroom when they have several children in school.



Parents back to school! Children and parents work together collaboratively!

At Horton Grange we believe a key part of our role is in helping children to know how to **keep themselves safe** and knowing who to talk to if they have any concerns. This half term the NSCPCC came to school to lead a whole school assembly and workshops for children in Year 5 and 6. Children also took part in a fundraising event '**The Get Active Challenge**'. As usual Horton Grange parents and children have been incredibly generous and have made an exceptionally **positive contribution** to others. Thank you all for this – an amazing £1200 was raised.



I am a great believer in **getting children active** and believe that sport is a great way to develop children's talents. I was very proud of our Year 5 and Year 6 children who took part in the Kielder Junior Run early in October. Well done to all of you!

Our **Year 2** children also took part in a **Multi Skills Festival** and Year 6 children were lucky enough to view the Tour Of Britain.

Clubs were quickly up and running this half term and have been a great success.

Clubs running this half term include:

Autumn 2 term clubs (UPDATE)



KS1 Clubs	Y3&4 clubs	Y5&6 clubs
Cooking	Futsal	Rugby
Board games	Art and craft	Homework club
Crafts	Lunch time homework club	Netball
Multi-skills (Lunch time)		Football
Choir		

Learning across the rest of the curriculum went well last half term too with the introduction of our new Cornerstones Curriculum.

EYFS have enjoyed learning to spot the signs of Autumn. They have been busy gathering lots of Autumn finds and have used them to sort, count, make patterns and witches potions.



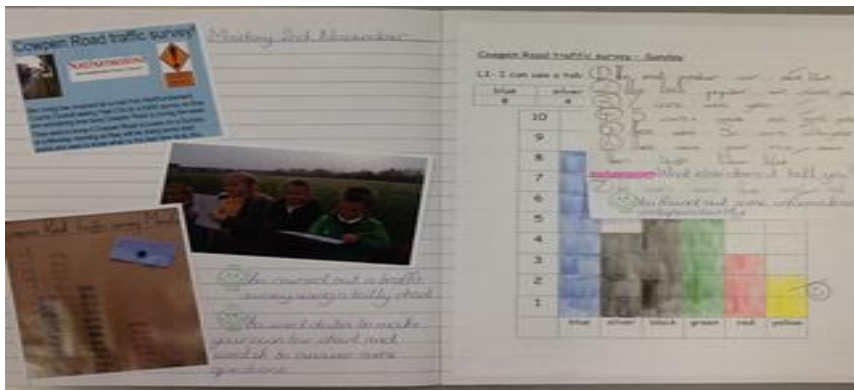
Year 1

Year 1 continued the topic on Autumn, focusing on being outdoors then bringing their learning back to the classroom. They explored leaves using magnifying glasses and thought about the differences between them (such as size, texture and colour) to help them to decide how to sort them into groups. They sorted the leaves by colour into hoops and had separate groups of red, yellow, green and brown leaves. They then counted the number of leaves in each group to find which group had the biggest and smallest number of leaves. They created pictograms using the leaves and a bar chart using multilink cubes to show the most and least popular colour of leaf. Finally, Numicon was used to represent the number of leaves in each group.



Year 2

In Year 2 last half term they became Street Detectives and were given a set of very important jobs. They made maps for Mr Fletcher, 3D models of their houses and have explored our 'enormous' school grounds. Their most important job was for Northumberland County Council. They asked Year 2 to carry out a traffic survey of Cowpen Road to help them decide what day would be best to carry out some local road works. Year 2 rose to this challenge, collecting the data and then presented it using bar charts. They then wrote back to the council with their recommendations. Look out for any up and coming road works on a Sunday!



Year 3 and 4

We always try to make the

learning real for the children and the Year 3 and 4 predator topic has been a roaring success! It all started with a fascinating and slightly scary visit from 'Animal Antics'. The children got to hold and learn about barn owls, bearded dragons, pigmy hedgehogs, chameleons, corn snakes and tarantulas. They followed up the learning by looking at the contents of owl pellets, doing pastel drawings of carnivorous plants and experimenting with how plants get water to their leaves. The topic concluded with designing their own 'Ultimate Predator' using the best parts of different animals bodies.



Year 5 and 6

Years 5 and 6 have been studying Peasants, Princes and Pestilence. They have learned about medieval society in 1348, in particular, the spread of the plague in London and what it was like to be a knight. They have designed and made their own shields based on medieval symbols and investigated the amount of bacteria on their own hands in a science investigation.



Here are some quotes from the children: *I loved our topic and my favourite time was when poorly, evil 'Pestilence' came in and told us about his deadly invention (the bubonic plague) and how he put his mark on history!* Kate Marsay.

I loved Maths Day as parents had the chance to see us measuring, designing and making our medieval shields. Ellie Stephenson

I enjoyed learning about germs and doing the fantastic science test to see who has the dirtiest hands because I'm interested to see who has the dirtiest hands! Harry Fletcher

I liked the visit from 'Pestilence' and I also loved the science investigation because we got to use a scientific material - nutrient agar. Scott Slomski

We finished before the holidays with a fabulous **Harvest Festival and Halloween Discos.**

Topics for the Autumn Term 2 are:

Nursery	Follow my interests – see what I learn?
Reception	Follow my interests – see what I learn? What can we find at the beach?
Year 1	Moon Zoom
Year 2	Muck and mixtures
Year 3	Scrumdiddliumptious
Year 4	Scrumdiddliumptious
Year 5	Frozen Kingdom
Year 6	Frozen Kingdom

Several subjects within the National Curriculum are covered within the topic. Please refer to our website for curriculum long term plans.

Y6 had their residential experience at **Hawes End in the Lake District**, which was all about setting them up for the challenges ahead. The focus was very much on them working as a team and supporting each other. They all had an absolutely brilliant time as you can see from the photos.



We have now selected the 12 new Y6 prefects as well as Head Girl – Ellie Nichol and Head Boy – Sam Anderson. Look out for their faces on the display in the entrance hall. All children in Y6 are encouraged to take a job within school as part of their personal development. The adverts are out at the moment and the closing date is Friday. The posts include play rangers, librarians, receptionists and many more.



Now of course we're on the run up to **Christmas**, and whilst we will continue to celebrate the tradition, raised expectations in the new curriculum (no doubt you will have heard in the news) means we need to stay focused on helping your child to achieve the best they can, particularly for the older children who will be the first to sit the new style tests in the summer and Year 2 children who will sit the new Year 2 test. For this reason, we will be keeping Christmas traditional this year with nativities in Early Years and KS1, a Christingle in Year 3 and 4 and a traditional carol service for years 5 and 6. The Year 5 and 6 carol service will be held in St Cuthbert's church. Year 6 will of course still have their end of Year production in the summer. Further information to follow.

Before then we have the **Autumn term parents' evening** on Tuesday November 24th so please try to come along. Our **new prefects** will be on duty to show you around the school and answer any queries.



During the week of the 16th November we will be supporting Anti-Bullying Week with lots of events in school. The focus is on empowering children to talk about bullying. Our school council will play a key role in this. In school we use **STOP** to represent two slogans: **Several Times On Purpose** and **Start Telling Other People**.

Finally just a reminder with regards to **e-safety**. It has been brought to our attention that children are accessing and using their own facebook accounts. Can I please remind parents that children should not have a facebook account until they are 14. Please support us in keeping children safe by following this regulation.

Best wishes

Nichola Irving
Headteacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*(Other dates, which you will be notified about by letter, may be added at a later date)*

Tuesday, 10 November	Parliamentary Assembly/Workshops - KS2
Thursday, 12 November	Year 3 & 4 Futsal Club starts
Friday, 13 November	Children in Need Day - Whole School Pyjama Party
	Year 1 & 2 - 'Flu Immunisation
Week commencing 16 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday, 18 November	Tempest Photography - Whole School
	Year 5 & 6 - School Games/Indoor Athletics - Blyth Academy
	Year 3 & 4 Craft Club starts
Thursday, 19 November	School Council visit to County Hall
	Y5/6 Netball Tournament - Blyth Leisure Centre
Week commencing 23 November	Road Safety Week
Tuesday, 24 November	Parent Interviews
Friday, 11 December	EYFS Christmas Productions (am & pm)
Monday, 14 December	KS1 Christmas Productions (x2)
Tuesday, 15 December	Lower LS2 Christmas Productions (x2)
	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday, 16 December	EYFS Christmas Party (x2)
	Y3/4 Christingle
	Y5/6 Carol Service (provisional - to be confirmed)
	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday, 17 December	Upper School Christmas Party
Friday, 18 December	Christmas Jumper Day
	Whole School Panto
	School Closes at 2.00 pm for Christmas Holiday
Monday, 4 January 2016	School re-opens for Spring Term