

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

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**. In response to your requests we included time in classrooms – we hope you found that useful.

Reading continues to be a priority this year because we know that children who read well, both at school and for pleasure at home, are more likely to be successful in all areas of school life and go on to achieve well in the future. Our phonic results in Year 1 show that the children at Horton Grange decode (read the words on the page) well – in fact better than other schools nationally, but we are working hard to encourage children to read a wide range of books for enjoyment regularly. We want to really get them hooked into reading. The children all have a class text (which they read together daily), listen to a story at the end of the day as well as having their own reading book. As part of our continuous focus on developing a love for reading, **Year 3** children were lucky enough to attend the **Juice Big Read Festival** where they engaged with books in creative ways and participated in a range of workshops. They had a fantastic time getting into character, writing Roald Dahl Raps and making dream jars. Coming up, we have an author visiting school, visits to the local library at Blyth Academy and we'd love you to come in for our 'Come Dine and Read' sessions which take place in November.

Parents sharing learning

We are only 8 weeks into the new academic year, and we have already had parents in for several 'sharing of learning events'. The feedback from the **Maths** sessions was really positive and parents commented on how they *'enjoyed learning new games to help with maths and see how maths can be fun'*. We hope you found some useful ways that you can help your children with maths at home too. I know that in some year groups teachers shared useful websites that the children can access at home to support their maths learning. Try:

www.mymaths.co.uk



The **Science open learning** event was also a success. Thank you to everyone who attended. Classrooms were bursting with budding scientists, parents and grandparents. From taste tests, bubble blowing and seed hunts to classification and even making blood! It was wonderful to see the children making predictions and using their enquiry skills to find answers. One parent commented that it was *'amazing to watch a group working together, coming up with ideas and asking each other – making sure they get the most out of a topic'*. We are working to raise the

profile of Science across school and Miss Greig, our Science lead is looking to develop links with Science in industry and is investigating holding our own Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths week (STEM). We are also developing links with Kielder observatory – further information to follow.

Speaking of Kielder, our **Year 5 and 6 running club** had a fabulous time at the Kielder run event again this year. The children were exemplary throughout and showed great determination and resilience to complete the run – well done all!

As you know we are keen to raise the profile of sport across school. Mrs Thomas is our new PE lead and has been working incredibly hard this half term to ensure maximum participation in sporting events across school. Thank you Mrs Thomas.



Sporting updates

Danone Nations Cup

In September, the Year 5/6 football team took part in the Danone Nations Cup Qualifying Tournament at Chantry Middle School. The children had a fantastic evening and narrowly missed out on the semi-finals of the tournament. All of the team showed great sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done!

Spectacular County Success

Congratulations to Megan Robson and Sam Browning who have both made it into the county football teams. What a fantastic achievement!

U11 Football League

The U11 Football League has begun. On Tuesday 11 October, the football team played their first two fixtures at Chantry Middle School. The team has football training every Thursday night after school and they are busy preparing for their next set of fixtures. The Horton Grange football team is currently sixth in the U11 League.



Things to look out for

We have lots of sporting events to look forward to next half term. The Year 5/6 girls football team will be taking part in a tournament at Hirst Welfare Centre in November and the netball team will also be taking part in their first tournament of the year.

Look out for some new sports clubs appearing too – more information to follow!

Computing

Mr Fields is now our Computing Lead teacher across school and he is working to raise the profile and quality of provision across school. This half term the children will be learning about programming. This will include learning how to write a simple algorithm in Year 1 and 2 where the children will have to create a specific set of instructions that can only have one outcome. In Key Stage 2, Year 3 will be learning the basics of visual coding using 2Code software while Years 4, 5 and 6 will continue to develop their coding skills. As ever, the children will go over aspects of E-Safety in the first week back to continue to prepare them for an increasingly digital world.

The children can access 2Code at home through www.purplemash.com and they'll love showing you what they've been up to.

Other useful websites to try at home:

www.school360.co.uk (with access to Purple Mash, I Am Learning, Interactive Resources maths games and J2E)

www.oxfordowl.co.uk (reading)

www.bbc.co.uk/education

www.thinkuknow.co.uk (e-safety)

Autumn term clubs (26th September to 24th November)

EYFS clubs	KS1 clubs	Y3&4 clubs	Y5&6 clubs
Film club	Ipads	Choir	Coding (Year 5)
	Design Technology	Spanish (Year 4)	Spanish (Year 5)
	Multi skills	Futsal	Football (Y5 &6)
	Choir (KS1)		Netball (Y5&6)
			Running (Y5&6)
			Cheerleading (Y5) (lunchtime)

Celebrating learning from the first half term.

EYFS



Our **two year old** children have been 'sharing stories'. The children really enjoyed listening to 'The Tiger who came to Tea' and enjoyed 'Dear Zoo' too. Next half-term they will be reading 'Peace at Last' and 'The Bear Hunt' which both have lots of fun noises for the children to make. They have also been exploring what they can see, feel, hear and smell outside. The children were very interested in the spider webs in the long grass.



Nursery have had a busy start to the new term. They have loved learning about scarecrows and now know they scare birds away. They made their own scarecrow with old clothes and straw.



Reception children have made a wonderful start to full time school. They have been very busy making self-portraits to put on the walls.

They have also made magic potions outdoors and wrote down the ingredients they used. They loved mixing and exploring, and talking about all the things they could see, smell and hear with their potions. They also loved making messy recipes in the mud kitchen! They made a menu of all the delicious meals to eat!



Year 1

Year 1 have all settled into their new classrooms and have been enjoying their 'Amazing Animals' topic. They have discovered how the world has lots of different animals that can be grouped into reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish and insects! Their story for the term was 'The Little Red Hen' and it has been enjoyed by all. They were brilliant story tellers and have enjoyed using the actions to help them retell the whole story. They have had fun changing the characters too where they used their knowledge of the animal world to have a variety of new animal characters.



Their trip to Washington Wetlands was a great day out! They loved the pink flamingos and the otters. They said the best bit was feeding the birds and pond dipping. Year 1 staff would like to say many thanks to the parents and carers who have contributed to the homework challenges - the animal homes have been very interesting and amazing to look at.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a great start to the year but also a very busy one. The 'Circle of Life' topic has been amazing and they have enjoyed delving into the animal kingdom. It all started with a visit from the Enormous Crocodile. The children followed the footprints in the yard and found him hiding in the garden – they did get quite a shock! They have also looked at the basic needs of humans and animals, made simple food chains and explored different habitats. Their visit to Whitehouse

Farm was incredible and the children learnt so much in such a short time. They asked some great questions and became animal investigators for the day. They loved

feeding and handling the animals and even had a tractor ride with a REAL farmer. They also put on their trainers and headed to Blyth Sports Centre for Multiskills. They hopped, skipped and jumped their way through the activities and took on a challenging obstacle course.

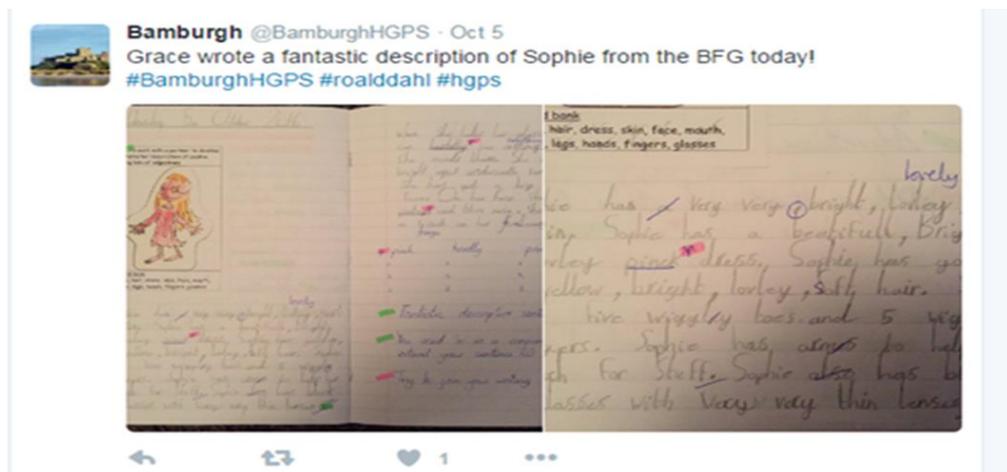


Year 2 staff would also like to say thank you to all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenges, some of the crocodiles look like they could actually eat us up!

Year 3

As the weather has slowly become more Autumnal, the children in Year 3 have been hard at work learning all about predators. They loved meeting Jaffa the bearded dragon and his predator friends from Animal Antics at the start of term and they have continued to enjoy discovering the wild world of ferocious predators from every continent!

In English the focus has been on reading and the fantastically silly stories of Roald Dahl. The children were in stitches as they read Fantastic Mr Fox and The BFG, and went on to produce some fantastic descriptive writing that really paints a picture in the reader's mind.



Bamburgh have had a great time creating a class Twitter account to share their learning - follow them @BamburghHGPS to see what they've been up to.

Year 4 have been on a fascinating journey into the world of animals' diets and habitats in their topic 'Who's Next on the Menu?' They enjoyed a great day at the **Centre for Life** during which they got to visit the Inside Out exhibition and see what goes on beneath the skin of a living creature. Back in the classroom, the children were able to create food chains based on their own research and they also produced some amazing work at home which we have displayed in class. They really enjoyed finding out new information about our favourite animals.



Year 5 have enjoyed learning all about minibeasts in their 'Beast Creator' topic last half term. They began the topic with an exciting visit from 'Bugs N Stuff'. Tarantulas, scorpions and stick insects invaded their classrooms for an afternoon and the children learned lots of interesting facts about the minibeasts – they even had the chance to hold them! In Science, the children used their knowledge of minibeasts to create a habitat for woodlice and they also investigated life cycles. In addition, they created branch diagrams to classify and sort minibeasts using their computing skills.

Year 6

In preparation for the Year 6 residential visit to Hawse End they have been learning about the features of the landscape and how it was formed during the Ice Age by glaciers. They have also researched the life of Beatrix Potter, who lived in the Lake District, and have written biographies about her. Using maps has been a highlight of the term and the children now have experience of using both 4 and 6 figure grid references to find their way around!

Studying the human circulatory system has also been a focus for year 6 and they thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Blyth Academy where they watched a demonstration of a pig's heart dissection. Most of the children couldn't wait to 'have a hold' of the heart and leads us to think we may have some budding scientists or even surgeons in our midst!



Autumn 2 is a History focus across school. Topics for the Autumn Term 2 are:

Year	Topic	Class text
Nursery	What's the emergency?	Emergency
Reception	What's the emergency?	Cops and Robbers
Year 1	Toys through time	Dogger
Year 2	London's Burning (History focus)	The Fire of London
Year 3	Tribal Tales (The Stone Age)	Stig of the Dump
Year 4	I am a warrior (History focus - Romans)	Story of Queen Boudicca You wouldn't want to be a Roman Soldier

Year 5	Smashing Saxons (Anglo Saxons)	Beowulf
Year 6	Revolution (Victorian)	Street Child

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

The **Year 6 residential visit to Hawse End Outdoor Centre** near Keswick in the Lake District was a huge success again this year. The children have talked about it non-stop and many have said they would like to return! Kayaking, ghyll scrambling, rock climbing and walking up Catbells were activities enjoyed by all and pushed several children out of their comfort zone before they were rewarded with a huge sense of achievement and the realisation of how much fun they'd had. Teamwork was a key element of the weekend, establishing new friendships among the children and also getting to know the staff – who knew Mrs Brownrigg was a singing alarm clock? The children also appreciated the natural beauty of the Lake District: Alisha commented, “Isn't it amazing that all this is here and we don't know about it in Blyth? I just have to look out my bedroom window to see all these lovely hills!” Everyone agreed that it was one of the best visits to Hawse End ever and we returned with smiles all round!



We are now in the process of selecting the new Y6 prefects as well as Head Boy and Head Girl. This year we will also be having Deputy Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and two Sports Captains. 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 we will once again be keeping Christmas traditional 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. Due to updated fire regulations we will have to restrict tickets and numbers this year – further information to follow.

Before then we have the **Autumn term parents' evening** on Tuesday 15 November so please try to come along. Our **new prefects** will be on duty to show you around the school and answer any queries.

Attendance

We all know the importance of good attendance and ensuring children are making the most of their time at Horton Grange. Being here every day is very important. This is because there is a clear link between attendance and achievement and we really want the best for our children, both now and in the future. That's why we make attendance a focus in weekly assemblies and reward children who attend regularly. These rewards include;

- Extra playtimes / rewards for classes achieving 100% in a week
- Termly prizes for 100% attendance
- A yearly trip for 100% attendance
- Asda voucher prize draw for attendance above 95%
- There is also a voucher awarded termly to a child whose attendance has significantly improved

Children made a great start to the new school year and attendance was excellent with some classes achieving 100%. We hit our school target of 96% overall attendance, which was brilliant! However bugs and germs hit in the last 2 weeks of the half term sending the attendance for some classes and children down significantly. Hopefully after a good rest during the half term holidays, everyone will be back super strong and healthy and ready to win some of those great rewards!

Points to remember

If your child is absent you must phone school or inform the office on the first morning of their absence. Failing to do so will mean their absence is recorded as unauthorised, which can trigger involvement from the Education Welfare Officer.

- Holidays should be avoided in school time. If they are unavoidable a holiday form must be submitted,
- Children falling below 90% attendance are classed as persistent absentees and will be monitored by school and in some cases by the Educational Welfare Officer

Key dates when holidays must not be taken:

- **Month of May: Year 2 end of Key Stage assessments:**
- **Week commencing 12th June: Year 1 phonic check**
- **Week commencing 8th May: Year 6 SATs**



During the week of the **14 November** we will be supporting Anti-Bullying Week with lots of events in school. The focus is on empowering children to talk about bullying and using power for good purposes. 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, **E-Safety** is a growing concern for all of us. During the last half term the children have been learning about how to stay safe online at school and at home in an age appropriate way. The children have learnt to tell someone if they see or hear anything that concerns them and to never share passwords or personal information. It helps children to remember things if they tell someone else so please ask your children about what they have learnt. There is further advice on our website in a monthly newsletter and links to useful websites. If you do have any concerns please contact us.

Finally, just note from all teachers to say thank you for your support with the homework projects so far this year – some amazing work!

Best wishes
Nichola Irving
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note whilst we endeavour to stick to these dates, occasionally amendments have to be made in response to other events in school, which are often out of our control. However, if you are unable to make an event, please contact school and we will discuss how the information can be shared in an alternative way.

Monday 31 October	EYFS Stay and Play - 9.00 am & 1.15 pm
Tuesday 1 November	Bonfire Talk from Fire Brigade
Thursday 3 November	Girls Football Hirst Welfare Centre – Year 5 & 6 - 12.45 – 3.00 pm
	FA Coaching - Year 4
	Year 2 After School Multi Skills Club
	London Meeting for Parents - 3.30 pm
Monday 7 November	3.30 - 4.00 pm Parent Drop In
Wednesday 9 November	Year 6 Visit to Beamish all day
Thursday 10 November	After School Futsal Club begins - Years 3,4,5 (for five weeks)
Monday 14 November	Year 1 Cinema Trip – 9.10 – 12.30 pm
Tuesday 15 November	Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 16 November	School photos
	Year 2 Cinema Trip
Thursday 17 November	Girls Netball Blyth Leisure Centre – Year 6 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Week commencing 21 November	Road Safety Week
Tuesday 22 November	Year 4 Trip to Arbeia all day
Wednesday 23 November	Thrive Event for Parents 1.15 - 3.15 pm
Thursday 24 November	January intake to Nursery visit/meeting
Friday 25 November	Wear something bright day – raise awareness for road safety week
Monday 28 November	Year 1 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am
	Nursery home visits (new starters)
Tuesday 29 November	Year 2 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am Parenting Course – 2 year old provision – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 30 November	Year 3 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am Nursery home visits (new starters)
Thursday 1 December	Year 4 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am
	Nursery home visits (new starters)
	EYFS Stay and Play - 9.00 am & 1.15 pm
Friday 2 December	Year 5 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am
Monday 5 December	Year 6 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am 3.30 - 4.00 pm Parent Drop In
Wednesday 7 December	Kielder Observatory/Planetarium in school 10.00 am - 3.30 pm - Year 3 & 4
Thursday 8 December	EYFS Christmas production am and pm
	Choir Practice at St Cuthbert's Church - 2.00 - 2.45 pm
Friday 9 December	KS1 Christmas production
Monday 12 December	KS1 Christmas production am and pm
Tuesday 13 December	Lower KS2 (Year 3 and 4) Christingle afternoon and evening
	KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Christmas Party

Wednesday 14 December	Christmas dinner
	EYFS Christmas party
	Upper KS2 (Year 5 and 6) Carol Service - 2.00 pm & 5.00 pm
	Lower KS2 (Year 3 and 4) Christmas Party
Thursday 15 December	Tiddlywinks visiting Nursery all day
	Upper KS2 (Year 5 and 6) Christmas Party
Friday 16 December	Whole school panto
	School closes 2.00 pm for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 3 January 2017	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 4 January	School re-opens for pupils