

# Newsletter September 2016

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of another school year and I hope you have all had a great summer. I am sure many of you visited the Tall Ships Events, which was fantastic for Blyth. Many of the children have told me today that they had been and thoroughly enjoyed it. They all looked super smart in their new uniforms on the first day back and thank you for following our clear guidelines on uniform and hair at Horton Grange. If you are unsure of any of these please contact Mrs Carlise in the school office.



The end of last year was as poignant as ever with our Year 6 children sharing their dreams and aspirations and moving onto secondary school. **Joseph** was their production and they excelled with a full house for three performances. I suspect the singing could be heard in Asda, but probably the best thing of all is how much they discover about themselves when challenged to do something different. Our **Annual Prom** which is becoming a real community event, brought sunshine and smiles – and didn't they look amazing! The leavers' year book is available in school – pop in to have a look.

Enjoy the photos -



Didn't they look grand!



## Staffing

As you know, we have new staff joining the team this year. I'm delighted to welcome **Miss Amanda Tartt** to the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher and Head of Upper School. She has a wealth of experience in a range of schools and settings and is looking forward to meeting parents. She will be around in the school yard most mornings so please take the opportunity to have a chat with her.

We also have several other new members of staff joining us. I'm sure you'll meet them around school soon.



**Year 5: Mrs Thomas**

**Year 6: Miss McKean**

**Year 4: Miss Nightingale**



**Year 6 Support: Miss Hathaway**

**Year 1 Support: Miss Elliott**

**Reception Support: Mrs Cooper**



## Curriculum

Topics for the Autumn Term 1 are all Science based across school and we will be having a **parent open session** on Thursday 20 October (see key dates attached) to share learning. Topic overviews and homework menus will be sent home soon.

Nursery & Reception	What can I tell you about me?
Year 1	Amazing Animals
Year 2	Circle of life
Year 3	It's time to walk on the wild side - Predators
Year 4	Who's next in the food chain?
Year 5	Beast creator
Year 6	The heart of the Lake District

You will find further information on our curriculum on the school website. We will of course continue to use our Facebook page and text messages to keep you up to speed. Please let us know if you think something isn't working then we can try to put it right.

### **NEW YEAR GROUP MEETINGS (Year 1 – Year 6)**

I wrote to you in July informing you of the format for transition meetings at the start of the new term. At your child's New Year group meeting members of staff will share important information on the new year to come. This will include curriculum, expectations and routines. You will also be able to spend 30 minutes in your child's classroom to help you to see the curriculum in action before the meeting.

Year group	Date and time
1	<b>Monday 12 September</b> 2.00-2.30 Spend time in classrooms 2.30 – New Year group meeting
2	<b>Tuesday 13 September</b> 2.00-2.30 Spend time in classrooms 2.30 – New Year group meeting
3	<b>Wednesday 14 September</b> 2.00-2.30 Spend time in classrooms 2.30 – New Year group meeting
4	<b>Wednesday 14 September</b> 9.15 – 9.45 Spend time in classrooms 9.45 – 10.15 New Year group meeting
5	<b>Thursday 15 September</b> 9.15 – 9.45 Spend time in classrooms 9.45 – 10.15 New Year group meeting
6	<b>Thursday 15 September</b> 2.30 – New Year group meeting 2.00-2.30 Spend time in classrooms

Lower school meetings (Y1 and Y2) will be held in lower school hall so please enter via KS1 library entrance. For Upper school meetings (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6) please enter via main reception.

### **Communication with parents**

Our texting services is an efficient way of keeping you up to date so please ensure we have up to date contact details for you. Our aim is to reduce the number of paper copies we send to you, so please keep us up to date with your contact details and let us know if you don't have access to either Facebook or the website.

You will have received your contact information and collection arrangements form already. Please could you complete and return to school as soon as possible.

**Breakfast Club** is running once again in the dining room from 8.00am to start of school. This is 50p per day. We use the door half way along the drive at the back of the main school hall – ring the bell!

### **Clubs**

At Horton Grange we are committed to providing a range of opportunities for children and we know how much the children enjoy clubs. We are working hard to increase clubs available at school - further information on Autumn term clubs to follow.

### **Horton Heroes**

Parents and children tell us that they enjoy 'Horton Heroes' and 'Forest School Friday' so we plan to continue this as a way of celebrating children's achievements. We welcome parents and younger siblings to our Horton Heroes

Assemblies but please remember it can be difficult for pre-school children to sit quietly throughout so please feel free to pop out of the hall for a short period of time until they settle.

However, in response to 'Parent Forum' suggestions we will also be introducing a 'post card' home system to reward children who display the Horton Grange Values exceptionally well. The values link to our vision statement and are:

## **LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE**

Happy, healthy and hardworking

On a journey together to be the best we can be

Respectful, responsible and resilient

Truthful and tolerant

Open minded and outward looking delivering...

New experiences, new horizons and excellent outcomes for all

### **PARENT FORUM**

In the summer term **parent forum** session a common theme was around advanced notice for events involving parents coming into school. **You said** – you wanted more notice and therefore we are providing you with a year planner of key dates below. Obviously, the nature of school life means that there could be some changes but we will endeavour to stick to these dates where possible. Half termly reminders will also go in the Newsletters. We may also find we have to provide additional dates but will try to give you as much notice as possible. **You also said** you would like to attend **Come Dine and Read** sessions again so they have been scheduled in again this year. Also **in response to your request** to have more opportunities to share your children's learning in the classrooms, we have scheduled one sharing of learning session in each half term.

**You also said** you'd like more opportunities to speak with class teachers. Unfortunately, it is not possible for teachers to be available on the yard in the mornings as their priority is to ensure classrooms are ready for learning. However, we have planned in an **informal drop in** on the first Monday of every month where teachers will be available in classrooms until **4.00 pm**. You will need to enter school via the main entrance. Staff in 'The Place' will also be available.

### **KEY DATES 2016 – 17**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
Monday 12 September	Year 1 – Parents invited to new year group meeting 2.00 pm
Tuesday 13 September	Year 2 – Parents invited to new year group meeting 2.00 pm Year 4 Visit to Centre of Life Year 5 swimming starts
Wednesday 14 September	Year 4 – Parents invited to new year group meeting 9.10 am Year 3 – Parents invited to new year group meeting 2.00 pm Year 6 - Netball club starts
Thursday 15 September	Y5 – Parents invited new year group meeting 9.10 am Y6 – Parents invited new year group meeting 2.00 pm
Friday 16 September	Roald Dahl Day – come dressed as your favourite character
Thursday 22 September	Y2 Multi skills Day 1

Friday 23 September	Reception settling in meeting 9.00 am
Wednesday 28 September	Parent Forum meeting 2.00 pm
Thursday 29 September	Y2 Multi skills Day 2
Sunday 2 October	Kielder marathon event (Year 5 / 6 running club)
Monday 3 October	Parent drop in session 3.30 - 4.00 pm
Week beginning Monday 3 October	Nursery reviews staggered over week
Thursday 6 October	Sharing Maths learning – parents invited to school 9.00 to 10.00 – KS2 2.30 – 3.30 – KS1
Thursday 13 October	School Nursing Team in School for Nasal Spray Flu Vaccinations - Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 - 9.30 – 11.30 Tag Rugby at Blyth Academy – Year 5 & Year 6 12.45 – 3.00
Friday 14 October – Sunday 16 October	Y6 Hawse End Residential
Tuesday 18 October	Harvest Festival KS1 9.30am
Wednesday 19 October	Halloween disco after school 3.00 – 4.30 – Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 5.00 – 6.30 – Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
Thursday 20 October	Sharing Science learning – parents invited to school 9.00 to 10.00 – KS1 2.30 – 3.30 – KS2  Break up for half term
Friday 21 October	Teacher Training Day
Monday 31 October	Return to school EYFS Stay and Play 9.00 am 1.15 pm
Thursday 3 November	Girls Football Hirst Welfare Centre – Year 5 & Year 6 12.45 – 3.00 pm
Monday 7 November	Parent drop in 3.30 - 4.00pm
Tuesday 15 November	Parents Consultation Meetings – 3.30 pm onwards
Wednesday 16 November	School photos
Thursday 17 November	Girls Netball Blyth Leisure Centre – Year 6 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Thursday 24 November	January intake new starters 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
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 EYFS Stay and Play 9.00am and 1.15pm
Friday 2 December	Year 5 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am
Monday 5 December	Year 6 Come Dine and Read 11.15 am Parent drop in 3.30 - 4.00 pm
Thursday 8 December	EYFS Christmas production am and pm
Friday 9 December	KS1 Christmas production am
Monday 12 December	KS1 Christmas production am and pm



Tuesday 13 December	Lower KS2 (Year 3 and 4) Christingle afternoon and evening KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 December	Christmas dinner EYFS Christmas party Upper KS2 (Year 5 and 6) carol service afternoon and evening
Thursday 15 December	Tiddlywinks visiting Nursery all day
Friday 16 December	Whole school panto School closes 2.00 pm
Tuesday 3 January	Teacher training day
Wednesday 4 January	School reopens to children
Monday 9 January	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Thursday 12 January	Year 1 multi skills day 1
Thursday 19 January	Year 1 multi skills day 2
Week beginning Monday 23 January	Year 6 Trial SAT week
Wednesday 25 January	Year 2 SAT meeting
Thursday 26 January	Girls Netball Year 5 Blyth Leisure Centre 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 1 February	Parent Forum meeting 2.00 pm
Monday 6 February	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Tuesday 7 February	Safer Internet Day Parents invited to school to share learning KS2 9.15 – 10.15 KS1 2.15 – 3.15 Evening parent session 5.00 pm – How to keep children safe online
Thursday 16 February	Valentines disco after school 3.00 – 4.30 pm KS1 5.00 – 6.30 pm KS2
Friday 17 February	School closes for half term at normal time
Monday 27 February	School reopens
Thursday 2 March	World Book Day – Come dressed as your favourite character Boys Football Hirst Welfare Centre – Year 5 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Monday 6 March	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Wednesday 8 March	Year 6 SAT meeting 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm
Wednesday 8 March to Friday 10 March	Year 5 London Residential
Thursday 9 March	Boys Football Hirst Welfare Centre – Year 6 12.45 – 3.00 pm
Thursday 16 March	Year 1 phonic screening meeting 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm
Tuesday 21 March	Parents Consultation Meetings – 3.30 pm onwards
Thursday 23 March	April intake new starters meeting (Nursery) Dance Festival Blyth Academy – KS1 & KS2 - 9.30 – 12.00 noon
Monday 27 March & Tuesday 28 March	Nursery home visits
Friday 31 March	Stay and play EYFS 9.00 am & 1.15 pm
Monday 3 April	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Friday 7 April	Non uniform day Easter Egg competition School closes for Easter break
Monday 24 April	School reopens

Monday 1 May	School closed for May bank holiday
Month of May	KS1 SAT testing throughout May
Thursday 4 May	Tag Rugby Blyth Academy – Year 3 & Year 4
Monday 8 May	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Week beginning 8 May	KS2 SAT week
Thursday 18 May	Mini Tennis Red Heat 1 & 2 Blyth Leisure Centre – Year 3 & Year 4 am/pm
Monday 22 May to Wednesday 24 May	Year 4 Residential to Dukeshouse Wood
Tuesday 23 May	Parents invited to school to share learning – focus to be decided KS2 9.15 – 10.15 am KS1 2.15 – 3.15 am
Wednesday 24 May	Parent Forum Meeting 2.00pm
Thursday 25 May	September new starters meeting 11.00 am Nursery 1.00 pm Reception
Friday 26 May	School closes for half term
Monday 5 June	School reopens Equalities Week Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Tuesday 6 June	Nursery home visits pm
Wednesday 7 June	Athletics at Monkton Year 5/6 – all day Nursery home visits pm
Thursday 8 June	Nursery home visits pm
Week beginning Monday 12 June	Year 1 phonic screen Forest School week
12, 13, 14, 15 19, 20 and 21 June	New to Reception home visits
Friday 16 June	EYFS sports day 9.30 am and 1.30 pm
Monday 19 June	Sports Day – (weather dependent)
Tuesday 20 June	Reserve Sports Day
Thursday 22 June	EYFS Stay and Play 9.00 am and 1.15 pm
27, 28 and 29 June	New to reception parent and child lunch
Monday 3 July	Parent drop in 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Thursday 6 July	Olympic Athletics Blyth Leisure Centre Year 6 12.30 - 3.00 pm
Tuesday 11 July	Transition Day Parents Consultation Meetings – 3.30 pm onwards
Wednesday 12 July & Thursday 13 July	Provisional Y6 performance (TBC depending on transition arrangements with secondary schools which are not yet known)
Monday 17 July	EYFS graduation 2.00 pm
Tuesday 18 July	KS1 celebration event 9.15 am Y3,4 and 5 celebration event 2.00 pm
Thursday 20 July	Year 6 leavers assembly 1.30 pm Year 6 Prom 6.30 – 8.30 pm
Friday 21 July	School closes normal time
Monday 4 September	Teacher training day
Tuesday 5 September	School reopens

Best wishes

Mrs Irving







