

# NEWSLETTER

## June 2016

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the final half term of the year and at last some sunshine. The final half term is always a busy one, but is definitely one of my favourites with Sports Day, Year 6 productions and of course the Year 6 prom. Many of you will have heard on the news about the increased standard of SATs tests in Year 2 and Year 6 – we agree they were tough. However, I have to say the children did you all proud. They showed great resilience and commitment – working diligently through the papers and applying all they had been taught – well done!

This summer is set to be an exciting time for Blyth too with the coming of the Tall Ships. The port of Blyth will come alive when it hosts the North Sea Tall Ships Regatta from **Friday 26 – Monday 29 August**. Up to 30 of the largest and most spectacular ships in the world will sail into Blyth. We will be making the Tall Ships a theme for learning across school throughout this half term.

### HORTON HOMEWORK PROJECTS

We have continued to be impressed with the homework projects which have been brought into school. This half term, we are setting a whole school optional homework project. **THE HOMEWORK TASK IS TO BUILD A SHIP/BOAT.**

**What you need to do:** Select and look at pictures of boats. Search the internet together; look at different designs and purposes. Encourage your child to look at the materials that are used for building boats, any pulley systems and sails. Then, ask them to design and make a boat for a specific purpose (travelling, fishing, exploring or entering the tall ships race), think carefully about the materials they would use, the way the boat would look and how many people would be able to travel in it.

Children will be asked to bring in their finished product into school no later than **24 June 2016**. All work will be displayed at our own Tall Ships Exhibition in the school hall between 3.25 and 4.00pm on **Wednesday 29 June**.

### MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Our running club took part in the **Children's Cancer Run** on Sunday 15 May. Thank you to all of you who sponsored the children and raised money for the charity. I know it is charity which is close to many people's hearts – further details later in this newsletter. We will also be holding our next non uniform day on **Friday 8 July**. If the children would like to nominate a charity to donate the funds from this too, they should write a letter to me stating the choice of charity and the reasons why. There will then be a school vote to decide.

### OUR VERY OWN LOCAL HERO

You will all remember the amazing job Mr Murphy did with the road traffic accident earlier in the year. As a result he was nominated for a local hero award which he was presented with just before the half term holidays. Well done Mr Murphy - well deserved! It has however, been brought to my attention that a child has been seen running across the road near the Asda roundabout and parents have been observed not modelling the use of the crossing to cross the



road. **PLEASE BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR OWN CHILDREN AND USE THE CROSSING.**

### **CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT AND HOOKS FOR LEARNING**

Last half term Year 4 visited Dukeshouse Wood for a two night residential. The staff tell me the children's behaviour was exemplary and the children enjoyed the challenges they faced. For many children, this was the first time they had stayed away from home so this in itself is an achievement! The children enjoyed all of the activities, which were focused on team work and building resilience. From orienteering to singing songs and telling stories around the campfire, the children threw themselves into every activity. Challenges such as abseiling and the 'Leap of Faith' enabled the children to face activities out of their comfort zone and the staff were proud of them for doing so.



Other visits this half term have included: Year 5 visit to Eden Camp and Year 1 visit to the beach.

### **SPORTING UPDATES**

There have been several more sporting highlights last half term. Year 3 and 4 took part in a **Tag Rugby tournament** alongside other local schools. All the children enjoyed the afternoon and returned to school worn out but with big smiles on their faces. They played well and were a real credit to the school. They certainly looked the part in their Horton Grange rugby kits!

### **YEAR 6 HOCKEY**

On 18 May two teams of Year 6 children attended a hockey tournament at Bede Academy. Schools from all over the county were there and each team played five exciting matches. Team A won several of their matches, making it into the semi-finals, where they were beaten by Bede Academy, the overall winners. Team B impressed everyone with their sportsmanship and their 'never give up' attitude! Win or lose, both teams improved their hockey skills, had fun and represented Team Horton brilliantly.



### **HORTON HARRIERS**

Congratulations to the Horton Harriers who ran five miles for the Children's Cancer Run. It was a fabulous day and so far £175.05 has been raised in support of a very worthwhile charity. There will be lots of sporting events next half term and we are looking forward to involving the Horton Harriers from Year 5 and Year 6 in more local events including the Kielder Run in September.



This half term is also the Athletics season and our athletes will be competing at Monkton Stadium – watch out for updates in the next newsletter.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The attendance for school is currently sitting at 95.5%, which is just below our school target of 96%. However, we have a significant number of children whose attendance is below the 90% mark and are therefore classed as a persistent absentee. Further information regarding attendance will follow.

CLASS	No. of children with 95% attendance or above	No of children with 100% attendance
Elephants (Reception)	11	0
Pandas (Reception)	14	1
Penguins (Y1)	14	1
Polar Bears (Y1)	16	2
Tigers (Y2)	22	10
Rhinos(Y2)	17	7
Alnwick (Y3)	12	1
Bamburgh (Y3)	16	4
Chillingham (Y4)	14	4
Dunstanburgh (Y4)	18	4
Etal (Y5)	10	1
Lindisfarne (Y5)	12	6
Norham (Y6)	16	1
Warkworth (Y6)	15	6

### **Key facts about attendance**

Good attendance is vital for children to achieve well and be happy at school. Children who are absent regularly may fall behind or be unhappy coming to school.

Poor attendance can also can disrupt the teaching routines and therefore have an impact on other children in the class.

Rates of attendance are judged by Ofsted and can affect the judgement a school receives.

Parents have a legal responsibility to help their children attend school regularly.

### **FANTASTIC NEW PRIZE REWARD!**



To further encourage good attendance and reward families who strive to support their children to attend school regularly, at the end of each term the children with good attendance will be entered into a **fabulous prize draw to win ASDA vouchers.**

**For attendance of 98% and above-£75.00 voucher**

**For attendance of 95-98% -£50.00 voucher**

**For children who have most improved attendance-£25.00 voucher**

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

You may have heard on the news that a parent has won a high court ruling in favour of taking their child on holiday during term time. We are now awaiting guidance from the Government. In the meantime, our policy remains unchanged.

## SHARING OUR LEARNING - EYFS

Last term in Early Years has been extremely busy! The 2 years olds have enjoyed exploring with their senses. They've been busy cooking jam tarts, sandwiches and cheese pasties.



Everyone has been busy with messy play and moving to music with instruments and scarves.

The Nursery children have welcomed more new starters and are enjoying making new friends and exploring inside and outdoors. Nursery have been exploring the mud kitchen,

digging and filling different sized containers. They used their imagination to create lots of different recipes, someone even made GIANT soup! The Nursery children have been busy baking in the kitchen making delicious current buns and cheese scones, which they used for counting songs. Yummy!



In Reception the children have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have loved making story maps to help them retell the story and act it out. The children have enjoyed planting beans and cress heads, they talked about all the things plants need to grow. The children have produced some wonderful paintings from the story adding lots of detail. The children also loved using giant glasses to write with. They wore very special writing glasses.

## YEAR 1 - 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside'

Last half term the children enjoyed finding out all about the life and story of Grace Darling. They found out about the seaside in the past and were able to compare how it differs to the seaside now. The children were fascinated by the message they found from the past and wrote their own messages to describe locations in Blyth which were sealed in a bottle and drifted out to sea. On their visit to Blyth beach they saw a lifeboat and were amazed to see it pull up onto the shore and to find out about the work of a lifeguard. The beach visit provided inspiration for writing and they produced some excellent beach poetry and descriptions which were so vivid you felt like you were down by the sea! We were amazed by the outstanding pieces of homework produced and Year 1 are very proud of their homework display. We would like to thank all parents for their help



and support.



## YEAR 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this half term in preparation for their Key Stage 1 SATs. They have been very busy working on a range of skills from written strategies in maths to reading for meaning in literacy. They have shown real resilience and determination and have wowed their teachers during the SATs tests. We would like to say a great big WELL DONE! They have also taken part in a Road Safety course. As part of their course they have been out and about exploring their local area. They have been putting their newly learnt road safety knowledge into practice safely crossing Tynedale Drive and beyond. They have also begun to delve deeper into the world of plants and flowers. They have followed their noses and have explored all of the wonderful plants and flowers we have in our school grounds. They have dissected and named the parts of plants, sketched common wild flowers and have researched the planting timetable. We now know what to plant next! We would also like to say a big thank you to Year 2 parents for getting the glue and scissors out and helping make some amazing plants and flowers.



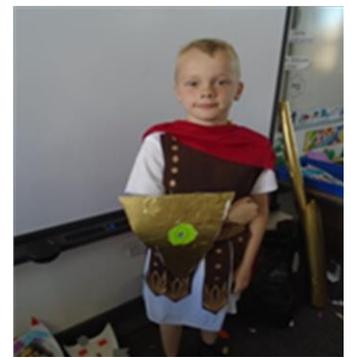
## YEAR 3 & 4

This half term has been all about Ancient Greece for Years 3 and 4. The children have totally immersed themselves in the culture and history of the period. They learned all about the Greek Gods, carrying out detailed research like real historians! The children also found out about the important figures from the time and learned what impact they had on modern-day life.

The culmination of this was the amazing Ancient Greek day the children took part in, fully decked out in Ancient Greek robes and armour. They had a great time trying traditional Greek food, creating their own Spartan shield and being trained to become part of the Spartan army by King Leonidas himself! At the end of the day the children put on a parade for parents and carers who looked very impressed by their military precision. The Year 3 and 4 staff would like to thank the parents and carers for their support in making it a day to remember.



There has been an influx of mythical creature models arriving as a result of the homework project and they are making the classrooms look like scenes from a Greek myth, so a big thank you from the staff to parents and carers for continuing to make such a huge effort and producing some brilliant work.



## YEAR 5

This term Year 5 have been learning about the Second World War, they particularly enjoyed their day at Eden Camp where they could experience first hand what it would have been like to live during The Blitz and how to survive as a soldier during World War Two. This topic has spurred some great contributions from home – there has been cauliflower cheese, trench cake and real World War 2 headgear for the children to try- this really helps bring the learning to life.

As part of the children's transition to secondary school they have experienced some cooking activities at The Blyth Academy. These sessions have revealed the budding Masterchef contestants in the year group and have been a great opportunity to see what kind of opportunities they will have in their next school.



## YEAR 6

The first thing that must be said about Year 6 during the last half term is how impressed all the staff have been with their incredible hard work on the run up to SATs. Thirty children were regularly attending the revision club in the morning with numbers almost equalling that in the mornings too. In fact some children came to every single session – very well done to all of you! World War II has continued to be a popular topic: the children enjoyed designing and making gas masks suitable for key stage 1 children.

A highlight last half term for some children was a visit to Blyth Harbour to see the tall ship which is currently anchored there (and recently featured on the 'Tales from Northumberland' programme) being renamed by the Countess of Wessex. She went straight over to the Horton Grange children – possibly attracted by the yellow hats! – asking them which lessons they were missing as well as thanking them for the lovely, sunny weather.





## **TOPICS FOR THIS TERM**

The topic overviews for this half term will be sent home separately and will be available on the school website. These topic overviews will explain key skills and learning through each subject area for the topic. Below is a brief summary of the topic title for Summer 2.

<p>Nursery &amp; Reception</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What can you see at the beach? (Nursery)</b></p> <p>Follow my interest to see how I learn. Following the children’s interests Nursery have decided to explore the beach. They are continuing to adapt the Early Years environment to enable them to look closely and follow the children’s interests to plan the next steps in their learning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minibeasts –over ground, underground and on the ground (Reception)</b></p> <p>Our stories will be linked to our topic: <b>The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Superworm and Aargh Spider</b>. We will be reading, retelling and sequencing the story. We will also be learning about minibeasts.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Around the World in 80 Days</b></p> <p>Ahoy there shipmates! Come and join us on a journey across the seven seas! Year 1 will investigate the best materials to make a boat, compare where we live to other parts of the world and design and pirate objects.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Great Explorers</b></p> <p>Do you love to explore? Have you ever been on a great voyage? Where would you like to go? What might you find? Year 2 will be setting off on a journey of discovery with the great explorer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christopher Columbus</b></p> <p>Learning about him and his life on the ocean waves.</p>
<p>Year 3 &amp; 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Great Outdoors</b></p> <p>This half term will involve Forest School Week for Year 3 and there will be a Science focus across the Key Stage. Children will become investigators, planning and carrying out experiments linked to plants, soils, animals and habitats. They will carry out fair test investigations and learn about variables and constants.</p>
<p>Year 5 and 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Beast Creator (Y5)</b></p> <p>This half term Year 5 will have a Science focus looking at living things and their environment. They will use and develop keys to identify, classify and describe living things, they will record data and results using Scientific diagrams, labels, classification keys, tables bar and line graphs. They will evaluate similarities and differences in life cycles. Year 5 will also become a beast creator, designing and making a model killer predator that saves the world from the super-strong aphid.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On a journey – The Tall Ships, production and prom! (Y6)</b></p> <p>Year 6 will learn more about the Tall Ships Project next term – this will involve spending a day at the port, a focus on the history of the harbour and learning to sing sea shanties. Of course the children will also begin rehearsing for their upcoming end of year production: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.</p>

## **Summer 2 clubs**

*We have offered an increased number of clubs this year but due to the busy end to the year there will be fewer clubs on offer during the final half term.*

KS1 Clubs	Y3&4 clubs	Y5&6 clubs
Choir	Lunch time maths homework club	Running
Outdoor games		Homework

## **OTHER NEWS AND REMINDERS**

### **UNIFORM**

A reminder about uniform expectations was sent out recently. I would just like to again thank you for your support with this matter. We will continue to work on this in the coming weeks.

### **CHANGES TO ORDERING SCHOOL UNIFORM**

We are changing the way we deal with uniform. We do have some stocks of uniform in school, so if you do require any, please check with us first. If we do not have it in stock, you will be able to purchase it directly from our supplier Tots to Teams. You can do this via their website – [www.totstoteams.com](http://www.totstoteams.com). If you have any queries with regards to sizes, we have samples in school for your child to try on, so please just call in.

You will need to allow a minimum of 2 weeks for your order to be delivered. During the busy period of the school summer holidays, please allow a minimum of 4 weeks.

With regards to delivery you have the following options:

- Your uniform order can be delivered to school free of charge
- You can opt for your uniform to be delivered to your home address, however this will incur a delivery charge and someone must be in to sign for it (you will be contacted the day before it is due to be delivered via email).
- You can collect your order from the Tots to Teams shop on the Airport Industrial Estate, Kingston Park. They will contact you when your order is ready for collection. Please note that uniform must be pre-ordered.

### **SCHOOL MEALS**

Just a reminder that if your child has a school meal, £10.50 is payable to the school every Monday. Due to a significant amount of arrears, from now on, if your child's account is more than two weeks overdue, then you will be contacted and asked to supply your child with a packed lunch in order to prevent further arrears building up and for the debt to be cleared. Thank you for your co-operation with this. If you believe you are entitled to free school meals and would like support in applying for them, please contact Mrs Carlisle.

### **PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Thank you to those of you who have completed the parent questionnaire we sent out. Here are some of the key findings:

**100%** agree that children are happy at school, they are safe, they make good progress, are well looked after and taught well.

**95% and above** think that children receive appropriate homework, pupils are well behaved, bullying is dealt with effectively, the school is well led and managed, responds to concerns and provides valuable information about children's progress.

Whilst we are happy with the positive responses we are always looking to improve and will be acting on less positive responses on an individual basis so that we can continue to improve.

## **PARENT FORUM**

We are hoping to set up a half termly dialogue with parents, which Mrs Carlisle, our parent liaison officer will lead, but a member of the senior team will also be present. This is an opportunity to discuss school and how things are going. All are welcome, however we are unable to offer crèche facilities at this stage.

**Parents of children in EYFS: Thursday 16 June 2.15pm**

**Parent of children in Key Stage 1: Tuesday 21 June 2.15pm**

**Parents of children in Key Stage 2: Tuesday 28 June 2.15pm**

Should this be successful, we will look to run further sessions in the Autumn term. Should parents wish to attend an evening session, due to work commitments please contact Mrs Carlisle in the school office and we will look into arranging this.

## **TRANSITION**

Our transition day will be on **Tuesday 12 July**. During this time your child will spend a session with their new class teacher and find about the year to come. The idea is that all children will get to meet their new teacher on this day, however, sometimes when new teachers are appointed to start in September, who are already working in another school, it is not always possible. If this is the case we will endeavour to arrange alternative dates.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Thank you to parents who are driving down the school drive at **5mph**. If you do this, it should take 43 seconds to drive down the drive. Most parents dropping off for breakfast club are parking in the designated parking area between the school kitchens and the KS1 hall, however, some parent are still stopping on the driveway. Can I please ask for health and safety reasons that parents do not do this. We are looking to improve the parking area by providing white lined parking bays, which will hopefully further improve safety around school. Parents and staff are asked to reverse into parking bays.

Finally on Safeguarding front, can I please ask that when you are in the main reception area, mobile phones are not visible and the you **do not press the green button** next to the door to let adults into the building (even if you know them). There are signs up in reception to remind everyone of this and to keep all children safe.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing you over the final half term in school.

*Mrs Nichola Irving*

## 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.

<b>Tuesday, 7 June</b>	<b>School Re-opens</b> Equalities Week
Wednesday, 8 June	Athletics all day – Monkton Stadium – selected Year 5 and Year 6 students
Thursday, 9 June	Road Safety Training – Year 4 to Year 6
Friday, 10 June	Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations
Monday, 13 June	Forest School Week Year 6 Singing Workshop – Tall Ships Project
Tuesday, 14 June	Year 3 (Bamburgh) Plessey Woods
Wednesday, 15 June	Year 3 (Alnwick) Plessey Woods Parent information afternoon (N-Y4) on Sex and Relationship Education for children – 2.00 – 3.15 pm Workshop for Parents re Thrive in The Place – 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Thursday, 16 June	Early Years Parent Forum – 2.15 pm – Family Room Vision Screening Tests – Reception children
Monday, 20 June	SMADD week (including Sports Day) Year 6 Singing Workshop – Tall Ships Project
Tuesday, 21 June	Nursery – Tiddlywinks – Lower School Hall Parent Forum – Key Stage 1 at 2.15pm in Key Stage 2 Hall
Wednesday, 22 June	Workshop for Parents re Thrive in The Place – 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Thursday, 23 June	Year 6 Transition Day at Port of Blyth
Monday, 27 June	Be Safe Sessions for Year 4 and Year 6
Tuesday, 28 June	Parent Forum – Key Stage 2 at 2.15pm in Hall
Wednesday, 29 June	Workshop for Parents re Thrive in The Place, 3.30 – 4.30 pm Tall Ships Exhibition – 3.25 – 4.00pm
Monday, 4 July	Year 6 Tall Ships Celebration at Blyth Academy
Tuesday, 5 July	Year 6 Transition Day 1
Wednesday, 6 July	Year 6 Transition Day 2 Workshop for Parents re Thrive in The Place, 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Thursday, 7 July	Year 6 Transition Day 3 Parents/Teachers invited to a showcase of Year 6 transition work
Friday, 8 July	Non-uniform day
Tuesday, 12 July	Transition Day and Parent Meetings
Wednesday, 13 July	Workshop for Parents re Thrive in The Place – 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm Year 6 Performance - Evening only
Thursday, 14 July	Year 6 Performance - Afternoon and Evening
Tuesday, 19 July	Year 6 Prom Year 6 Leavers Assembly
<b>Thursday, 21 July</b>	<b>Summer holidays begin</b>
Friday, 26 August – Monday, 29 August	Tall Ships Regatta
<b>Monday, 5 September</b>	<b>Teacher Training Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, 6 September</b>	<b>School reopens</b>