

NEWSLETTER

June 2017

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of the last half term of the year – it is hard to believe another year has nearly passed. The second half of the summer term is always a busy one and we look forward to all that it brings. Firstly some staffing updates - Congratulations to Miss Dixon, who got married recently and will now be known as Mrs Temperley.



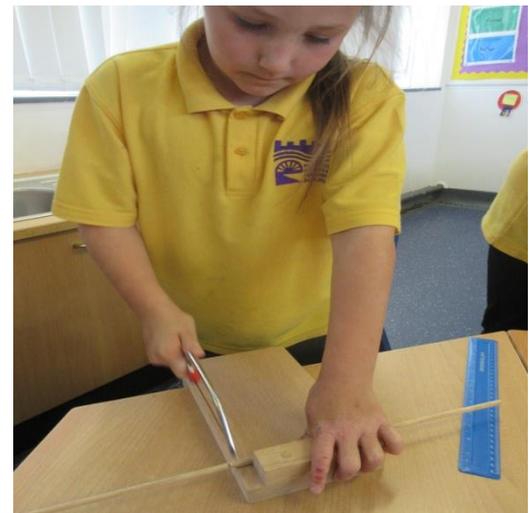
MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

As you know we started to raise funds to buy a defibrillator last term by holding a non-uniform day. These funds were added to by a very kind donation of £250 from a member of the school community and a whole school raffle to win a donated scooter. Thank you so much for the very generous donations and to everyone who bought a raffle ticket. We have now raised £626.33. We will keep fundraising in the coming months.

Well done to Year 6 too, who have been putting their enterprise skills to the test by organising a toy sale to raise funds to support their visit to Gibside. They raised £335 – wow!

PARENT LEARNING SESSIONS

Mrs Greig would like to say thank you to all parents who attended the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) open learning event. This is a relatively new venture for us which we are hoping to develop further. One parent commented *“it was lovely joining in with the children today, building model bridges and being engineers”*. Mrs Carlisle also held a parent forum, supported by Steve Rutland, discussing the huge potential for future jobs in and around Blyth and the growing need for STEM in schools to support this demand in the future. This is exciting for Blyth and we hope to involve parents in this more in the future.



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

Thank you to all parents who returned our questionnaire – we really do welcome your feedback and will be following up any areas that we may need to improve on. We were very pleased that **100%** of people felt that children were **safe** in school and that **99%** feel that their children are **happy** and **taught well**. **98%** feel that the school is **well led** and responds well to your concerns. **97%** feel that their children make **good progress**, are **well looked after**, **well behaved** and **any bullying is dealt with effectively**.

AMAZING CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT AND HOOKS FOR LEARNING

At Horton Grange we continued to enrich the children’s learning with a range of visits and residential last term. Our Year 4 children embarked on 3 days in DukesHouse Wood, where they experienced a wide variety of outdoor activities such as archery, the climbing wall (some people even got right to the top), the 3G swing and the zip wire! They developed their team building



skills in “nightline” where they were blindfolded and had to trust each other, and problem solving activities such as “marble madness”. Most importantly they had an amazing time, learned new skills and overcame many fears. For some this was their first experience of staying away from home. Well done to all who attended.

Year 1 also enjoyed an fabulous visit to St Mary’s Lighthouse and Year 5 visited Seven Stories – more later in the Newsletter.

SPORTING UPDATES **CHAMPIONS!**

On 4 May the Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Team took part in a competition at Blyth Academy. The team played six games in their league and finished as runners-up. This led them to the semi-final where they beat St Bede’s and consequently earned their place in the final of the competition. It was a tense game but our team were finally crowned winners after a “golden try” in extra time. Another fantastic achievement for Team Horton! Well done – we are extremely proud of you!



The team will now represent Blyth and Bedlington at the Northumberland School Games on 22 June along with the Year 5/6 Girls Football Team who made it through to the finals earlier in the year. This is the first year Horton Grange has made it through to the school games. **GO TEAM HORTON!**

CANCER RUN

Well done to all the runners who took part in the Cancer Run this year. They showed great resilience completing the 5 mile run and raising funds for a great cause. Thank you to parents and staff who came along too. Next year we would like to make this a family event and ask parents to run with their children.



This half term we will look forward to Athletics competitions and Sports Day.

CLUBS

There have been some new clubs in school this half-term including Yoga and Sports Leaders. Some of the Year 6 children are training to become Sports Leaders where they will lead activities and games for the younger children at lunchtimes.

ATTENDANCE

As you know attendance at school is a key indicator in ensuring children make progress academically but also to ensure friendships thrive and positive attitudes develop. Currently our overall school attendance is 95.6%. Most importantly good attendance benefits your children, but also poor attendance impacts on whether a school can be judged a “good” school. If attendance drops below 95% a school could be told it “requires improvement” by Ofsted. At Horton Grange we have worked hard to ensure your children attend a “good” school so please help us with this by



promoting good attendance, bringing the children to school unless they are too unwell to be here and not taking holidays in term time.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

TWO YEAR OLD PROVISION

The children in our Two Year Old provision have been developing their self-care skills. They have tried different foods and talked about which they liked and disliked. They also enjoyed bathing the dolls, making links with bath time at home. Two year olds have also continued to enjoy being outdoors, particularly during the milder weather when they had a picnic on the field.



NURSERY & RECEPTION

The Nursery children have been learning about growing through reading Jasper's Beanstalk, planting seeds and watching how they grow. They had great fun on a Spring walk spotting bluebells and then using what they saw to paint pictures of them. The garden role play area was also a winner!

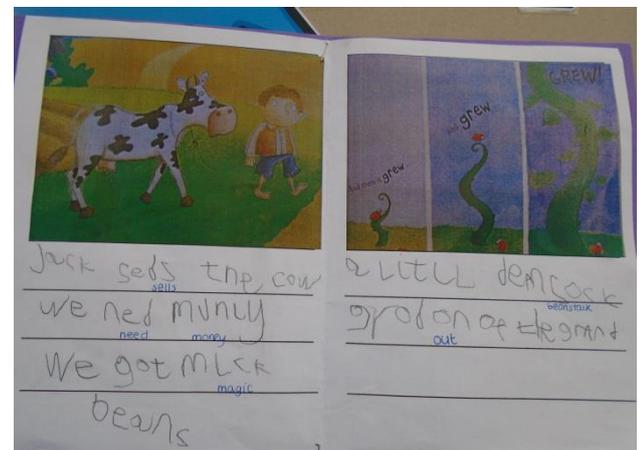


Reception children recorded their observations in a 'bean diary' and have loved reading, then writing their own version of Jack and the Beanstalk.

YEAR 1



Year 1 have enjoyed finding out about the life of Grace Darling and her heroic rescue. Some of the children have spoken and written showing great empathy for the people rescued and lost in the sea disaster. Their trip to St Mary's Lighthouse was a great success. Many of them braved the climb inside the lighthouse tower to walk up 137 steps to the top. The rock pools were great fun - finding natural resources to use in their sand art. Many parents have commented on how pleased they were to receive a postcard home following the visit. They had to take great care with their handwriting so the postman could read their address – fantastic writing for a real purpose!

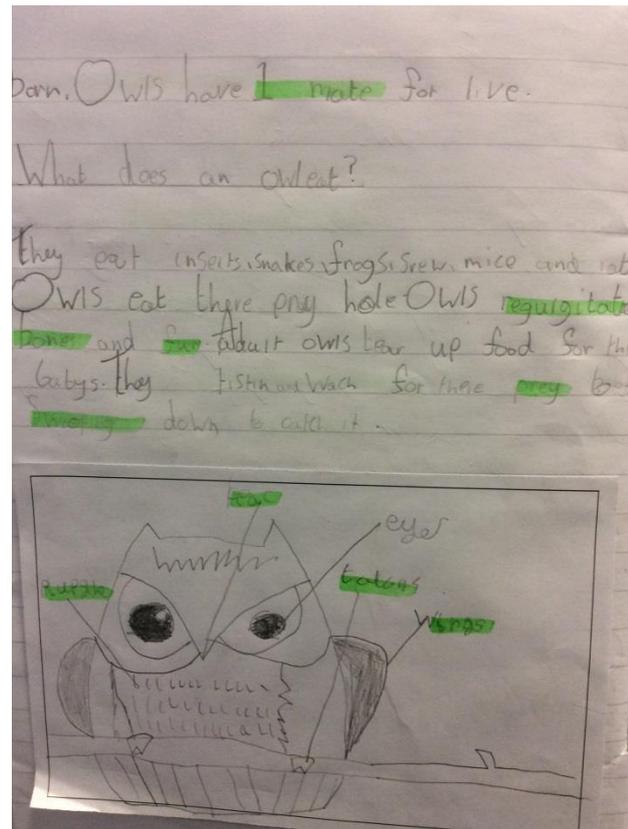


YEAR 2

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 including reading for meaning and using written strategies to solve problems in maths. They have shown real resilience and determination and we are so proud of their efforts during the SATs tests. We would like to say a great big WELL DONE!



This half term Year 2 have also delved into the exciting world of nocturnal animals. They have enjoyed finding out all about the animals to help them to write non-fiction information texts. You'll be amazed by some of the fabulous owl facts that they now know!



YEAR 3

Year 3 have had an amazing start to the summer term; looking closely at plants. They have drawn and labelled a flowering plant and can say what each part of the plant does. They have also learnt about plant reproduction and seed dispersal. They have thought about what a plant needs to be healthy and planned their own experiments to test this. One of the children wondered if a plant would grow if it was fed blackcurrant juice instead of water, so they'll be testing this in class. Year 3 have also explored the work of artist Henri Rousseau. They looked closely at line and colour, identified similarities and differences in his work and identified preferred pieces.

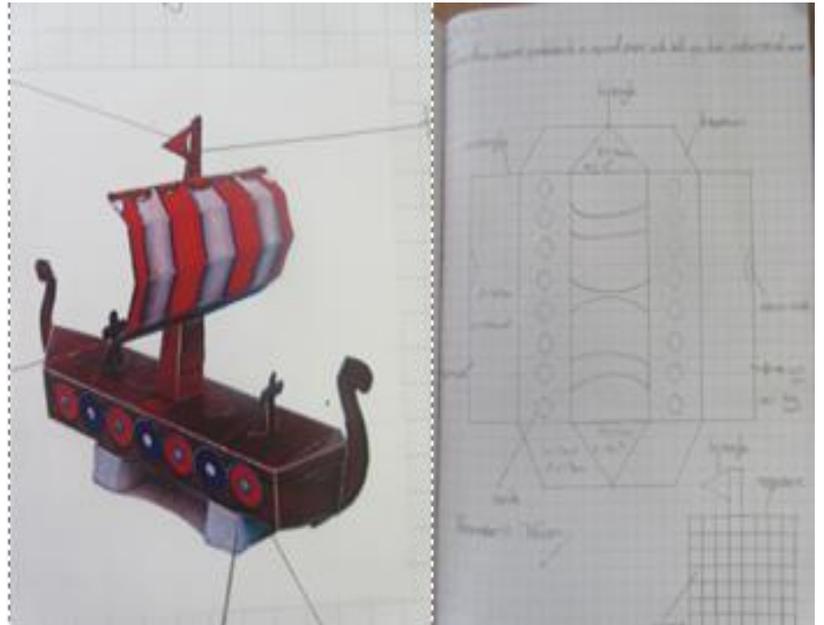
In English Year 3 have enjoyed reading Hansel and Gretel by Michael Morpurgo. The language in this text is just wonderful and it has really developed the vocabulary that the children have put into their own writing. They have written recounts, studied character and have written instructions to make a witches brew. In maths they have been learning formal methods to solve multiplication and division problems. The children have worked tirelessly to secure quick mental recall of facts from the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, and 8 times tables. By the end of Year 4 they must know all of their times tables so we have encouraged them to practise every day at home.



YEAR 4

Year 4 were fascinated by what they learnt about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. They combined this with learning about shapes in maths, designing a plan for a model of their very own Viking longship. They had to work out the net of the longship, the shapes each section needed to be and the perimeter of each section for decoration. Reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' has spurred some great writing in literacy, including a dragon training guide and fantastical descriptions of everyday objects.

In science they got to grips with states of matter, learning about evaporation and melting using water and chocolate.



YEAR 5

Year 5 had an exciting start to their "Stranded" topic when they visited Seven Stories National Centre for Children's Books. In order to understand the process of story writing, the children took part in a creative writing workshop where they practised techniques used by authors to generate ideas for their writing. Following this, they were given a tour of the Michael Morpurgo gallery where many of his works had been recreated and the children were able to read examples of his engaging literature. In the gallery, Year 5 were also able to admire some of the illustrations from the books and they really enjoyed choosing their favourite pieces. At the end of the day, the



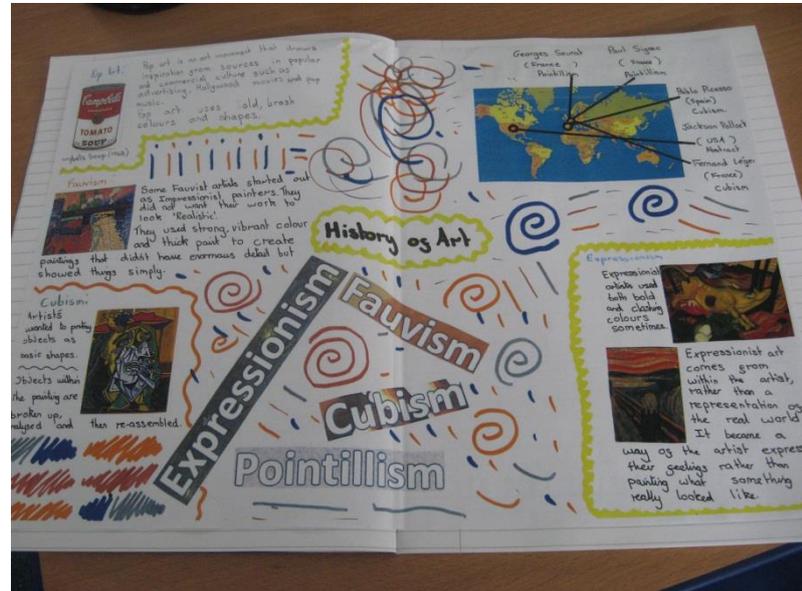
children had the opportunity to participate in an interactive story session and discussions about which book was their favourite continued all the way back to school.



On returning to school, the children used their knowledge of Michael Morpurgo's books in their Topic work based on *Kensuke's Kingdom*. The children used their geography skills to locate the countries that the main character, Michael, visited on his round the world trip. As they followed Michael's journey through the story, the children went on to create a soundtrack to a scene in Music and used their Design Technology skills to create annotated sketches and exploded diagrams of a shelter that Michael used on the island.

YEAR 6

Well, they did it! SATs week has been and gone and Year 6 are still smiling! All the children worked hard on the build up to their tests - very well done to those who showed extra commitment and conscientiousness by attending revision clubs. Breakfast Club helped us all get through SATs week and a special thank you goes to Mrs Freeman for providing our delicious sausage and bacon sandwiches.



In their topic lessons this term, Year 6 have been learning about important art such as Impressionism, Fauvism and Surrealism. This has been an interesting topic and the presentation of work has been exceptional.

THE PLACE

The children in The Place this term have enjoyed learning about different vegetables. Tasting sessions encouraged the children to recognise a wide range of vegetables by sight, taste, colour and texture. They have also spent time outside planting the garden with potatoes, carrots, beetroot, beans and peas. Recently planted fruit trees including apple, plums and pears are also now a feature of our developing garden. The children take turns to tend and care for the plants in order to eventually harvest and hopefully eat them.



TOPICS FOR SUMMER TERM

The topic overviews for this half term 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.

Year	Class text	Topic – Summer 2
Nursery	Lola's Holiday	Nursery will be learning about Journeys. “Where are you going and where have you been?” They will be bringing in photographs of a journey or holiday they have been on to look at and talk about. Role play will be around a Travel Office where they can book up and go on a journey. The children will also be making maps and listening to stories about journeys such as The Train Ride; Whatever Next! and Lola's Holiday.
Reception	Superworm by Julia Donaldson	Reception will be getting muddy whilst exploring minibeasts in their new topic “overground, underground and on the ground” . They will take on the role of minibeast detectives as we explore, investigate and discover! Lots of fun will be had at Plessey Woods, where they will be orienteering, pond dipping and catching butterflies. Reception are also looking forward to their graduation where they will be talking about all of the fantastic learning they have done this year.
Year 1	Dear Polar Bear by Barry Ablett Rumble in the Jungle by Gillian Andreae	Year 1 topic is “Crazy Climates” finding out what you can see in hot and cold lands. They will explore the clothing they might wear in hot and cold places. In science the children will name the parts of the body and link the correct part of the human body to each of the 5 senses.
Year 2	Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown	Year 2 will be getting creative, crafty and colourful with our new topic “Messy Materials” . They will put their scientific skills to the test to complete investigations about materials. They are looking forward to SMADD week where they will explore the work of Anthony Gormley and use their imaginations to create their own sculptural pieces inspired by his work.
Year 3	War and Peas by Michael Foreman	This half term is an exciting one for Year 3! They will be attending The Glendale Children's Countryside Day to learn more about the journey of food from the farm to their plates. The children will also be taking part in Forest School with Mr Hogg, where they will visit Plessey Woods to build dens, make woodland art and go pond dipping. Back in school they will make miniature gardens and model houses, which will be judged by Year 5 to see how economically friendly they are. As part of their continuing investigation of plants the children will also be growing from seed in a variety of conditions to see how they are affected.
Year 4	Fergus Crane by Paul Stewart.	Year 4 will be going deep into an underwater world of incredible coral and mysterious sea creatures. They will be looking at a range of poetry and then moving on to their class text Fergus Crane by Paul Stewart. They will make a model deep-sea submarine that can withstand great pressure and travel to the deepest, darkest places on Earth making sure they test it first! What are those bright lights in the distance? It's a group of bioluminescent sea creatures! They will look closely and create a colourful, 3D art exhibition when they rise to the surface. Flippers on? Snorkel ready? Let's head into the blue abyss.
Year 5	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs.	Year 5 will be exploring the exciting topic “Time Traveller” . In this art and design based topic they will look at great artists and photographers from the past and create their own artwork using similar techniques. They will be using the idea of time travel to explore changes over time and will link this to the mysterious class text.
Year 6	Iron Fist by Andy Criggs (continued)	Year 6 will focus on a topic about Mexico which covers all areas of learning. They will also continue with lessons on enterprise in order to raise money. In Literacy we will be writing newspaper reports, myths/legends and traditional tales. During whole class reading time, we will look at the tales of the Brothers Grimm. Gibside is something Year 6 are looking forward to as well as the Prom and Leavers' Assembly.

SUMMER 2 - CLUBS

Year 1/2	Years 3/4	Years 5/6
Outdoor Games Outdoor Learning Science	Coding Debating - no takers	Yoga Sports Leader Athletics

ROAD SAFETY

I know that the temporary removal of lights on Cowpen Road was a concern for us all in terms of supporting pupils to be safe; we are pleased they are now replaced again. Thank you to parents who informed us when there were issues with crossing next to Asda. As a result, we contacted representatives at the Local Authority who helped rectify the matter. I know that some parents did this directly too – thank you! We have also contacted our local Councillor Grant Davey to arrange a meeting regarding our ongoing concerns surrounding access to school from Cowpen Road, but I am still awaiting a response. An advert for a crossing patrol person for Tynedale Drive has been out for a long time now but nobody has yet applied for the job. We agree this would improve safety for our pupils, so if you know of anyone who may wish to apply for the post please look at the details below:

The Council is actively recruiting for a new School Crossing Patrol officer to be based at Tynedale Drive.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in the role please ask them to apply via North East Jobs. For further information please contact Katie Lowes on 01670 622386 or email: Katie.Lowes@northumberland.gov.uk or alternatively ring parking services on 01670 620220.

The role of School Crossing Patrol is a valuable and rewarding role, working for usually up to an hour in the morning (8-9) and up to an hour in the afternoon (3-4) in term time only, but these hours vary slightly depending on the site.

The basic duties include the safe passage of children and adults across roads at school time and you must be able to follow straightforward instructions and to work outdoors all year round. Successful applicants will receive full training, uniform and the Northumberland Living Wage Supplement in addition to their basic salary.

This position is salaried under band 1 of Northumberland County Council's local pay grades however the post attracts an enhancement which increases the hourly rate to £7.85 per hour, the Northumberland living wage.

BREAKFAST CLUB TRAFFIC

Our breakfast club is becoming increasingly popular and as a result there is an increasing amount on traffic on the school site at this time, especially for the club opening at 8.00am. As children are also arriving by foot for breakfast club this increases risk. School has taken action to help reduce risk over recent years by:

- Widening the drive into school
- Providing a zebra crossing
- Installing a railing to separate pedestrians from cars
- Providing parking behind the school kitchen for drop off
- Providing a turning circle
- Having a 5mph speed limit on the drive
- Installing speed bumps
- Restricting car access at certain times

I am pleased that most people are now adhering to the 5mph speed limit on the drive so thank you for that. However, some people are still stopping on the drive and are not parking considerately. Can I please ask that parents do not park directly in front of the zebra crossing or on the driveway?

Currently, I am taking advice on breakfast club parking and have, in fact, been advised by Health and Safety at County Hall not to allow cars on site and request that parents park in Asda and walk children to breakfast club. This is not an ideal solution and as a working parent myself I fully understand how hectic mornings can be, but safety on the school site must be a priority. Whilst we are considering options, can I please ask that cars are parked in a considerate and orderly manner in the area provided, that speed restrictions are followed and cars do not park up on the driveway?

UNIFORM

Can I please remind parents that it is not appropriate for skirts to be too short for school. We have noticed that this is becoming a little bit of an issue and would like to ask that parents support school with this matter. I appreciate it is getting towards the end of the year, but trainers should also not be worn, except for PE or outdoor play. We are purchasing a set of new black plimsoles for school. Children who do not wear appropriate footwear will be provided with these to wear indoors on that day.

FIDGET SPINNERS

We had hoped we could avoid this but fidget spinners are now causing unnecessary distractions and in some cases arguments at lunch times. Can I please ask that children **do not** bring these into school?

Conduct

Finally, a polite reminder about conduct of adults on the school site. Please remember to be a role model for your children whilst on the school yard. Any personal fall outs should not be brought onto the school site.

I shall look forward to seeing you in school over the final half term at Sports Day, Celebration Assemblies and Year 6 Leavers Assembly.

Best wishes

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.

Monday, 5 June	School Re-opens Equalities Week Parent drop in 3.30-4.00pm
Wednesday, 7 June	Athletics all day – Monkton Stadium – selected Year 5 and Year 6 students
Thursday, 8 June	Year 3 trip to Glendale Show - all day
Monday, 12 June	Forest School Week – Year 3 Bikeability Cycle Training week – Year 5
Tuesday, 13 June	Year 3 (Bamburgh) Plessey Woods
Wednesday, 14 June	Year 3 (Alnwick) Plessey Woods Hilton Primary football friendly – Year 3 and 4
Friday, 16 June	Den Day (The Place) Early Years Sports Day Nursery morning children – 9.00 – 10.00 am Nursery afternoon children – 1.00 – 2.00 pm All Reception classes – 2.00 – 3.00 pm Year 2 Trip to Rising Sun Country Park
Monday, 19 June	Sports Day (weather permitting) 9.15 am – Year 5 & Year 6 10.45 am – Year 3 & Year 4 1.30 pm – Year 1 & Year 2
Thursday, 22 June	Gibside residential trip – Year 6 Northumberland School Games – Girls Football Year 5/6 Tag Rugby – Year 3/4 Early Years Stay and Play
Friday 23 June	Gibside residential trip returns
Monday, 3 July	Parent Drop in – 3.30 – 4.00pm
Tuesday, 4 July	Early Years Tiddlywinks
Thursday, 6 July	Reception trip to Plessey Woods Year 6 Prom – 6.00-8.30pm
Friday, 7 July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly – 2.00pm
Monday, 10 July	Year 6 Transition to Blyth Academy – 2 weeks
Tuesday, 11 July	Parent Consultation Meetings
Monday, 17 July	Early Years Graduation
Monday, 17 July, Tuesday 18 July, Wednesday 19 July	Transition sessions and meet new teachers
Tuesday, 18 July	Key Stage 1 Celebration Event 9.15am – Y1 & Y2 Key Stage 2 Celebration Event 2.00pm – Y3, Y4, Y5
Friday, 21 July	Summer holidays begin
Monday, 4 September	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday, 5 September	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday, 6 September	School Re-opens