

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of the last term of the year – and isn't it lovely to have longer days and some sunshine at last. I hope you all had a great Easter break.

The second half of the spring term proved to be short but very busy, with many highlights and some goodbyes....

We said goodbye to Mrs Moore in the office just before the holidays as she embarked upon retirement. She will be a great miss but we wish her luck and hope she enjoys the time ahead. Mrs Freeman will take over from Mrs Moore in the office. She joins us with significant experience from The Blyth Academy and we'd like to welcome her to the team.

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

The role of the school council continues to grow and this term they have lead an assembly on British Values. As usual they were full of confidence and spoke articulately, exemplifying how we can live by British Values. They spoke about:

- Democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

These British Values fit well with our Horton Values and we will continue to reward children in school who regularly display them. Just as a reminder our Horton Values are underpinned by our motto – **Learning together to be the best we can be** and our Horton values are:

Happy, healthy and hardworking

On a journey together to be the best we can be

Respectful, responsible and resilient

Truthful and tolerant

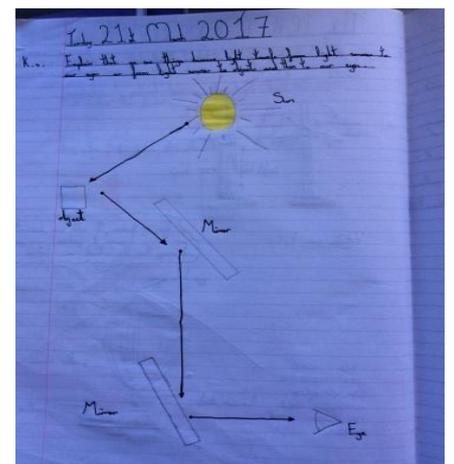
Open minded and outward looking delivering

New experiences, new horizons and excellent outcomes for all

Thank you also for all your contributions through non-uniform days, raising money for Comic Relief and to support the school in the future to purchase a defibrillator (an essential life-saving machine). These machines are very expensive and it is likely we will need to use funds from several non-uniform days in the coming year.

PARENT LEARNING SESSIONS

Unfortunately the parent open learning session scheduled for Tuesday 28 March could not take place. We have rearranged this for **Tuesday 23 May**. There will be a STEM focus (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) and parents will be able to work with their children on an element of a Design & Make task. Science has been a big focus in school this year and Mrs Greig, our Science Lead, has been super impressed with what she has seen in books.



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. Once again Year 5 embarked on an exciting annual trip to London, a highlight of the year and for many a highlight of their time at Horton Grange. This year they even got to see the Queen! Further details can be found later in the Newsletter.



SPORTING UPDATES

It's been a very busy half-term for sport at Horton Grange, with at least one event taking place each week.

U11 Football League

The Y5/6 Football Team played their last fixtures of the year at Chantry Middle School earlier in March. Well done to all of the team for their hard work and commitment this season. They are already training hard for next year!

Year 5 Boys Football Tournament/Year 6 Boys Football Tournament

The Year 5 Football Team and the Year 6 Football Team were both in action earlier in the half-term. Both teams tried hard in two very tough groups. Well done to the Year 6 team who finished third overall in their group.

We also received some lovely feedback from Ian Storey, who runs the county football team about Sam Browning, our Year 6 sports captain.

"I just wanted to pass on some good news about Sam Browning. He was man of the match for East Northumberland Schools' on Saturday and scored twice in a 4-2 win. Throughout the season with East North', as well as in games I have seen him play for school, I have found Sam to be a great player with a fantastic attitude and work rate. He is a real credit to your school and you should be very proud of him."

Well done Sam!

Year 4 Girls Netball Tournament

The Year 4 Netball Team had a fantastic time at their first ever netball tournament. The team lost just one match in the group stages and rightly earned themselves a place in the semi-finals. The team were beaten by the eventual winners of the trophy but they all had a fantastic time and can't wait to attend the Year 5 tournament next year.



Dance Festival – Year 6

The Year 6 Dance Team created and performed a dance for the Dance Festival at Blyth Academy. This was a new event for the children of Horton Grange and they were all very excited to take part. The team practised for many weeks leading up to the Dance Festival during their lunchtimes and VIP Time. All of the team made a great improvement throughout their rehearsals and put on a fantastic performance on the day.



Clubs

There have been a number of sports clubs running this half term including two new clubs - Kickboxing and Hip Hop Dance. The children who have taken part in these clubs have thoroughly enjoyed trying something new.

Year 6 Hockey Tournament

The Year 6 Hockey Team took part in a tournament at Blyth Sporting Club at the end of March. The team have been working very hard on their hockey skills during PE lessons and this showed throughout the tournament. They had a great afternoon and worked well together as a team.



READING UPDATE

World Book Day on 2 March was again a great success. The children all made a tremendous effort with costumes and the lucky winners took home a new book.

We continue to promote reading not only as a life skill but also for the pure enjoyment of sitting down and enjoying a book.

Each half term this year the children have been fortunate to have new class sets of stories to read in class as part of their topic. We have had really positive feedback from the children about how much they have enjoyed them.

Please encourage your children to read at home over the holidays - they are all welcome to bring home one of our books from the library.



ATTENDANCE

WE HAVE 68 CHILDREN WHO HAVE ACHIEVED 100% ATTENDANCE FROM SEPTEMBER TO NOW. KEEP GOING IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DAY OFF THIS YEAR YET SO YOU GET YOUR REWARD AT THE END OF THE YEAR!

100% ATTENDANCE BY YEAR SINCE SEPTEMBER		
NURSERY	4	129 CHILDREN HAVE MANAGED 100% OVER THE SPRING TERM AND WILL OF COURSE GET THEIR BANDS AND PRIZES. WELL DONE EVERYONE!
RECEPTION	5	
Y1	5	
Y2	8	
Y3	13	
Y4	11	
Y5	11	
Y6	11	LET'S SEE WHO CAN MAKE 100% OVER THE SUMMER TERM

Summer 1 is an important term for Year 2 and Year 6 with key Statutory Assessments taking place. Please support your child to have good attendance so that they have the best chance they can to fulfill their potential.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

TWO YEAR OLD PROVISION

The children in our two year old provision have been exploring the weather. They enjoyed splashing in muddy puddles and making streamers, which they watched blowing in the wind, and exploring their shadows on sunny days. The children developed their independence and their dressing skills in attempting to put on their outdoor clothing themselves. This was a great opportunity to learn lots of new words too.



The children have also had a very busy few days baking lots of cakes which we have sold around the school. A huge thank you to everyone who bought a cake. The money raised will be used to buy some new climbing and balancing equipment.

NURSERY

The nursery children loved dancing with Tiddlywinks. They went on a Gingerbread Man adventure. Everyone enjoyed dressing up as a character from the story and moving to the music.





Nursery children also enjoyed playing in the role play farm shop, buying and selling vegetables. They learnt where vegetables come from and which foods keep us strong, fit and healthy. They cooked some country vegetable soup and enjoyed tasting it.



RECEPTION

The children in Reception returned after half term to find 10 eggs in the classroom! They were very excited to find out what was inside. The eggs soon hatched and they had some cute, fluffy chicks to look after. The children took great care of their chicks, handling them gently and making sure they had plenty of food and water. They enjoyed writing about what happened to the eggs.

Reception had an amazing day at Tweddle Farm. The children got to feed and handle lots of animals and went for a ride on the farmer's tractor! What a fantastic experience! The children loved it and were a credit to our school. Thank you so much to all the parent helpers as the trip would not have been possible without your support! Teachers are currently planning the next visit for the Summer term.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have loved their class text – Jack and the Beanstalk, which has fitted in perfectly with their spring topic looking at “Roots, Shoots and Fruits.” The children have each planted peas and beans and have enjoyed observing how they grow and talking about the best conditions to make them grow. They have discovered seeds come in many sizes, shapes and colours. Also the children have tasted a variety of fruits and then decided which fruits they would like to use to make a smoothie. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the homework. In particular the fruit and vegetable sculptures.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have had another fun and creative half term. The “Moon Landing” topic has taken us to the stars and back. Once again they became history detectives and used a range of sources to find out all about the past and the life of the world famous Neil Armstrong. They looked at a timeline of space travel and discovered that he was the first man on the Moon. They then made their own life timeline and plotted some big life events like learning to ride a bike and reading their first book. They also designed and made some fantastic rocket bookmarks for World Book Day. Year 2 have been busy in the computer room this half term and have been developing their coding skills. They can now programme a space rocket to fly. They have also been testing out their “green fingers” and have planted some beans, they will have to wait and see if they grow into a big beanstalk. Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenge; our spaceship is full of amazing rockets and terrifying aliens!



YEAR 3

This half term Year 3 read *Iron Man* by *Ted Hughes* and wrote newspaper reports about the arrival of the Space Bat Angel Dragon. In design and technology they have designed their own 2d Iron Man and in French they have enjoyed learning to say the different colours. Science has been a key focus once again where they have had fun investigating magnetism both indoors and out.



YEAR 4

This term Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their science topic Burps, Bile and Bottoms. They have drawn the human digestive system on a t-shirt, experimented with saliva and baked beans and tested out their teeth. They have investigated the amount of sugar in our favourite drinks and were shocked by the results – better stick to water.



The children have loved their class novel *The Demon Dentist* and this has been reflected in the great writing they have been doing around it.



Next term Year 4 will be entering the Dark Ages as we learn about Vikings and Saxons in our topic Traders and Raiders. Of course the children will also be looking forward to their trip to Dukeshouse Wood at the end of May, which promises to be a real adventure and a great learning experience.

YEAR 5

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their trip to London. It was an amazing experience which all of the children thoroughly enjoyed. After the long and tiring bus journey, the children's days were jam-packed with new experiences and exciting events. The children had great fun exploring museums, viewing the sights from the dizzying heights of the London Eye, singing along to Matilda the Musical and flying broomsticks at Harry Potter Studios - it truly was an unforgettable experience! A highlight for everyone was seeing the Queen on their sightseeing tour – check out the school's website for the video evidence! The children's behaviour was remarkable and all of the staff were proud of their sensible attitudes when exploring our capital city.



After the excitement of their London trip, Year 5 returned to school to use their newly acquired London knowledge to



help them complete numerous activities across the curriculum. Firstly, the children wrote a recount and prepared presentations about their trip to London. It was lovely to read and hear how much the children had enjoyed their experiences on the residential. As part of their STEM bridges project, Year 5 investigated how forces act upon bridges and other objects. In Art the



children sketched different London bridges using a variety of techniques. The children also learned about the history of the London Bridge and how it has changed over time.

YEAR 6

Spring 2 seems to have flown over and SATs are looming large on the horizon for Year 6 – more information on that to follow below... This term, the children have loved their topic on Tomorrow's World: they enjoyed writing both suspense and science fiction narrative which have really fired up their imaginations to produce some very creative and original stories! Discovering how our eyes work was a revelation and the children produced some excellent work from their own research. Studying the history of computing has been fascinating and they thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the code-breakers of Bletchley Park during World War II – we even did some code-breaking of our own. A highlight of last term was a visit to the Blyth Academy gym where the children really pushed themselves to meet various chocolate challenges! They had to use gym equipment to burn off calories equivalent to various chocolate bars. Not everyone met the challenge but they all had tremendous fun and definitely “felt the burn”.



Next term, Year 6 will focus on a topic called “Gallery Rebels” which is all about artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. This will provide some welcome art lessons as the children are building up to SATs week which commences Monday 8 May. There will be a test every day that week apart from Friday when we hope to do something exciting – more information to follow. Thank you to those who have signed up for SATs revision clubs – there is still time to add your name to the list! We will be running a free breakfast club for Year 6 children during SATs week and a letter will be on its way to you soon.

TOPICS FOR SUMMER 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 1.

Year	Class text	Topic – Summer 1
Nursery	Jasper Beanstalk	How does your garden grow? Nursery will be growing seeds, looking after them and watching them grow. They will be singing songs and rhymes, listening to stories about growing and learning about all the things you can buy in a Garden Centre.
Reception	The Tiny Seed Jack and the Beanstalk	Next half term Reception will be learning all about growing . They will plant their own seeds and watch them grow. They will be talking about the changes and what the seeds will need to help them grow successfully.
Year 1	The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by David Armitage	Oh I do like to be beside the seaside! Year 1 will learn about the life of Grace Darling and compare seaside destinations in the past and present. They will also design and make a fruit ice lolly to enjoy at the seaside and look at the structure of boats in Science when they investigate floating and sinking.
Year 2	The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson Owl babies by Martin Waddell	Don't be afraid of the dark! The children will be learning about nocturnal animals and creating their own class book of animal facts. They will identify and classify animals as well as learn about food chains.
Year 3	Fright Forest by Marcus Sedgwick Hansel & Gretel by Michael Morpurgo	From farm to fork Year 3 will learn about planting and growing and how we get the food we eat. They will also learn about life cycles.
Year 4	How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell	Traders and Raiders. Year 4 will set sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. They will find out about the life of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from. Next, we will meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia.
Year 5	Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo	Stranded Year 5 will become stranded on a desert island -just like the main character in Kensuke's Kingdom. The topic will be based on reading and the children will complete a project including tasks from across the curriculum.
Year 6	The Iron Fist by Andy Briggs (continued)	Gallery Rebels We will learn about the lives of famous artists and their work with a view to writing biographies. In art, we will use different media to re-create famous works of art or design new pieces in the style of a chosen artist.

Summer 1 term clubs

KS1 Clubs	Years 3 & 4 Clubs	Years 5 & 6 Clubs
Science experiment	Futsal	Football
Learning outdoors	Debating Years 4 & 5	Futsal (Y5)
Games outdoors	Coding Club Year 3 Lunchtime	Sports Leaders (Y6)
		Yoga (Y5)
		SATS revision club (Y6)
	Kickboxing Club Years 3 to 6	

E-SAFETY

Just a reminder that in order to have a Facebook page children should be at least 13. It has been brought to our attention that some children younger than this have Facebook pages. We have contacted parents about this. In the meantime if any children link to the school Facebook page from their own accounts they will be blocked.

LIVE KITCHEN

Our new system for school meals is going well and the children are enjoying having a choice for lunch. I would encourage you all to sign up for an account so you can pre-order your child's lunch. Forms are available from main reception. There is also the option to sign up for direct debit payment making dinner money easier to manage. If you prefer to pay cash – £10.75 is payable on a Monday.

Could I also remind you that the school policy is that you cannot go more than 2 weeks in arrears. If this is the case, you will be contacted and asked to provide a packed lunch for your child until the arrears are paid.

If your child has any allergens, please add this information to their account. This will prevent them from ordering a meal that is not suitable for them. Also, let us know of any specific dietary requirements.

TABLE MANNERS – we need your help!

We have noticed some children are not using their knives and forks correctly at school. For younger children we realise this is a skill they may still be learning. We will of course support younger children with this in school but please can you remind children to use their knife and fork correctly and where necessary support them at home.

PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT

Just a reminder that if you are in receipt of the benefits listed below school will receive additional funds into their budget. This is used to help fund additional intervention / support and subsidise the range of school visits for the children who are entitled to this funding. It also entitles your child to free school meals beyond Year 2. Even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1 and you do not pay for lunch under the universal free school meals programme you should still apply to ensure these additional funds, which benefit your children are received. For more information, or support with completing the form please contact Mrs Carlisle, our parent liaison officer, who will happily advise and support you with the process. You must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- 1- Child Tax Credit Only - Income below £16,190 (Families receiving Working Tax Credit are not eligible)
- 2 -Income Support
- 3- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- 4- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- 5- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- 6- The Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

UNIFORM

Another polite reminder regarding hair. Extremes in fashion are not appropriate for school and in line with school guidelines hair should not be cut less than a number 2. Please support the school in this matter.

Finally, just a reminder that the speed limit on the drive into school is 5mph. I have seen several parents who are driving faster than this on the way out of school after breakfast club. Can I also remind parents to park considerately in the designated area.

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.

Tuesday, 25 April – Friday 4, May	SATS morning revision club 8.20am SATS after school revision club 3.15 – 4.15 (except Fridays)
Thursday, 27 April	Futsal starts – Lower School Hall – 3.30 – 4.30 pm Kickboxing – 3.35 – 4.30 pm
Monday, 1 May	Bank holiday – school closed
Wednesday, 3 May	Year 5 trip to Seven Stories Reception – Hearing Tests (pm)
Thursday, 4 May	Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby – Blyth Academy Reception – Hearing Tests (pm) Futsal – Lower School Hall – 3.30 – 4.30 pm Kickboxing – 3.35 – 4.30 pm
Monday, 8 May	Key Stage 2 SATS week Parent drop in session after school until 4.00 pm
Thursday, 11 May	Year 1 visit to St Mary’s Lighthouse, Whitley Bay – all day Futsal – Lower School Hall - 3.30 – 4.30 pm Kickboxing – 3.35 – 4.30 pm
Thursday, 18 May	Futsal 3.30 – 4.30 pm lower school hall – last session Kickboxing – 3.35 – 4.30 pm
Sunday, 21 May	Year 5 & 6 Children’s Cancer Run, Gosforth Race Course
Monday, 22 – Wednesday, 24 May	Year 4 residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood
Tuesday, 23 May	Parent Open Day 9.05 - 10.00 am Key Stage 2 Parents 2.15 – 3.15 pm Key Stage 1 Parents
Wednesday, 24 May	Parent Forum meeting – 2.00 pm
Thursday, 25 May	Kickboxing – 3.35 – 4.30 pm
Monday, 29 May	School closed for half-term holiday
Monday, 5 June	School re-opens Equalities week Parent drop in session after school until 4.00 pm
Thursday, 8 June	Kickboxing 3.35 – 4.30 pm last session