

NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Dear Parents and Friends

Where does time go to? It doesn't seem five minutes since I was wishing you all a Happy New Year and here we are again looking back over an action packed half term, with lots of news to share. Keep checking our facebook page and twitter for more regular new updates.



PARENT OPEN LEARNING SESSIONS

Thank you to parents who attended our computing and E-Safety sessions on Tuesday 7 February. There was a great turn out and we received some very positive feedback from parents. One parent commented 'it was very interesting and good to see all the children aware of some of the dangers online'. Our next parent open learning session will be on Tuesday 28 March. 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.

Are you or someone you know entitled to free 30 hours provision for your 3 year old?

Working parents could be eligible for 30 hours Free Nursery childcare for your 3 and 4 year olds from September 2017.

Eligibility rules for 30 hours free childcare:

- Your child will be aged 3 or 4 when the scheme starts in your area
- Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000
- You live in England

From September 2017, we are looking to provide a limited number of 30 hour nursery places for eligible families. After half term we will be surveying what your needs are around flexible childcare, in order to further develop Early Years provision within Horton Grange. If you think you may be eligible please get in touch and speak to Mrs McGuire.

STEM EVENT

Speaking of STEM, 10 Year 6 girls were lucky enough to attend a fantastic event run by Accenture, aimed at encouraging girls into the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths. There was a huge array of inspiring workshops, stalls and people to talk including geologist from Durham University to engineers from the RAF. They had a chance to test their code cracking skills with a homeland security task and wire a driverless car which they controlled with an ipad! Technology really is the future and the girls showed they are ready to take on the STEM world! They were fantastic ambassadors and came back to school full of ideas of how to inspire others.

Watch this space to see STEM development at Horton Grange!



New clubs!

Spring saw the start of **Coding Club** for year 3. It has proved to be a very popular club where children continue to develop their programming and de-bugging skills whilst working on Purple Mash projects. It is great to see the children persevere with projects that perhaps don't go right first time. They show real resilience during the debugging process and are delighted when they successfully complete a challenge.



Kick boxing classes

Kick boxing classes and after school club for Key Stage 2 are now in full swing and the children love the expert coaching, fun and fitness that James is providing. Future sessions will be offered if your child missed out this time!

SPORTING UPDATES

It has been another busy half-term for sport at Horton Grange.

Year 6 Athletics Competition

At the start of the half-term, some of the Year 6 children took part in the Sports Hall Indoor Athletics Competition at Blyth Leisure Centre. The children took part in a range of events including the Obstacle Relay, Standing Long Jump and Speed Bounce. The whole team put on a fantastic performance and won the afternoon heat. The team were runners-up in the overall competition. An excellent achievement – well done!



Year 1 Multi-skills Day

KS1 have also been busy. In January, some of the Year 1 children took part in a Multi-skills Day held at Blyth Leisure Centre. The children learned lots of new skills and enjoyed their day.

Year 5 Netball Tournament

This half-term the Year 5 Netball Team took part in their first tournament of the year. The girls played four matches in their section and the scores were very close. They finished third in their group overall. All of the team showed great sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done girls!

Year 6 Netball Tournament



The Year 6 Netball Team have also been in action this month. They played in their final tournament of the year at Blyth Leisure Centre. The girls played five games in a very difficult group. Again the scores were very close and the girls finished fourth in their group overall. It has been fantastic to see how well the girls' netball skills have improved over the course of the year. Well done to you all.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

2 Year olds

The two-year-old provision has expanded this term to offer an additional four spaces each day. The new starters have been very busy exploring all of the activities on offer from sharing songs and stories in a small group to playing in our role play shop. We would also like to welcome our new member of staff, Sarah Anderson, to the team in 2 Year olds. She has significant experience in Early Years Settings.



Sarah Anderson



Nursery

The nursery children have been reading the story Percy the Park Keeper and his Winter Storm. They have been acting out the story using puppets and costumes. They were learning to retell the story using story language and different voices for all the animals.



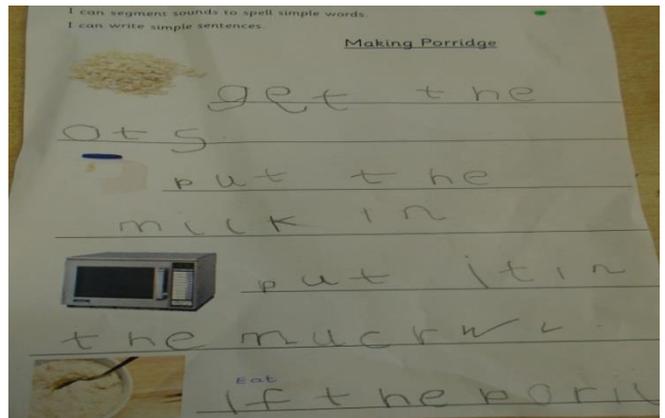
The children learnt from the story that some animals need extra help to help them survive a cold winter and decided to make bird feeders. They used lard, dried bread and seeds to make the bird feeders and hung them in the outdoor area so the bird would not be hungry during winter. The children took them home to hang on a tree; someone even took theirs to the park.



Reception

Reception children have enjoyed learning about bears this half term! They used the internet to find out about different bears and then wrote some interesting facts. They have also been reading lots of stories about bears and enjoyed role-playing 'Whatever Next' with a trip to the moon! They loved re-telling 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and made some fantastic story maps.

Children made some porridge for the Three Bears and enjoyed tasting it. They then wrote instructions.



Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed their class text *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson. They learnt the story off by heart using actions to help them. They then made books and enjoyed taking time to use writing frames to retell the story.

The work of Andy Goldsworthy has been the focus in Art. He liked to use natural materials in his work so the children used natural objects to create pictures and patterns in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.

In Geography, they have been learning about the countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities. They have enjoyed finding out about each country's flag and how these make up the Union Jack.



Science involved investigating the best material to repair a broken umbrella! They explored different materials, asking questions, and then made a prediction as to the best material to use. By recording daily weather information they have also become our resident weather experts!

Year 2

Year 2 have once again had a great half term. The 'Amazing Africa' topic has been a roaring success. It all started with a mysterious parcel that had been delivered to Year 2. It was full of weird and wonderful pictures, artefacts, music, paintings, maps and books. The children had to use their research skills to work out where in the world the trunk came from. After their investigation they discovered that it had travelled all the way from South Africa. They then had the tricky task of comparing an area of South Africa with Blyth. They had to study their local environment, making



maps and finally write a review for 'Trip Advisor'. They then compared their day at Horton Grange to a child's day in a South African school. They noticed that some things were similar but others were very different. They became Maasai warriors and designed and made their own warrior necklace and mask. Some of them were truly terrifying! Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenge. The KS1 corridor looks like the African jungle!



Year 3



Children in year 3 became geologists in Spring term. They investigated rock and studied the formation of volcanoes. Taking on the role of university researchers, they worked independently to find out facts from different sources. They were hands on, exploring different rocks, posing questions and making suggestions for their own investigation.

Once again the standard of homework that has been handed in has been incredible! We have received newspaper reports about volcanoes around the world, poems and, of course, some amazing volcano models. Well done!



Year 4

This term Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic Road Trip USA. They have built Iroquois longhouses and skyscrapers and have developed their art skills by drawing famous landmarks and portraits of President Trump. The science focus for this term was electricity and the children have really got to grips with building and testing circuits, adding components such as lights and switches.



Year 5

Year 5 have been busy preparing for their Brazilian carnival. The children focused on using their Geography skills at the start of topic, locating South America and then Brazilian cities using maps and atlases.

When they began preparing for our carnival they needed to first decide on a theme (Etal – Under the Sea; Lindisfarne – The Rainforest). Each class used their design technology skills to develop an appealing and purposeful class costume. The children then went on to design

their own masks and t-shirts and, after evaluating their prototypes, created their costumes using a range of equipment and materials. There were some very interesting and thoughtful creations which the children were excited to show off at the carnival!





Each class also learned a dance using a range of movement patterns which incorporated Brazilian Capoeira and Samba styles. Some children have also been working hard to learn a Samba-inspired musical performance to showcase at the carnival celebration.



Year 6

Spring 1 was a demanding but enjoyable term for year 6, having experienced a trial SATs week whilst having lots of fun investigating Charles Darwin as well as the Amazon rainforest. The children always love using atlases and they worked hard to identify rainforests of the world including the Amazon, then researched the huge diversity of creatures which live there, identifying how they have evolved to survive in their environment. They particularly enjoyed learning about the Pink River Dolphin which is almost blind and the Poison Arrow Dart Frog whose poison is lethal enough to kill one hundred adults even though it's only the size of a paper clip!

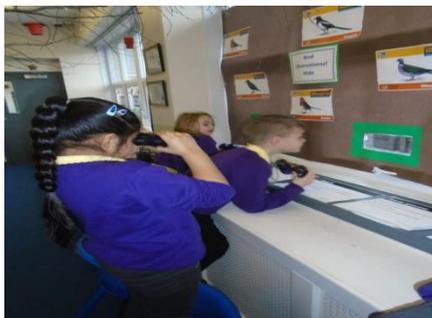


Trial SATs week felt nerve-racking at first but the children survived it and kept on smiling! They have told staff that they appreciated the experience, feel less worried as they are familiar with the process and now know what to expect. **There will be an important meeting for parents about Year 6 SATs on the first Tuesday back after half term (28 February) at 3:30. More information about this meeting will follow in a separate letter.**

THE PLACE

The children in the Place have been learning about British birds linked to the RSPB's Spring watch. Activities have included building a bird

hide from which the children could observe and record the different types of birds on the school grounds. These included Robins, Magpies, Wood pigeons and of course, seagulls. The children have also made a range of food to encourage birds, built bird feeders and tables, created watercolours



and clay models of birds. We now have many children who can identify and name several types of birds which means we can now call ourselves Horton Grange twitchers!



New Topics

Year	Class text	Topic – Spring 2
Nursery	What's on the Farm' Julia Donaldson	Animal, Animals all Around The nursery children will be learning about all types of animals and how to look after them. They will talk about pet animals, animals that live on the farm, and wild animals.
Reception	'What the Ladybird Heard?' by Julia Donaldson.	Down on the Farm Reception children will be learning all about farm animals and how to take care of them. They're also very excited to see and handle real animals with a trip to the farm.
Year 1	Jack and the Beanstalk	Roots, Shoots & Fruits Our Spring 2 topic is about investigating what are fruits and vegetables. We will look at how seeds look different and will then carry out an experiment to show what conditions are best for seeds and plants to grow healthy.
Year 2	Man on the Moon By Simon Bartram	Moon Landing Year 2 will be exploring space and studying the life of Neil Armstrong.
Year 3	Iron Man by Ted Hughes	Might Metals Children will be designing and building their own Iron Man and investigating forces and magnets
Year 4	Demon Dentist by David Walliams	Year 4 will be learning more about the marvellous belching, squelching, mixture-making machine that is the human body in the topic Burps, Bottoms and Bile . We will be taking a journey starting at the teeth and studying the science of everything that happens thereafter.
Year 5	The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd	Children (and teachers!) are very excited for their trip to London next half term. The topic ' London Calling ' will focus on the upcoming trip. As a hook into the topic, Year 5 will be reading 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd in Literacy before getting to experience the London Eye for themselves!
Year 6	'The Iron Fist' by Andy Briggs	Year 6 will focus on a topic called ' Tomorrow's World ' which is all about technology with a focus on computing. They will learn about the history of modern technology as well as design an exciting product – more information to follow... Our class novel will be 'The Iron Fist' by Andy Briggs which is an action-packed thriller sure to inspire our own writing.

Spring 2 term clubs (further details will follow)

KS1 Clubs	Y3&4 clubs	Y5&6 clubs
Construction Thursday	Netball (Monday Year 4)	Football (Thursday)
Art Thursday	Futsal (Thursday)	
iPads Thursday	Hip Hop (Thursday)	
Board Games Thursday	Kickboxing (Thursday)	Kickboxing (Thursday Y5)
Multiskills Year 2 Tuesday Lunchtime		

Facebook

We regularly use our Facebook account to keep you up to date with current school events and your feedback tells us you appreciate this type of communication. A polite reminder, should you have any comments to make regarding what we could do to improve, please contact school or attend one of our parent forums rather than use social media or commenting on other people's facebook pages. Inappropriate comments will not be tolerated by the Governing Body or Local Authority. Your children attend a 'good' school but we are always keen to improve so please voice thoughts through appropriate channels.

Parent Forum Feedback

<u>You said</u>	<u>We did</u>
You wanted more notice about school events	Introduced a Yearly Planner of Key dates.
You would like to attend Come Dine and Read sessions.	Invited you to attend these sessions in December 2016.
You would like more opportunities to share your children's learning in the class room.	We have scheduled one sharing learning session with your child in each half term. Last term this included a maths session and a science session. This term sessions include computing and e-safety.
You would like more opportunities to speak to the class teacher.	We have provided you with an Informal drop in session, held every first Monday of each month, where the teacher will be available until 4.00pm
You would like to see a post card home system to reward children who display the Horton Grange Values exceptionally well	Introduced the post card home system linked to our vision statement.
You would like to attend a Parenting course or workshop.	We are running a Confident Parenting Confident Children workshop.
You would like to know more about the Thrive approach.	We undertook a pilot event in December 2016, introducing you to Thrive. This was a shared creative activity with your child.

Attendance

Attendance during January and February has taken a battering from an onslaught of bugs and germs! Thank you to all the parents who continue to support their children to be in school as much as possible! There are 74 pupils who have 100% which is an amazing achievement. Remember, the Asda prize draw will take place before the Easter holidays for children above 95% and a special prize for a child whose attendance has improved. Please be advised that it is a parent's responsibility to notify school of any absence or illness on the first morning of absence. Children with attendance below 90% are considered persistent absentees and may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

Packed lunches

Please support us in ensuring that packed lunches don't include sugary drinks, sweets or chocolate.

Parents' Open Evening

Finally, we will be holding a **Parents' Evening on Tuesday 21 March**. This will be an opportunity to look at your child's books and discuss their progress so far. Teachers will also explain what your child's next steps are and how you can help at home. Your child really appreciates you knowing about how they are doing so please try to come along. Unlike in previous years all children will leave school as normal and the first appointment will not begin until 3.35pm. Parents who are allocated this slot should enter via the main entrance. Some larger classes may start appointments earlier – further information to follow.

E-Safety Event

An E – Safety specialist led a session in school to support you in keeping your children safe online. Unfortunately, only 1 parent attended. Below are the links to the information he shared:

Top tips for keeping your child safe online

1. General advice

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

2. Turn on Google Safesearch

<https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/510?hl=en>

3. Turn on YouTube safety mode

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/174084?hl=en>

4. Turn on ISP Parental Controls

e.g. <http://help.sky.com/articles/set-up-mcafee-parental-controls>

5. Turn on parental controls on games consoles

e.g. <https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-360/security/xbox-live-parental-control/>

6. Turn on browser parental controls

e.g. https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/3463947?p=ui_supervised_users&rd=1

7. Turn on online TV and film parental controls

e.g. http://iplayerhelp.external.bbc.co.uk/tv/pg_PIN

8. Turn on PC Operating System parental controls

e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJoB-ZIWtRo>

9. Turn on TV parental controls

e.g. <http://help.sky.com/articles/set-up-parental-controls-on-your-tv>

Further information

<https://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/tools/how-to.html#>

DANGERS OF MUSICAL.LY

In particular, the older children were advised against using at APP called **MUSICAL.LY**. Users are supposed to be at least 13 years old in order to comply with the [Child Online Privacy Protection Act \(COPPA\)](#). Muisical.ly is a video community that allows you to create, share, and discover short music videos. This may seem like harmless fun but we are advised due to the young age of users, younger and younger children are at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content and as a result, younger and younger children seem to be actively participating in creating it. There are also reports of inappropriate adults targeting this app.

Please contact school if you would like any further support with security settings on your child's phone or tablet.

HEADLICE

Thank you to parents and carers that attended the recent Headlice Awareness Session on Wednesday 1 February 2017. Parents said that the session was very useful and they enjoyed watching the DVD on the process of wet combing with conditioner in order to eradicate head lice. was very informative. Anyone wishing to view the DVD can contact Mrs Carlisle who will be happy to arrange a further session.

Wet combing

Wet combing involves removing head lice with a special fine-toothed comb. It's suitable for everyone and is relatively inexpensive. A number of lice removal combs are available to buy. Combs with flat-faced teeth spaced 0.2-0.3mm apart are best for removing head lice, although combs with smaller gaps can be used to remove eggs and nits (egg cases) after treatment. The comb may come with instructions outlining how to use it. A commonly used method is described below.

- Wash the hair with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner.
- Use an ordinary, wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb.
- Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time – remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it.
- Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Do this at least twice to help ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found.
- Always clean brushes and hair accessories to prevent any eggs going back into the hair.
- Combs can be obtained from school office or by contacting Mrs Carlisle.

THREE FINAL POLITE REMINDERS

UNIFORM – Whilst I appreciate this can sometimes be a delicate matter, I would like to ask for your support in ensuring the following elements of the school uniform code are followed:

- Shoes – please ensure your child has black shoes – no heels or sports logos
- No jewellery other than stud earrings and a watch
- A reminder that hair should be cut no shorter than a number 2 and should not be cut in a way that makes it noticeably different from the norm
- Leggings are not permitted to be worn as trousers
- Girls hair should be kept off the face and if necessary tied back using clips / bands.

JoJo bows – We have noticed that these JoJo bows are becoming more elaborate. I do not wish to ban these, as they do ensure long hair is tied back off the face, however can I please ask that the larger more elaborate ones, which are albeit very pretty, are kept for the weekends!

SAFEGUARDING

It has been brought to my attention that some parents have been approaching the school fence on Cowpen Road at lunch time to speak to children and have in some cases been passing sweets over the fence. Can I please ask that parents don't do this.

Also just to make you aware that the work on Cowpen Road will be commencing shortly, so please be extra vigilant and talk to your children about being safe near the road.

And finally, I do not like to end on a negative, but it has been brought to my attention that inappropriate language is being used on the yard by a small number of parents. This is not acceptable and does not ensure that children are exposed to positive role models. I know, like us, you all want the best for your children so please can I ask that you model appropriate language choices for the children.

Best wishes

Mrs Nichola Irving

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

(Other dates, which you will be notified about by letter, may be added at a later date)

Thursday, 2 March	World Book Day – come dressed as your favourite character Year 5 Boys' Football – Hirst Welfare Centre – 1.00 – 3.00 pm Year 3 & Year 4 Hip Hop Dance starts – Upper School Hall – 3.25 – 4.10 pm Futsal starts – Lower School Hall – 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Monday, 6 March	Reception & Year 6 only - School Nursing Team to visit school re Heights & Weights – 1.15 pm Parent Drop in – 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Tuesday, 7 March	U11 Football League – Chantry Middle School – 4.00 – 5.00 pm
Wednesday, 8 March	Year 5 London Residential Visit (8/3/17 – 10/3/17)
Thursday, 9 March	EYFS Tiddlywinks – Lower School Hall Year 6 Boys' Football – Hirst Welfare Centre – 12.45 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 10 March	Year 5 return from London
Thursday, 16 March	Year 4 Netball – Blyth Academy – 1.00 – 3.00 pm Year 1 Phonic Screening Meetings – 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm
Tuesday, 21 March	Parents' Consultation U11 Football League – Chantry Middle School – 4.00 – 5.00 pm
Thursday, 23 March	KS1 & KS2 Dance Festival – Blyth Academy – 9.30 am – 12.00 noon New nursery starters meeting & visit
Tuesday, 28 March	Nursery home visits
Thursday, 30 March	Year 5 & Year 6 Hockey – Blyth Academy – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 31 March	EYFS Stay and Play – Nursery 12.30 pm and Reception 2.00 pm
Monday, 3 April	Parent drop in – 3.30 – 4.00 pm
Thursday, 6 April	Year 4 Football – Hirst Welfare Centre – 12.30 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 7 April	Non uniform day Easter Egg competition School breaks for the Easter Holidays
Monday, 24 April	School reopens