

Newsletter September 2017

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of another school year and I hope you have all had a great summer. The children all looked super smart in their new uniforms on the first day back. After the excellent outcomes achieved by our Year 6 children at the end of last term, placing us above national outcomes, we are very excited about the coming year and we are confident that we are doing a good job helping your children to make very good progress in their time at Horton Grange. Ofsted graded us a 'good' school in 2014 and we hope that in their next visit, they will again recognise us as providing an excellent education for your children. We can only do this if they are in school so please try to promote good attendance and avoid taking holidays in term time. Only in exceptional circumstances will they be approved.



The end of last year was as poignant as ever with our Year 6 children sharing their dreams and aspirations and moving onto secondary school. They ended the year developing skills as young business men and women! The children themselves came up with ideas to raise money towards funding one last residential visit before moving onto secondary school. In small groups, they planned, organised, promoted and carried out various activities: a toy and book sale, themed non-uniform day, cake sale and sponsored Bush Tucker Trial in which they tasted Mexican food which linked to their topic of 'Hola Mexico'. Almost £800 was raised from these activities so well done Year 6 and thank you so much to all who have helped and contributed!



Our **Annual Prom** which is becoming a real community event, brought sunshine and smiles – and didn't they look amazing! The leavers' year book is available in school – pop in to have a look.

Didn't they look grand!



Other highlights from the summer term



Nursery exploring and investigating



Reception practising art skill outdoors!



Year 1 produce Kandinsky art



Year 3 enjoy Forest School Week



Year 4 at Dukes House Wood



Year 2 were mini beast hunters!



Year 5 produce art in the style of Picasso during SMADD week

Staffing

We have started the new academic year with very few planned staffing changes: Mrs Clark has returned from maternity leave and will be supporting learning in Year 3. We also welcome Miss Dyson to our team who will be supporting and teaching across Key Stage 2.



Mrs Clark

Miss Dyson

Curriculum

Topics and class texts for the Autumn Term 1 are set out below. This half term Year 1 to 6 topics all have a Science focus although all other areas of the curriculum will still be taught within this. Topic overviews and homework menus will be sent home soon.

Year	Topic title	Class text(s)
Nursery & Reception	What can I tell you about me?	Meg and Mog (Nursery) Five Minutes Peace (Jill Murphy)
Year 1	Amazing Animals	The Little Red Hen by Pie Corbett
Year 2	Circle of life	The Enormous Crocodile by Pie Corbett
Year 3	Predators	Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl
Year 4	Burps, biles and bottoms	Demon Dentist by David Walliams
Year 5	Beast Creator	Charlotte's Web by E. B White Boy X by Dan Smith
Year 6	Heart of the Lakes	Boy by Roald Dahl Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl

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

NEW YEAR GROUP MEETINGS (Year 1 – Year 6)

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

Year group	Date and time
1	Monday 11 September 9.00 – 9.30 Spend time in classrooms 9.30 – New year group meeting
2	Tuesday 12 September 9.00 – 9.30 Spend time in classrooms 9.30 – New year group meeting
3	Wednesday 13 September 9.15 – 9.45 Spend time in classrooms 9.45 – New year group meeting
4	Wednesday 13 September 2.00 - 2.30 Spend time in classrooms 2.30 – New year group meeting
5	Thursday 14 September 9.15 – 9.45 Spend time in classrooms 9.45 – New year group meeting
6	Thursday 14 September 2.00 - 2.30 Spend time in classrooms 2.30 – New year group meeting

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

Communication with parents

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

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

Breakfast Club is running once again in the dining room from 8.00 am to start of school. This is 50p per day. We use the door half way along the drive at the back of the main school hall – ring the bell! New work to improve parking arrangements will be commencing soon and in light of this we will be producing a Breakfast Club code of conduct around cars on site at this time and signing in procedures – further information to follow. In the meantime, please follow the 5 mph speed limit, avoid parking too close to the zebra crossing, stopping on the driveway and please accompany your children to the door. The drive way is covered by CCTV and parents who do not adhere to the 5 mph speed limit will be contacted and may be refused access to the school site by car in the future. Please also remember cars are not allowed on site at the start / end of day or for Horton Heroes unless you hold a disabled badge.

Uniform

Thank you to those of you, who are following our clear guidelines on uniform and hair at Horton Grange. If you are unsure of any of these please contact Mrs Carlisle in the school office. If your child has recently had a hair cut, which is shorter than a number 2 could you please allow it to grow. Please also ensure that long hair is tied back as this help prevents the spread of headlice.

Clubs

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

Horton Heroes

Parents and children tell us that they enjoy 'Horton Heroes' and 'Forest School Friday' so we plan to continue this as a way of celebrating children's achievements. We welcome parents and younger siblings to our Horton Heroes Assemblies. Please remember it can be difficult for pre-school children to sit quietly throughout so feel free to pop out of the hall for a short period of time until they settle. Can I also remind you that mobile phones should be turned off and it is not permitted to take photos or video during the assembly. If you wish to take a picture of your child with their award, this can be arranged after the assembly when other children have left the hall.

PARENT FORUM

Parent forum sessions will continue this year and Mrs Carlisle hopes to have a different theme for each one. If you have any ideas please contact Mrs Carlisle. Mrs Carlisle would also just like to make you aware of the following workshop in your local community.

Parenting Workshops to Understand behaviour, Managing behaviour, Positive parenting strategies, Promote wellbeing, Anger awareness and Assertiveness starting Tuesday 12th September - 5th December 2017 at The Buffalo Community Centre, Regent Street, Blyth, NE24 1LL. If you are interested please contact June Carlisle who can book your place.

FUNDRAISING

As you know last year we were raising money to purchase a defibrillator for school. We recently received information to say that we could purchase these at a reduced price due to a part funded scheme. Therefore, we now have enough money to purchase one. This has now been ordered and will be in school soon - staff will receive training on its use. The guidance also suggests that it is best practice for the machine to be reached in less than 2 minutes from any area of school. Given the size of our school, we would need 3 for that to be possible so we will continue fundraising this year. Thank you again for your support with this.

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.

DATE	EVENT
Monday, 11 September	Year 1 Parents to new year group meeting – 9.00 am - 10.00 am
Tuesday, 12 September	Year 2 Parents to new year group meeting – 9.00 am – 10.00 am Year 4 – Santander workshops – 1.10 – 3.00 pm
Wednesday, 13 September	Year 3 Parents to new year group meeting – 9.15 am – 10.15 am Year 4 Parents to new year group meeting – 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Years 5/6 Netball club starts 3.25 – 4.15 pm – Upper school hall / outside
Thursday, 14 September	Year 5 Parents to new year group meeting – 9.15 am – 10.15 am Year 6 Parents to new year group meeting – 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Year 5 Bugs n Stuff – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 15 September	Year 2 visit to Whitehouse Farm
Tuesday, 19 September	Year 4 Santander workshops – 1.10 – 3.00pm
Wednesday, 20 September	Library opening – visit from Author Dan Smith Year 6 Steel Pan sessions start Years 5/6 Netball club starts 3.25 – 4.15 pm – Upper school hall / outside
Thursday, 21 September	Year 2 Multi Skills day
Friday, 22 September	Reception Parents meeting
Tuesday, 26 September	Year 4 Santander workshops – 1.10 – 3.00 pm Year 6 Hawse End Meeting – KS2 ICT Suite – 3.30 pm
Wednesday, 27 September	No Netball Club today Parent Forum meeting – 2.00 pm
Thursday, 28 September	Year 2 Multi Skills day Toddler group 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 29 September	Year 1 Visit to Washington Wetlands
Monday, 2 October	Years 5/6 NSPCC workshops – 1.00 – 3.00 pm Parent Drop in at 3.30 pm
Wednesday, 4 October	Years 5/6 Netball club starts 3.25 – 4.15 pm – Upper school hall / outside
Thursday, 5 October	KS2 (Years 3/4/5/6) Sharing Maths learning with parents – 9.05 am KS1 (Years 1/2) Sharing Maths learning with parents – 2.30 pm
Wednesday, 11 October	Years 5/6 Netball club starts 3.25 – 4.15 pm – Upper school hall / outside
Thursday, 12 October	Toddler group – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 13 October – Sunday 15 October	Year 6 Hawse End
Monday, 16 October	Year 5 Big Juice Read Festival – 9.00 am – 3.00 pm at the Discovery Museum
Wednesday, 18 October	KS1 Harvest Festival Year 5/6 Netball Club – last session

Thursday, 19 October	School breaks for October half term
Friday, 20 October	Teacher Training Day
Monday, 30 October	School reopens Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach - pm
Tuesday, 31 October	EYFS Stay and Play
Wednesday, 1 November	Halloween Disco (Years 1/2/3/4/5/6) 3.00 pm – 6.30 pm
Monday, 6 November	Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach – pm Parent Drop in at 3.30 pm
Wednesday, 8 November	Year 5 Great North Museum visit – 9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Monday, 13 November	Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach - pm
Wednesday, 15 November	Parent Consultations evening
Thursday, 16 November	KS1 (Years 1 /2) Parent learning session KS2 (Years 3/4/5/6) Parent learning session Toddler Group 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Monday, 20 November	Road Safety Week Year 6 FA Soccer Skills coach - pm
Friday, 24 November	Wear something bright day
Monday, 27 November	Year 1 Come dine and read Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach - pm
Tuesday, 28 November	Year 2 Come dine and read
Wednesday, 29 November	Year 3 Come dine and read
Thursday, 30 November	Year 4 Come dine and read
Friday, 1 December	Year 5 Come dine and read
Monday, 4 December	Year 6 Come dine and read Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach – pm Parent drop in evening session – 3.30 pm
Wednesday, 6 December	EYFS Stay and Play
Monday, 11 December	Year 6 FA Soccer Skills coach - pm
Tuesday, 12 December	EYFS Christmas production
Wednesday, 13 December	EYFS Christmas production
Thursday, 14 December	KS1 Christmas performance x 2 Nursery – Tiddlywinks Toddler Group 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Friday, 15 December	KS1 Christmas performance x 2
Monday, 18 December	Years 3 /4 Christmas celebration x 1 Year 6 FA Soccer skills coach - pm
Tuesday, 19 December	Years 3 /4 Christmas celebration x 2 KS1 (Years 1 /2) Christmas Party
Wednesday, 20 December	Christmas Lunch EYFS Christmas Party Years 5/6 Carol Service x 2
Thursday, 21 December	KS2 (Years 3/4/5/6) Christmas Parties
Friday, 22 December	Pantomime School breaks for Christmas at 2.00 pm
Monday, 8 January	School reopens Parent drop in at 3.30 pm

Best wishes

Mrs Irving,