

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents and Friends



Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the January Newsletter. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to a positive 2017 – good luck with all the resolutions. Last half term was action packed culminating in the in school Christmas celebrations. The children told me they thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime on the last day.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

As you know we place a big emphasis in school on children taking responsibility as we know this will help the children in the future to be successful adults. We were pleased that the second half of the Autumn term saw the appointments of our new head girl, head boy, sports captains and prefects.



Head girl: Ellie

Head boy: Adam

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| Deputy Head Boy – Joshua McLaughlin | Prefects Alfie Butler Alyssa Chape Leonie Clarke Tiffany Clough Aleesha Hall Mollie Mooney Arunas Vainauskas Viktorija Vainauskaite Sam Wrightson Katie Yu |
| Deputy Head Girl – Chloe Cowans | |
| Sports Captain – Sam Browning Sports Captain – Megan Robson | |

Well done to them all and look out for them around school at forthcoming events. All Y6 pupils also now have a job. They applied for a range of posts before the holidays and were interviewed. It has been really good experience for them to go through the application process - we are really proud of them! They are finding out about themselves and are becoming excellent role models for the rest of the school.

HORTON SPORTS UPDATE

Football - WINNERS!

On 3 November, the Year 5/6 girls football team took part in a 7-a-side competition at Hirst Welfare Centre. The team were unbeaten in the group stages and conceded no goals. In the semi-final, the team played Malvin's Close. A 'golden goal' secured the game, meaning Team Horton had made it to the



final. Our captain, Megan Robson, scored early on in the final. It was a tense 9 minutes as the team defended heroically and were finally crowned winners of the competition. Well done to all of the girls who worked fantastically as a team, showed great sportsmanship and 100% determination. You thoroughly deserve your trophy and we are all extremely proud of you!

Netball

The Year 6 netball team took part in a tournament at Blyth Sports Centre on 17 November. They played several games in their group and the scores were very tight! After hard work, some fantastic shooting and defending, the team successfully earned their place in the semi-final. Well done girls – another great sporting performance!



Cheerleading

This half term some Year 5 children have taken part in a brand new Cheerleading Club held on Friday lunchtimes in school. Miss Hathaway has been running the club and has been teaching the group lots of new routines, chants and even some cheerleading stunts! All of the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part and trying something new.

FA Soccer Skills

The children in Year 4 have been lucky enough to have a FA Soccer Skills Coach come in to school to teach their PE lessons this half term. They have learned and practised lots of new football skills and techniques and applied their new skills within football matches.



SHARING OUR LEARNING FROM ACROSS SCHOOL

Early Years



The children in our **two-year-old provision** have been interested in role play based on everyday activities. They have been fire fighters and doctors as well as travelling on the bus and going shopping. This will be extended next term by role play based on stories including “Whatever Next” with trips to the moon.

The **Nursery** children have started to complete the 10 book challenge and are choosing a new book to take home when they have shared 10 bedtime stories.



PC Lunn came into Early Years to talk to children during the 'People Who Help Us' topic. They talked about how Police can help us to keep safe and make the right choices. They also learnt what different Police officers do. Thank-you PC Lunn.



Everyone had a lovely, glittery time at **Reception's Christmas Stay and Play!** The children (and grown ups) thoroughly enjoyed making reindeer dust, writing letters to Santa, making Christmas wreaths and doing many other Christmassy activities. Everyone was in the festive spirit!



Year 1 & 2

Year 1 have enjoyed finding out about old and new toys. They borrowed some old toys from a museum where they discovered how toys have changed over time, especially the materials used to make them. In class they have read many teddy bear stories and especially liked Paddington Bear and the adventures he had.

The homework activities have once again been enthusiastically conquered. Many of you have made some superb board games, some of which we have been tried out in class. Thank you to all at home for on-going support



Year 2 have had another great half term. The 'London's Burning' topic has been brilliant and they have enjoyed travelling back in time to become history detectives. It all started with a mysterious, old trunk and the children had to use their research skills to work out who the trunk belonged to. After looking at a range of sources including paintings, diary entries and actual artefacts they discovered to their amazement that the trunk belonged to Samuel Pepys. They then became Tudor architects and designed and built a mini model of London Town. They then recreated the morning of the 2 of September 1666 and set fire to it! They all watched in awe as London burnt. They have also been very lucky this half term to meet a real life author called 'Rachel Redshaw' who wrote 'The Gami Twins'. She gave them



loads of great tips and even asked them to help her write her next adventure. Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenges!

Year 3 & 4

This half term **Year 3** have been learning about the Stone Age. They have been history detectives and researched how and why early Stone Age man turned from hunter-gatherer to farmer. The children enjoyed learning how to use a range of historical sources to find out about the past and are now much more confident independently exploring new topics. As always Ms Greig and Mr Fields have been amazed at the fantastic homework the children have been bringing in so thank you for your continued support with the homework projects.



This half term **Year 4** have been learning about the Romans. They thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Arbeia Roman fort in South Shields (even though it was very wet!). This offered a great chance to handle authentic Roman artefacts including a 2000



year old glass vase. They also got to look around the gatehouse and commanding officers living quarters. The teachers have been bowled over by the children's recent writing of Roman battles. Their stories have brought to life Boudicca's brave opposition to the Roman Invasion.

Year 5 & 6

This half term, **Year 5** have been transported back to the Anglo-Saxon period in their History topic. Firstly, the children looked at historical artefacts from the Anglo-Saxon archaeological site at Sutton Hoo and used them to write a recount of life during the Anglo-Saxon period. In Art, the children improved their mastery of sketching by creating some beautiful Anglo-Saxon jewellery designs. Great fun was had writing secret messages in Anglo-Saxon runes – the children are now expert message decoders! Learning about the Anglo-Saxons has also given the children the chance to use their geography skills to locate the countries the Anglo-Saxons came from and the towns where they settled in Britain.



In Literacy, Year 5 have been reading the legend 'Beowulf' which links to the Anglo-Saxon topic. The children really enjoyed exploring the gruesome tales of the monster Grendel and the heroic victories of Beowulf. They then produced some art work inspired by the text, which has been used as a basis for creating their own terrifying beasts that were used when writing their own legend.

It has been an action packed term in **Year 6** which kicked off with a visit to Beamish Open Air Museum. Fun was had by all with a ride on the tram and visiting the sweet shop where rhubarb and custard sweets were being made – the smell was delicious! All too soon, however, the children were back in 1897 for a real life lesson in the Victorian school. It was very strict – even the teachers had to work but got told off for talking! Fortunately no-one got caned but a couple of people did have to stand in the corner! Writing with real ink pens was tricky but they all tried their best – the children are glad to be at school in 2016, not 1897!



Learning about the Victorians has been a real eye-opener for the children, especially in terms of school life at that time. Victorian

children having to work in coal mines, factories and as chimney sweeps has made our children understand how lucky they are today. Crime and punishment was much harsher then and the children loved doling out punishments in our mock court room session.

READING

As you may know from previous Newsletters, Reading is one of our priorities in school. We have been working hard to improve our Key Stage 2 library environment so that it is an area where we all want to go and enjoy a good story. The selection of books has also been improved – thank you to Year 6 children who helped fundraise to support this through their tuck shop and to parents who have donated many new books. We are hoping to have a surprise guest to open the library in the New Year. Look out for updates on our twitter and facebook page.

Another high point was the return of **Come Dine and Read**, the children loved having their parents and grandparents in to share a book – we had over 185 parents in school throughout the week.



Spring term 1 learning – Key subject focus: Geography

The topic overviews for this half term will be sent home separately and will be available on the school website. Topics titles for the Spring Term 1 are:

| <u>Topic title and overview</u> |
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| <p><u>Nursery</u> Topic: What's changing? Text: Winter by Ailie Busby</p> |
| <p><u>Reception</u> Topic: Where's the bear? Text: Whatever next</p> |
| <p><u>Year 1</u> will be investigating weather in their topic 'Ice Magic', with a focus on winter. They will also learn about the UK and the countries that it is made up of. In Science they will investigate the best material to make an umbrella from – always useful in the UK winter weather. Class text: Stickman by Julia Donaldson</p> |

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| <p>Year 2 will become Maasai warriors and will be exploring the great African continent with their new topic 'Amazing Africa'. They will be comparing life in Blyth to life in an African village. They will explore their local community and will discuss the similarities and differences. We will be making necklaces, drums and masks. Class text: Going Solo by Roald Dahl</p> |
| <p>Year 3 will be exploring mother nature's awesome energies. They will be learning about Volcanoes and earthquakes in their topic 'Tremors'. Class text: Escape to Pompeii by Christina Balit</p> |
| <p>Year 4 will be fastening their seatbelts and going on 'a road trip around the USA'. This will involve lots of map reading and learning about Native Americans and culminating in planning the trip of a lifetime! Class text: 'The Indian in the cupboard' about a young boy's adventure with his toys that come to life by Lynne Reid Banks.</p> |
| <p>Year 5 are looking forward to a class carnival as they explore the exciting Geography topic of Brazil Class text: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz</p> |
| <p>Year 6 will focus on a topic called 'Darwin's Delight' which is all about evolution and inheritance. With a geography focus, they will look at islands of the world, their similarities and differences. They will study South American music and do observational drawings in art. Class text: Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson</p> |

Spring 1 term clubs

| KS1 Clubs (to add) | Y3&4 clubs | Y5&6 clubs |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Construction (Thursday evening) | Netball (Monday lunch time – Y4) | Cheerleading (Y5 – Wednesday lunchtime) |
| Ipads (Thursday evening) | Futsal (Thursday afterschool) | Football (Thursday afterschool) |
| Board games (Thursday evening) | Coding (Monday lunchtime) | Dance (Year 6 – Friday lunchtime) |
| Multiskills (Tuesday lunchtime until 14/2/17) | | Debating club (Thursday evening) |
| | | First Aid club (Year 5 Wednesday evening) |
| | | Running club (VIP time) |
| | | Netball (Wednesday evening) |

Most clubs are run by our staff and there is no charge. However, the futsal club is run by external coaches and is chargeable. There is an increase in the number and range of clubs on offer this term and I would like to thank staff for offering their time to do this.

E-Safety

For those of you who attended performances in school on the run up to Christmas you will be aware of the messages we gave regarding photographs of children. I would like thank parents who followed our guidance and hope that you liked the picture you received.

The children will also be taking part in Safer Internet Day this half term. **Safer Internet Day 2017** will take place on the **7 February** with the theme '**Be the change: unite for a better internet**'. Further information can be found at <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2017>. Cyber bullying was part of Anti bullying week in November.

Advice for parents:

It's important for parents to know about cyberbullying in order for you to support and help your children. Here are some tips for parents:

- Discuss cyberbullying
- Always remember that cyber bullying is bullying through the internet and technology, and just like other forms of bullying it is when someone is being unkind on purpose and it is happening more than once.
- Cyberbullying can happen anywhere online, including: games, apps, websites, text messages, phone calls and on social media.
- A cyberbully can be someone they know but could also be a stranger online.
- Understand the tools you need to be able to help your child make a report and block a cyberbully:
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report>

Parent Open Day

After the success of our Maths and Science open day, this half term we will be holding another open day on **7 February** and the focus will be **Computing** and **E-Safety** as this is Safer Internet Day.

Key Stage 2: 9.05 – 10.00

Key Stage 1 : 2.15 – 3.15

Quite often, it seems it is our children who are ahead of us in the technological world. As a mum myself, I know this can be a worry. Therefore on the **2 February**, we are lucky to have an E-Safety specialist in school to support parents on how to keep children safe when using the internet and mobile phones. He will be able to show you how to put safety measures in place on electronic devices and answer any questions you have.

2.30 pm: parents and children in Year 5 & 6 (gaming, being safe online and use of mobile technology and social media)

3.30 pm : parents only – all ages (generic E-Safety)

Mrs Ash, our E-Safety lead will be sending further information on this in the coming weeks.

SCHOOL MEALS

Just a reminder that if your child has a school meal, £10.75 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.

Finally, thank you again for your on-going support. We are always looking at how we are doing in school and we often have people into school to check how we are doing. They agree with us that your children goes to a 'good' and improving school. However, if there are things we can do better then please let us know via the 'parent drop ins', forums or by making an appointment. Of course, if there are things that are going to particularly well then we are always happy to hear this too!

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)

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| Monday, 9 January | Parent Drop-in. 3.30 - 4.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 10 January | Parenting Course - EYFS - 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 17 January | Parenting Course - EYFS - 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Thursday, 19 January | Multi Skills Activity, 30 Year 1 children, am |
| Tuesday, 24 January | Parenting Course - EYFS - 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Wednesday, 25 January | Year 2 SAT Meeting - details to follow |
| Thursday, 26 January | Year 5 Girls Netball, 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 31 January | Parenting Course - EYFS - 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Wednesday, 1 February | Parent Forum Meeting, 2.00 pm |
| Thursday, 2 February | E-Safety Workshops: - Parents & Children in Year 5 & 6 - 2.30 pm - Parents only - 3.30 pm |
| Monday, 6 February | Parent Drop-in, 3.30 - 4.00 pm |
| Tuesday, 7 February | Safer Internet Day: - KS2 Parents invited to share learning, 9.05 - 10.00 - KS1 Parents invited to share learning. 2.15 - 3.15 |
| Thursday, 9 February | Year 6 'High 5' Netball, 1.00 - 3.00 pm |
| Thursday, 16 February | Valentine Disco - 3.00 - 4.30 - KS1 / 5.00 - 6.30 - KS2 |
| Friday, 17 February | School finishes for Half Term |
| Monday, 20 February | School closed for Half Term holiday |
| Monday, 27 February | School Re-opens |