

NEWSLETTER

April 2019

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 and enjoyed the fantastic weather over the bank holiday. The second half of the spring term proved to be short but very busy, with many highlights, some goodbyes and some hellos

We said goodbye to Mrs Foley on reception and hello to Mrs Gibbard, who joins us with lots of school reception experience. I'm sure many of you will have met her already. Miss Knight has also left us and has been replaced by Miss Higgins. Unfortunately Mrs Kerr in The PLACE is having time off work presently due to personal reasons. Mr Hogg is keeping The Place running smoothly to ensure children can continue to access it but we have also been lucky to appoint Mr Quinn who has significant experience in The Thrive approach, being a qualified trainer. He will join us initially for three days a week. Mrs Thomas has also returned from her maternity leave – welcome back Mrs Thomas!



Mr Quinn



Mrs Gibbard



Miss Higgins

Congratulations to Mrs Greig and Mrs Allman who got married over the Easter break and will now be known as Mrs Adams and Mrs Jameson respectively.

ATTENDANCE OVER THE SUMMER TERM

This is your child's final full term in their current year group and teachers will be working extremely hard to prepare them for their move to the next year group, as well as statutory assessments of Year 1 phonics, Year 2 and Year 6 SATS. The best way to ensure your child is prepared for this is for them to attend school every day and have a positive attitude to learning – every second really does count!

SCHOOL EXTENSION

I wrote to you recently to inform you of the work which was to begin over the Easter holiday in preparation for our school extension. As you will have seen, this has gone ahead as planned and for a relatively short period of time we will lose a significant part of the school yard, which also restricts access to entrances. We appreciate this isn't ideal but ask that you are patient with this matter and please speak to us if you have any concerns. Our aim is to keep you informed at every stage and I have asked the contractors to do the same with us. Please be assured we are working with the contractors to ensure minimal disruption whilst keeping safety a priority. We have been assured that there will be no noise during Year 6 SATs week.

PARENT LEARNING SESSIONS

Thank you to all parents and family who attended the STEM open learning event. Over 150 parents attended the two events and the feedback was very positive.

Thank you to Mrs Adams (previously Mrs Greig) and all the staff for organising this.



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 to help put learning into context. Year 5 visited Edinburgh in March and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of city life. Further information to follow later in the newsletter.

SPORTS UPDATE

It has been a busy and sporty half term for Upper Key Stage 2 children. The start of this half term saw a football focus as Year 5 and Year 6 boys had a chance to play for the school. Both teams worked hard and were both rewarded with second place.

The Year 6 Tag Rugby team played brilliantly at a competition in March. Up against stiff competition, the children used all their skills that they had learnt earlier in the term and came third overall.

In PE lessons this half term, the Year 6 children have been learning all the skills and knowledge they need to become successful hockey players. An enthusiastic team of six children applied all their new learning in a hockey competition at the end of March, coming in fourth place.



In Key Stage 1 Dance Club this half term the children have been inspired by Year 2's African topic. The children had a number of sessions looking at the movement of African animals and how to represent these through dance and visual imagery. A number of dance formats were combined including contemporary, rhythmic and country dancing to choreograph the work we had done in Dance Club to the song The Circle of Life by Elton John. The children performed confidently at the Blyth and Bedlington Dance Festival at Blyth Sports Centre to children from other local schools. They did a superb job and carried on even when the sound of hailstones and rain could be heard echoing from the plastic roof. The sound of rain just made their performance more atmospheric! Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Jameson (previously Mrs Allman) were so proud of their amazing performance.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2019

The efforts made by the children never fail to amaze us and this year was no different. A winner was chosen from each year group and Mrs Ash will be taking the children on a visit to a book shop to choose a book to enjoy. Here are a few of the children in costume.



SHARING OUR LEARNING

Two Year Old Provision

In Two Year Olds the children have loved exploring the outdoors as the season changed and were very excited looking for flowers in the Thrive garden! The children have had lots of practise taking off and putting on shoes, socks and wellies when exploring outside and playing in the sand in our classroom; the children are getting very good at it. Holding chicks from nursery was an exciting highlight for the children and they were very gentle with them. They went to see the ducklings in reception too but they were a bit too quick for them to hold!



Nursery

There was Spring in the air, last term in Nursery. The children loved being Spring detectives. On a walk around school they saw daffodils growing and learnt some new words when they spotted “blossom” and “buds” growing on the trees. To continue their learning the children painted their own daffodils.

There was egg...citement in the air when a special delivery of eggs arrived in Nursery. There was much anticipation waiting for the eggs to crack and the chicks to hatch out! The children sang, Lay a little egg for me, to help them on their way! They showed care and concern as they held and gently stroked the chicks.

10 things in....



Nursery staff have been overwhelmed by the response to the 10 things in Spring Challenge. The focus this term was Outdoor Learning. At home the children have had fun with water, washed toys, decorated plant pots, identified Spring plants and enhanced their ball skills, throwing and catching. Mrs Rose would like to say a very big thank you, to parents for all their support with this. Look out for our 10 things in Summer Challenge coming soon!



Reception

To kick-start the **Down on the Farm** topic, Reception visited Tweddle Farm near Hartlepool. Since then, the children have written about their visit to the farm, created model barns and discussed how they made sure they fed the animals safely.



Reception had an egg-cellent delivery this half term and were full of egg-citement to predict what would hatch out of the eggs. The children were keen to paint and write about the eggs whilst they patiently waited for the hatching to begin. They learned about how the ducklings used their beaks to crack the shell, as well as key words such as “incubator” and “brooder box”.

In maths, the children have been problem solving! They have been using the clues to figure out whether they needed to add, subtract, share, halve or double to work out the answer to the problem! They have loved the challenge and even persevered to read the clues themselves in child-initiated play.



Year 1

Last half term Year 1 have enjoyed learning all about minibeasts. They particularly loved having the opportunity to look at and hold some minibeasts when Zoolab came into school! They really enjoyed making their own clay bugs and writing fact files to go with them, then designing and building bug hotels to put in their gardens! They have used the internet safely when using the computers to research minibeasts.

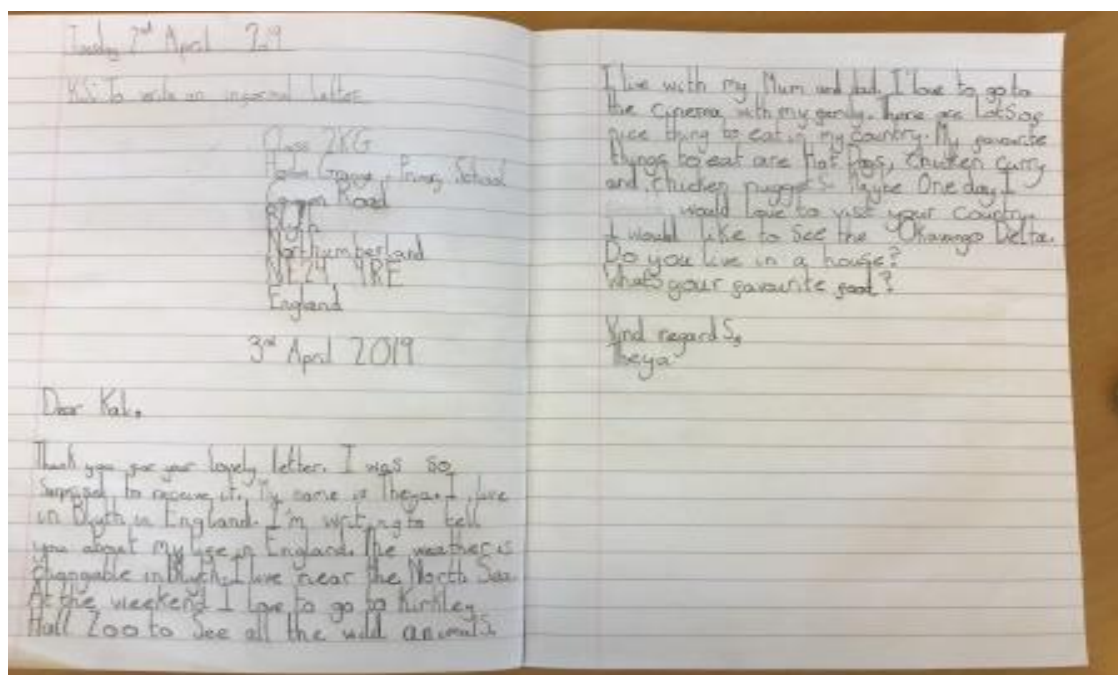


The children have continued to work really hard on number bonds to 20 and have been learning to measure the length and height of objects and are now great at using the correct mathematical language.



Year 2

Another half term is over and what a wonderful time the children in Year 2 have had. They have continued to explore the continent of Africa through reading. The children read the text Meerkat Mail by Emily Garvett, which took us to the Kalahari Desert. Through independent research, they found out some fascinating facts about Meerkats and produced a poster to share their knowledge. The children were surprised to receive a letter from a child in Botswana, Africa. They put their letter writing skills into practise, each child responding with an informal letter.



In maths, children have used their knowledge of multiplication and division to develop their understanding of fractions. They practised sharing out fairly, dividing up equally and began to look at equivalent fractions. Children can now confidently find half, quarter, and three quarters of shapes and amounts. In science they continued to look at animal habitats. Our focus this half term has been on the animals that live in desert areas.

The highlight of the half term has to be the STEM focus week, during which the children researched vehicles, in particular sand buggies. They watched videos of sand buggies racing in the Dubai desert. After that, they designed their own vehicles which had to be functional, purposeful and appealing. They then used an assortment of materials to build prototypes, evaluating each along the way. The children developed their joining skills by using twisting, bending, taping and finally glue guns to join materials. Feedback from children and parents has been very positive and we will continue to develop our design technology skills next half term, building our final cars.



Year 3

Last half term Year 3 learnt all about the life of the Ancient Egyptians. They particularly enjoyed learning about all the rituals and especially mummification. The children loved their visit to The Great North Museum and seeing lots of the artefacts they had been learning about.



Year 4

Last half term Year 4 developed their DT skills, making super structures. They researched, designed and made their own bridges, evaluating their structures at the end. The children absolutely loved designing and making these (especially using the glue gun) and they showed these off at the popular STEM fair held at the end of term.

They have also been learning about electricity in Science. They have been experimenting with circuits to discover how to make a bulb,

buzzer or switch work and investigating which materials are conductors and insulators. Linking to this, the children visited the Discovery Museum, where they took part in a workshop learning about Joseph Swan the British inventor of the light bulb. They made their own “squishy torch” creating a circuit from copper tape, a battery, foil and a bulb. It was tricky but they persevered to achieve a working torch. The children put their knowledge and skills to the test when exploring the Science Maze, using problem solving skills to achieve different goals and they even took the time to have a walk through the history of Newcastle, learning how our area has changed from the Romans to modern day.



Year 5

Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to learn about and visit Edinburgh. The children enjoyed lots of new experiences with an open mind, and all the staff were highly impressed with the way both classes represented Horton Grange during the trip. The children enhanced their geography and science knowledge during their visit to Dynamic Earth. They became time travellers and journeyed back to the creation of the universe and learned about how the planet has changed over billions of years. During their visit to Edinburgh Castle, the children widened their knowledge of Scottish history which was enhanced further during the Witchery Tour where children heard gruesome tales of Edinburgh’s gory past. Finally, the children were very excited to visit Edinburgh Zoo where they were able to see animals from around the world up close and learn about their habitats.



Linking to their Edinburgh trip, the children were challenged to design and make a model of Edinburgh Castle. The children learned all about the importance of prototypes and used a range of tools and equipment to create their final products. Furthermore, the children used their speaking and listening skills to present and evaluate their models.

Year 6

It has been another busy half term for Year 6 and those SATs are almost here! Revision clubs began after the Easter holidays and more than half the year group signed up to come along and take advantage of this highly valuable time. It's not too late to join us if your child has not already done so.

As well as working incredibly hard for their upcoming tests, Year 6 have also enjoyed learning about the Victorians, especially the challenging social conditions which existed at that time as shown in our class text, *Street Child*. They have also learnt about important Victorian woman such as Marie Curie, Beatrix Potter and, of course, Queen Victoria herself. Some children were involved in a fabulous DT project to create a Victorian fairground ride. They combined their knowledge of electric circuits with new skills such as sawing and using the hot glue gun, to build a fairground ride that moved. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to see the rides in action at the learning event.



Another highlight was the visit of Private Dyson, a currently serving soldier with British Forces who has just completed his first tour abroad. As part of their war topic, the children wrote letters to him and his regiment before Christmas and were delighted to finally meet him in person. They learnt all about his role in the army and what it was like to be away from home on Christmas Day. Fun was also had looking at army rations, carrying heavy kit and disguising faces with camouflage cream!



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 titles for Summer 1.

Year	Class text	Topic – Summer 1
Nursery	Snail Trail by Ruth Brown	This term learning will be around the subject of Mud, Mud, Glorious, Mud! The children will be learning all about Minibeasts. They will be finding minibeasts in the Nursery garden and making new homes for them. They will be learning the different names for minibeasts, sharing information and story books about minibeasts. As they learn different songs they will also be making some of their own minibeasts.
Reception	Jack and the Beanstalk by Mara Alperin	Reception will investigate How Plants Grow . They will explore what factors affect plant growth and, in maths, will be measuring and comparing the height of different plants. Reception will continue to innovate stories through using story mountains, which they have thoroughly enjoyed this half term, and continue to develop other forms of writing such as instructions on how to plant a bean.

Year 1	This is the Bear by Sarah Hayes	Year 1 will be looking at the difference between the toys they have now and comparing them to toys from the past. In maths they will continue counting in 2's and 5's and begin counting in 10's. They will also be introduced to multiplying and dividing numbers within 20.
Year 2	Man on the Moon by Simon Bartram My Hidden Chimp by Prof. Steve Peters	Year 2 topic is Moon Landing . In English, children will be reading the text Man on The Moon by Simon Bartram. They will also be reading a selection of non-fiction texts about space and about famous astronauts Helen Sharman and Neil Armstrong. The class text will be My Hidden Chimp by Prof. Steve Peters an amazing text which supports children dealing with their emotions and thinking. In Maths, children will further develop their addition and subtraction skills through measure, money and problem solving. The history focus will be the moon landing and the impact that famous astronauts had. In science, we will be studying trees and plants, looking closely at the plant structure and investigating the impact that air, water, nutrients and light have on healthy growth and survival. To support your child's learning at home continue to read daily, asking questions about character, setting and plot. By the end of Year 2, children should be fluent in the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and related division facts. They should have quick mental recall of all facts. It will help children enormously if they practise times tables daily, both at school and at home.
Year 3	All about Bees and All about Trees by Piotr Socha	The Year 3 topic is From Farm to Fork . The children will be beginning to learn about how their food grows, how it is produced and what happens to it from being harvested to ending up on their plate. We have some fantastic non-fiction texts to support their learning including All about Bees and All about Trees.
Year 4	Little people, big dreams – Marie Curie Amelia Earhart Jane Austen Muhammad Ali	Year 4 topic is Little people, big dreams and will focus on reading skills as they learn in each subject about important and influential men and women throughout history, writing a biography about one who has influenced them. They will also be looking at map skills in Geography, discovering about Amelia Earhart's journey across the globe. Year 4 also have the exciting Dukeshouse Wood visit at the end of the half term. They will also explore an empowering series of texts telling the important life stories of little people who went on to achieve incredible things.
Year 5	Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo	Year 5 topic will be Smashing Saxons and will focus on reading skills as they learn about the Anglo Saxons through the text Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo. The children will take part in debates leading to writing a balanced argument based on the text.
Year 6	The traditional tales of the Brothers Grimm	Year 6 shall be revising all areas of the curriculum in literacy and maths as well as science but shall also do some topic work on Mexico. They will look at Mexican art and culture, studying the Day of the Dead and the work of Frida Kahlo. The children will also learn about the geography of Mexico and compare it to the UK in the topic Hola Mexico . Texts for next term will consist of a range of materials in preparation for the reading SAT but they shall also be looking at the traditional tales of the Brothers Grimm and writing our own, perhaps with a twist in the tale!

UNIFORM

Just a 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 and should not have razored lines in hair. Black school shoes should be worn and not branded trainers. Leggings are also not part of school uniform. I appreciate that children may want to follow fashions but please support us in ensuring this is kept for out of school time.

TRAFFIC ON SITE

With ongoing building work it is even more important that we restrict traffic onsite. We would like to remind parents that traffic is not allowed on the school site unless you are a disabled blue badge holder. This includes afterschool clubs. The only exception to this is for breakfast club before 8.40am - in this case a gentle reminder that the speed limit is 5mph and you must reverse into the designated parking spaces. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.

Thursday 9 May	Year 1 trip to Beamish
Monday 13 May	KS2 SATs week
Thursday 16 May	Y4 Tennis competition – heats (8 Children)
Friday 17 May	Author Visit (provisional)
Monday 20 May	Equalities week Y4 Dukeshouse Wood
Wednesday 22 May	Reception New starters meeting
Thursday 23 May	Y4 Tennis competition – final (8 Children after qualification) Parents sharing learning KS2 KS1 Nursery New starters meeting
Monday 3 June Tuesday 4 June	Y5 Green Power car project
Wednesday 5 June	Parent Forum meeting
Thursday 6 June	Y3 trip to Glendale Show Y5 Space Camp – potential date
Friday 7 June	Y5/6 Athletics (26 children – parents will be informed of children attending) Parents in for Space Camp Assembly – potential date Y2 Hoop Stars (1 class)
Monday 10 June	Forest School Week Phonics screening week Y1 Y5 Astronaut talk
Friday 14 June	Parents in to share Forest School learning
Friday 21 June	EYFS Sports Day
Monday 24 June	Health Week Sports Day
Tuesday 25 June	Reserve sports day
Thursday 4 July	Y5/6 Swimming & Indoor athletics Competition (16 Children)
Wednesday 10 July	Transition Day

	Parent Consultations
Tuesday 16 July	KS1 Celebration Event Y1 – 9.15 Y2 – 2.44
Wednesday 17 July	EYFS Graduation KS2 Celebration Event Y3 – 9.30 Y4 – 11.00 Y5 – 2.00
Thursday 18 July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly – 1.00pm Year 6 Prom – 6.00pm to 8.30pm
Friday 19 July	School breaks up