

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



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 2020 – good luck with all the resolutions. Last half term was action packed culminating in the school Christmas celebrations. Here are some reminders!

SOME MAGICAL MOMENTS!



HORTON SPORTS UPDATE

Year 5/6 Girls Football Tournament

In November, the Year 5/6 Girls Football Team took part in a tournament held at Blyth Academy. The girls displayed fantastic football and teamwork skills and finished second in their group overall. The team has earned themselves a place in the finals which are to take place during the spring term (date to be confirmed).



Year 3 Multi Skills

3SC/DC spent an afternoon at Blyth Sports Centre in November where they took part in a wide range of activities. The children enjoyed the afternoon and learned lots of new skills.

Year 6 Sports Hall Athletics

At the start of December, Year 6 took part in an athletics competition at Blyth Sports Centre. The children competed in a variety of events including the obstacle relay, chest push and the standing long jump. The team displayed some very impressive athletics skills and finished in second place overall. They are looking forward to the outdoor athletics competition later on in the year.



SHARING OUR LEARNING FROM ACROSS SCHOOL

Two year olds

Last half term, Two year olds enjoyed lots of sensory activities, these were open ended and gave the children the opportunity to add to their own experience - adding the cars into the gloop, or the animals in the paint.

We were fortunate to have some books donated and we enjoyed looking at these in our groups and on a one-to-one basis. This has linked in nicely with our lending library, which started last term, the children have been very enthusiastic and it has been lovely to see them sharing these books at home.

The children were able to "Borrow a Bag" last term, they chose an activity to take home; again, there has been lots of photographs and comments showing these bags being used at home.

Children and staff said goodbye and good luck to the three year olds, who are moving into nursery, and we look forward to welcoming our new starters.

We will be continuing the lending library and home activity bags this term.

Stay and Play will continue on a Wednesday at 11am as this has proved to be very successful. It is a great opportunity for parents/carers to see what their child enjoys with us and have a chance to talk with the staff.



Nursery

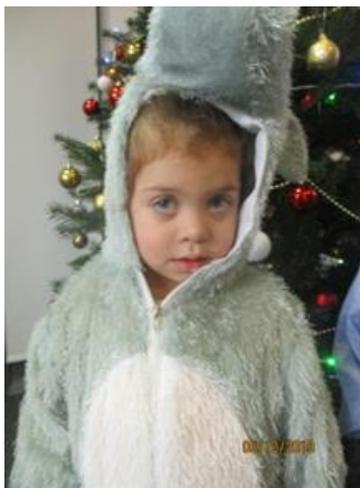
What a busy time the children had in Nursery **last term!** They really put their learning to the test by walking around school using the Zebra Crossing to practise road safety. They learnt the song, Stop, Look and Listen before you Cross the Street! Lots of contributions on Tapestry have shown the children practising keeping safe when crossing the road on their way to and from Nursery. This was amazing to see!

After reading the story *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*, some of the children planned their learning to go on a leaf hunt in the Nursery garden. They found lots of leaves and were able to sort the different sizes and colours. As well as this, the children created some amazing Autumn artwork.



From glitter and sparkle at the Christmas Stay and Play, to going on a Winter Wonderland Adventure with Tiddlywinks to their charming production of *The Wiggly Nativity*, the children had a magical time during the countdown to Christmas.

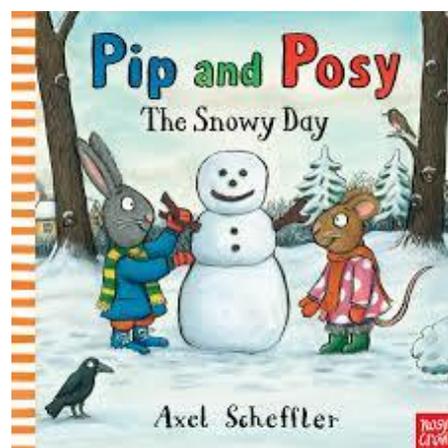
This term the children will extend their prior learning about the seasonal changes in Autumn to observe and explore *What's Changing... in Winter?* As it's so important to wrap up warm, the children will be naming items they can wear before going outdoors. They will use their senses on a Winter walk to describe different weathers. Cold, chilly, freezing and icy are different words the children will be learning to use, to describe different types of weather.



Reciting numbers in order to 10 and matching numerals to quantity correctly will be a focus on the children's mathematical learning this term. Through Plan, Do, Review, the children will be encouraged to use talk to connect ideas to plan and recall and re-live past experiences to review their learning.

Nursery topic book will be *Pip and Posy – The Snowy Day*, by Alex Scheffler

Pip and Posy can't wait to go out and play in the snow. They have fun, until they decide to build a snowman and things start to go wrong. Pip wants to build a snow RABBIT but Posy wants a snow MOUSE! Oh dear! Happily they resolve their differences over a cosy craft session indoors. This will be a talking point to help the children think about how their friends can have different ideas to them, and what they can do to work through their differences to compromise.



Reception

Last half term Reception took on the role of scientists by predicting, testing and

observing through different experiments such as: exploring sensory bottles with magnets; ice excavations and ice fishing. The children learnt and used new vocabulary throughout the experiments, such as: temperature; prediction; observation; melting; freezing and magnetic. The children clearly loved taking on the role of scientists and therefore more will be planned for this term.



Following on from Autumn 1's focus on the The Dot book, the children have explored colour mixing and developed their painting skills using watercolour paints to create their own watercolour dots as well as the backgrounds for their calendars.

Fred games were a key focus last term to develop children's blending and Fred talk; such as Fred's fridge; I spy; Fred's stocking; Fred says... Thank you to all of the parents who attended the phonics workshop and have been practising Fred games and sounds at home, it has been fantastic to see on Tapestry.

As we move into the Spring term, the children will continue to develop their repertoire of sounds and build confidence and fluency in reading words. Building on their confidence, they will progress onto reading and writing simple sentences. There will be another phonics workshop and plenty of exciting activities to support your child with their reading and writing at home.

Numbers beyond 10 will be a key focus for this half term, ensuring that the children are able to count beyond 10 accurately and recognise the correct numerals to 20. They will also be measuring and comparing the height, length and capacity of objects, as well as learning the names of and identifying common 2D and 3D shapes.

As the days lengthen and the flowers begin to bloom, the children will have the opportunity to observe the first signs of Spring. They will become artists and use pastels, chalks and charcoal to create their own pictures of what they have observed.

What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson will be the class text this half term. The children will use actions to re-tell the story, then move on to innovating the story by adding their own ideas to a story map. This will link to our focus on observing nature and developing a greater understanding of farm animals.

Year 1

Last half term Year 1 went back in time to re-enact the Forfarshire rescue and learn about the life of Grace Darling and why she was a local heroine. The children helped to make a gigantic lighthouse and rescue boat then showed off their super drama skills pretending to be the survivors from the wreck and Grace and her father, as they rowed their boat out in the storm to rescue them.

The children continued learning about boats in DT lessons where they designed, tested and evaluated their own boats to see if they could make one that was both waterproof and floated. The children were really enthusiastic about the project



and had some brilliant original ideas showing off their creativity and STEM skills. The amazing investigation work extended into science lessons where the children learned about materials and used their new knowledge to think about the best things to use to build their boats. They were real scientists during this topic and had to design and carry out their very own experiments to find out if all objects with holes in sink.



As well as thinking about Grace Darling's boat Year 1 have also imagined what it would have been like to live in a lighthouse. In literacy lessons the children read all about poor Mr Grinling who had his lunch stolen by the naughty seagulls in The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, then wrote their very own versions of the story.

Maths lessons covered a range of key skills. The children used lots of different equipment to solve addition and subtraction problems and by the end of the unit could talk about fact families and the relationship between the two operations. Year 1 also did some super shape work and have enjoyed building amazing models using 3D shapes.

This half term Year 1 will be learning how toys have changed through time in their history lessons. If you have any old toys from when you were young it would be really interesting for you to show them to your child and maybe send them into school for your child to talk about.

The children are going to be biologists in science lessons this term and will be learning about different animals. They will sort and categorise all sorts of different creatures and think about what they eat, what they look like and they will even become animal dentists and compare their teeth!

Art lessons this term will focus on printing and pattern. The children will build on the shape unit that they did in Maths last term and will make repeating patterns experimenting with different colours and textures. The children will be learning about different stories from Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism in RE and will be talking about different feelings and emotions in PSHE lessons.

In maths the children will be continuing to practise their number bonds and will also be learning about place value and finding out how many tens and ones there are in numbers up to 20. They will use lots of different pieces of maths equipment to represent numbers in different ways. If you want to support your child at home give them a number to 20 and ask them to show you the tens and ones that the number is made of.

Year 1 staff really appreciate the hard work that you do with your child at home with their maths homework and have noticed the difference that all of the extra practise at home is making to their speedy number bonds. Thank you!

Year 1 literacy text this half term is *Lost In The Toy Museum* by David Lucas which fits in with our history topic of *How Toys Have Changed Through Time*. We don't want to spoil the ending but the book's blurb says:

"One night, when the lights go out at the toy museum, everyone runs off and hides. Left all on his own Bunting, the sensible old toy cat, sets out to look for them. As he follows the trail of clues through the museum, the normally reserved Bunting learns how to have fun."

The children will read several other adventure books where the character's travel to far off or magical places in order to give the children experience of stories about fantasy worlds including; *Toy in Space* by Mini Grey and *Blown Away* by Rolph Biddulph.

Year 2

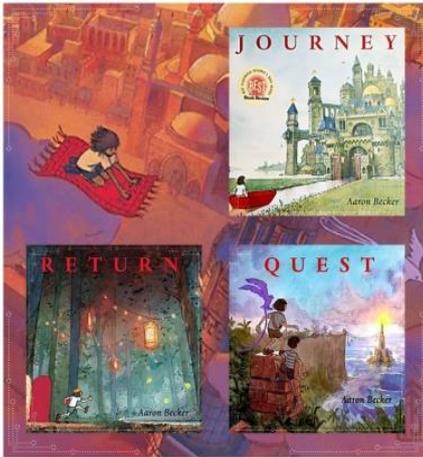
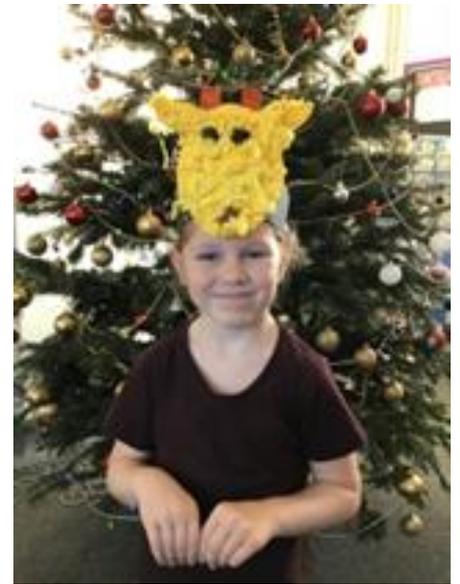
What a half term Year 2 have had! The children have loved learning about The Great Fire of London and they have enjoyed travelling back in time to become history detectives.

It all started with a mysterious, old basket filled with strange items. The children had to use their research skills to work out who the basket belonged to. After looking at a range of sources including paintings, diary entries and actual artefacts they discovered that the basket belonged to Samuel Pepys. They were surprised to find out that he was actually alive during the great fire and that he kept a diary. The children loved finding out lots of gruesome and grisly facts about London at the time of the fire – some may even shock you!



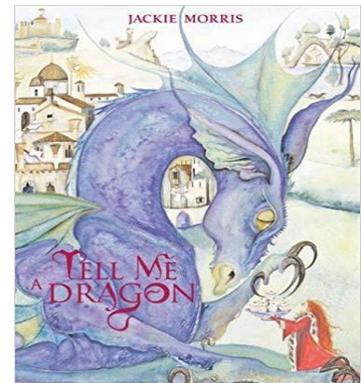
Year 2 read a range of non-fiction texts about The Great Fire and used these to carry out independent research.

One of the highlights of the half term was preparing for Key Stage 1's Christmas performance of The Nativity. So much work went into producing the play with rehearsals for storytelling, instrument playing, singing and dancing. The children sang their hearts out, showed off their best dance moves and perfected the art of playing the chime bars and ringing the sleigh bells. Year 1 and 2 impressed everyone by learning Mrs Kennedy's version of The Christmas Story off by heart using Talk 4 Writing actions. Looking around the room staff could see the pride in the eyes of parents and relatives.



This term, Year 2 will explore the fantasy world of Castles & Dragons. In Literacy they will read stories by the same author, including the beautifully illustrated Journey trilogy by Aaron Becker.

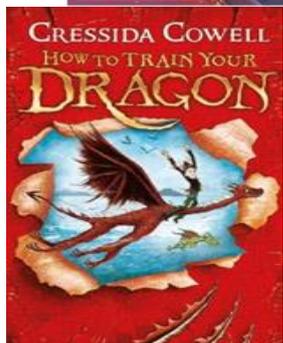
Year 2 will visit a castle in Northumberland and carry out independent research to find out about the other castles in the North East.



Children will write dragon themed poems inspired by the beautiful poetry collection Tell Me A Dragon by Jackie Morris.

Year 2 class text is How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell.

In maths Year 2 will develop their understanding of multiplication and division and apply their knowledge to solve problems. They will begin to look at fractions and also develop their measuring and data collection skills in science during their investigation into living things and their habitats.



Year 3

Last half term Year 3 ventured into the dystopian world of The Iron Man. Focussing on the introduction to a mystery story, the children intrigued the readers through the use of powerful verbs, personification and similes ending with an intriguing cliffhanger.

Becoming inquisitive scientists, Year 3 investigated the best rocks to use for a brick. This involved planning and carrying out a fair test to investigate durability. They also investigated types of soil and how it changes depending on if it was from an urban, rural or coastal area. This tied nicely into our geography topic which last half term focussed on coastal features, erosion and types of land use.

Year 3 had a focussed DT day where they started with a clear design brief to create a bookmark. They planned, made a prototype and made their bookmark using various sewing skills. The children had to evaluate and edit their bookmarks as they went along to ensure they were sticking to the brief. We loved seeing the concentration on their faces!





Year 3 have been lucky enough to broaden their horizons through new experiences such as a fire safety visit from the Fire Service. All the children were very excited to sit in the fire engine and use the hose. They have all been tasked with checking their fire alarms work at home and they have an exit plan, so please talk to your children about this.

As a reward for all of their hard work and attendance LKS2 children chose an E-Praise reward which included baking, VR headsets, Forest School, film and sports. The children loved seeing how their hard work in school paid off. Keep it up!!

This half term Year 3 will be venturing back in time to the Ancient Egyptians where they will look at the key achievements and developments of this era and how it impacts life today. The children will be visiting the Great North Museum to further their historical enquiry - more information to follow.

In science the children will be investigating light and shadows. This will include getting outside to carry out practical experiments about how shadows are formed and different light sources.

In maths the children will be learning about multiplication and division methods using both concrete and written methods. The focus times table for this half term is the 8 x table.

Literacy will link to the Egyptian topic through the class text *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx* by Joe Todd Stanton, using this to write their own myth and legend stories. Later in the half term the children will learn how to write letters for a specific purpose.

Year 4

Last half term, Year 4 learned about the Romans in their history topic. Firstly, the children used their geography skills to locate the Roman Empire on a map and discovered how and why the Romans came to Britain. After learning about important events during the Roman era in Britain by using timelines, the children researched Boudicca's rebellion and discussed the impact that this had on history. In literacy, the children consolidated their learning about the Romans by writing a diary entry as a Roman soldier to show what life was like in the Roman army.



In science, the children took part in two enquiry lessons linked to their learning on solids, liquids and gases. The first experiment involved finding the best insulator for an ice cube and the children also had great fun making slime, which showed that sometimes materials can act like both a solid and a liquid. This unit linked to the children's DT learning, where they have designed and created an ice lolly product. After the essential tasting session, the children evaluated their own product and decided on improvements that could be made.

This term, Year 4 will continue to explore their understanding of the past during their Ancient Greece topic. The children will develop their understanding of significant historical events of the period and how these have impacted upon their life today. The children will also link their Ancient Greece topic to other curriculum areas by exploring pattern in Art.

In science this term, Year 4 will investigate sound and how different variables affect it. They will link this to their learning in music by exploring the concepts of pitch and volume. Furthermore, this science unit will link to Year 4's literacy text, *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman.

As a class text, the children will read *Odd Gods* by Daniel Weitzman and David Slavin. The story follows the adventures of Ancient Greek boy Odonis, who embarks upon adventures to visit different Greek gods.

Year 5

In literacy last half term, the children enjoyed reading about the epic legend of Beowulf and carefully considered the morality of whether Beowulf should have killed Grendel, the evil monster, through debates and balanced arguments. The children were really excited to learn about how this story had been passed from person to person since the Anglo Saxon era and were thoroughly hooked in by the adventurous and suspenseful plot.

Last half term, Year 5 put their historian hats on as they travelled back in time to the 5th century to find out about life in the Anglo Saxon era. They examined primary sources of evidence to make inferences about what life was like and learned all about the vicious Vikings and their gory raids on the British Isles. They were amazed at the bravery and resilience of Alfred the Great as he cleverly outwitted the Vikings and protected his kingdom from invasion. Finally, the children learned about the fall of the Anglo Saxon era, examined the evidence and judged who should have been crowned king.



In science, Year 5 started their chemistry unit on the properties of materials. They planned and set up their own fair tests to answer questions using their scientific understanding. Later in the half term, the children used questions generated in reciprocal reading to set up a science investigation and decide how Michael could survive on the island in *Kensuke's Kingdom*. They really enjoyed reading as scientists and exploring how their scientific knowledge could have real life applications.

At the beginning of the half term, Year 4 and 5 were lucky enough to watch a performance and take part in workshops about how to manage their worries and anxieties. The children were really thoughtful and came up with lots of great strategies for how to deal with "worrits" which they can apply to their everyday lives.

In art, the children learned about Chagall and thought about how to use colour to express emotions. They have created their own dream-like compositions in the style of this artist.

This half term, the children will be reading folktales from other cultures, primarily focused on the Russian folk tale of the Baba Yaga as they read *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson and Brazilian folk tales. The children will continue to build their reading skills through reciprocal reading sessions and reading plus. The children are very proud of how far they have come on reading plus so far and hope to keep it up this term.

In history, the children will be focussing on women who made history in the Victorian era. They will debate and learn about the women's suffrage movement and discuss the impact this has had on our lives today. They also have the very exciting opportunity to experience what life was like for the Victorian children, as they will experience a lesson in a Victorian school at Beamish Museum. They will also link their art learning as they study the work of William Morris and create their own prints.

In science, the children will continue to build on their learning in chemistry as they continue to explore the properties of materials through lots of exciting enquiries.

Year 6

Autumn 2 was an action-packed half term for Year 6; they thoroughly enjoyed learning about 20th century warfare and its impact on Blyth. An interesting afternoon was spent listening to Chief Technician Duncan, currently serving in the RAF, about his work and experiences as an engineer who looks after fast jets – the children were enthralled and asked many pertinent questions. Later, they also enjoyed a visit from Corporal Dyson of the British Army who also shared his interesting facts and stories about life as a modern soldier. In English lessons, the children listened to a radio broadcast of *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall, an adventure story set locally, then went on to write, as journalists, newspaper reports about how Blyth was bombed during the Second World War. The children were amazed to learn that Blyth had a railway station which was bombed, as well as suffering much damage to local farms, livestock and even Cowpen Road!



Visiting Blyth Battery was a highlight of the term with the children learning so much about their home town's coastal defences which have existed, in various forms, since the Napoleonic Wars in the late eighteenth century. They were fascinated to learn that the rangefinder building, which was used to set up the large gun to target any attacking ships, is the only one left of its kind in the world! The children did themselves proud with their many questions about the Blyth submarine base, the ships which were built here (including the very first aircraft carrier, *Ark Royal*!) and the American soldiers who were billeted in wooden huts along the beach during World War II. Year 6 were very lucky to have a Box of Delights loaned to them by the Discovery Museum in Newcastle which contained original and copy artefacts from World War I. The children were fascinated by these and made the learning very real.

Another high point last term was a morning of enterprise with Carole Richards (Business Ambassador for Northumberland County Council) working on Duck Production. The whole year group worked in teams of 6 in a challenge where they took on roles such as accountant, quality controller and buyer. They had to budget, buy materials and produce different origami products (paper ducks!) and then sell them at a profit. The children found this both challenging and engaging – congratulations to the winning team who enjoyed an orange flavoured chocolate treat!



This term, Year 6 shall be learning about the ancient civilisation and culture of the Aztecs; these will also be the inspiration for artwork where the children will be experimenting with different media to improve their mastery of printing and design of pattern. In science, we will be re-visiting the topics of light and sound.

Year 6 class text for this half term will be *Northern Lights* by Phillip Pullman, a fantasy adventure novel about different worlds and different cultures, which has recently been made into a drama series by the BBC – *His Dark Materials*.

E-Safety

With Christmas just gone we know many children will have asked Santa for the latest video game or access to the most popular apps through a tablet or smartphone. Please have a look at www.common sense media.org to see why certain games and apps are age-restricted and what real parents have to say about them.

We know that the online landscape is constantly changing, and new issues arise every day that can challenge or affect children. One of the most challenging aspects is that adults are often the last to know what the new latest thing is. If you or your children have any concerns then please let Mr Fields know so we can look into it and offer support.

Reading

As you know reading is a big focus for us and our motto is “Learning to read and reading to learn”. This year we introduced Reading Plus in Year 4 to 6. The programme is going from strength to strength and is having a huge impact on the children’s reading fluency. All children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have a login and they can access the programme on a PC or tablet and there is a huge range of fiction and non-fiction texts that the children can choose from. All the texts can be read in around 15 minutes and questions test the children’s understanding. Each month children who have made great progress are chosen and rewarded with a new book. Using Reading Plus at home is a great way of getting reading in an easy, accessible and fun way.

Come Dine and Read

We will be holding our popular Come Dine and Read sessions again this half term on the Week beginning 3 February – dates can for each year group can be found in the Key dates section of the Newsletter. This is a popular annual event where you get the chance to eat lunch with the children then share a book in one of our reading areas. Further details to follow.

Always club

This half term we have run The Always Club for the first time. This is designed to reward the children who ALWAYS do the right thing. One person is chosen from each class by their class teacher on a Friday to come and have a special treat, chat and listen to music. There is no limit to how many times they can be chosen. This has proved extremely popular and we will be continuing it into the new year. We feel it is important that the children who come to school and work so hard to make the right choices are recognised and rewarded. Well done to everyone chosen so far.

Contributions to the community and developing responsibility

The mini police have been involved in 3 deployments and 1 visit so far this term. The 10 recruits from Year 5 have met with the Mayor of Blyth to suggest how their town could be improved further having listened to other children’s ideas from across school. They were also present at the Remembrance Day Service in November and laid a wreath on behalf of Horton Grange at the cenotaph in Ridley Park.



More recently, they policed the Blyth Christmas lights switch on and spoke to members of the public about keeping themselves and their belongings safe. As a reward for their efforts, they were asked to decorate the Christmas Tree at Bedlington Police Station, where they also learnt about and visited the custody suite and the process involved when people have broken the law.

Developing responsibility

The Head Prefects did us proud welcoming parents to the Y5/6 Christmas Carol Service. Together with other Prefects, they also helped sell raffle tickets at other year group Christmas productions.

Sports Captains and Sports Leaders worked with younger children at break times teaching them how to play active games such as Monkey Ball and Splat.



Y6 Prefects 2019/20



Attendance

There is no doubt that November and December have been a challenging two months for attendance across the North East with many schools being forced to close. At Horton Grange we are made of strong stuff and despite both sickness and flu striking many of you it was clear from talking to the children that everyone who was ill was keen to get back and resume their learning. It is always difficult as a parent when your children are sick and making the decision to keep them off is never easy. Hopefully we have now reached the end of this bout of illness and can all enjoy Christmas, bug free and be back fit and well in the new year.

Some reminders:

- Absences should always be reported to the school office by 9am every day of illness.
- Should you have medical or dental appointments please try to arrange them for outside school time. If this is not possible, then if you can bring your child in for registration at the start of the day, they will get their mark and attendance will not be affected.

Holidays will not be authorised in school time

Updates and communication

Please remember current updates will be communicated via our texting system or our school facebook page. There will also be further information regarding curriculum on our school website, including curriculum knowledge organisers, which share key knowledge and vocabulary to be learnt and understood during the term.

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. 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 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)

Tuesday 7 January	Tiddlywinks (Nursery)
Wednesday 15 January	2.30pm Year 2 SATs meeting
Thursday 16 January	Year 2 Multi-skills Festival
Tuesday 21 January	Reception Eye Tests 3.30pm Year 5 Edinburgh trip meeting
Wednesday 22 January	3.30pm Year 6 SATs meeting
Thursday 23 January	Year 2 Multi-skills Festival
Monday 27 January	Year 6 Trial SATs week
Thursday 30 January	Y5/6 Netball Tournament
Monday 3 February	Year 1 Come, Dine & Read Parent drop-in after school session
Tuesday 4 February	Year 2 Come, Dine & Read
Wednesday 5 February	Year 3 Come, Dine & Read
Thursday 6 February	Year 4 Come, Dine & Read
Friday 7 February	Year 5 Come, Dine & Read
Monday 10 February	Year 6 Come, Dine & Read
Tuesday 11 February	Year 1 Trip to Beamish Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 February	Year 5 Trip to Beamish
Thursday 13 February	Year 3/4 Gym Competition
Friday 14 February	School closes for half-term
Monday 24 February	School re-opens

Clubs

Clubs	Year Group	Day
Football	Years 3 to 6	Wednesday
Multi-Skills	Years 3 to 6	Wednesday
Lego	Years 1 & 2	Thursday
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Thursday