

NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of the last half term of the year – it is hard to believe another year has nearly passed. The second half of the summer term is always a busy one and we look forward to all that it brings. Firstly some staffing updates - Congratulations to Mrs Carlisle, who recently got married and will now become known as Mrs Hewes and Mrs Foley who also got married and will now become known as Mrs Barley. We are also welcoming Mrs Davidson to the Admin team, who will replace Mrs Mudd after her recent retirement.



MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

As you know we like to promote children making positive contribution. Our recent non-uniform day raised £261 for CLIC Sargent a children's cancer charity. Thank you for all your contributions.

PARENT LEARNING SESSIONS

Mrs Greig would like to say thank you to all parents who attended the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) open learning event. Work on STEM in school is going from strength to strength with some upcoming events including the 'Great Car Race on the River Tyne'.

Mrs Hewes would also like to thank parents who attended the parent forum. Your feedback has been shared with me and I will be considering each one and how we can respond.

AMAZING CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT AND HOOKS FOR LEARNING

STEM WEEK 2018

During the last week of term half term children across school enjoyed STEM Week activities.

Year 1 studied Grace Darling. Children enjoyed making paper boats to carry cargo and stay afloat. They also made predictions and tested whether objects would float or sink in the paddling pools. As part of their moon landing topic, **Year 2** researched famous female astronaut Helen Sharman. They worked in collaborative teams to find the most suitable material to make a windmill. They designed and made moon buggies, which they later evaluated. **Year 3** children studied the work of author and botanist Enid Blyton. They looked closely at her scientific sketches of plant life and fungi and created their own detailed sketches. They also studied soil formation and considered 'What lies beneath the grass?' Following a busy week at Dukeshouse Wood, **Year 4** children took their learning outdoors. They tackled a maths trail around the school grounds. By getting the correct answers they were able to spell out the name of famous female adventurer Amelia Earhart, who they later researched. **Year 5** incorporated their design technology and science skills to create pulley systems. After creating a prototype design to identify the mechanism's forces and their effects, the children then evaluated and improved their mechanisms by using a variety of materials to strengthen and reinforce them. Year 5 also enjoyed researching the life and work of famous mathematician Kathryn Johnson. **Year 6** researched the work of Marie Curie to discover the impact she had on the scientific world. They also looked into the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. They examined his many inventions and looked at how he hid them from the world through mirror writing.

Even **The Place** got involved! Children at The Place had two STEM challenges to complete. The first was to create a greenhouse type structure using only marshmallows and spaghetti. The second was to create a lego structure linked to learning. The children created some marvellous structures from bees to rainbows. They even created a pyramid!

VISITS

At Horton Grange we continue to enrich the children's learning with a range of visits and residential last term. Our Year 4 children embarked on 3 days in Dukeshouse Wood, where they experienced a wide variety of outdoor activities such as archery, the climbing wall (some people even got right to the top), the 3G swing and the zip wire! They developed their team building but most importantly they had an amazing time, learned new skills and overcame many fears. For some this was their first experience of staying away from home. Well done to all who attended.

Year 1 also enjoyed a fabulous visit to St Mary's Lighthouse – more later in the Newsletter!



SPORTING UPDATES

Our Year 5 boys' football team represented the school at a football tournament on the 10 May. The children had a chance to play in 5 separate games and developed their team working and football skills throughout. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the afternoon. Next month it will be the girl's turn. Our Year 5/6 Girls Football Team has qualified to represent the school at the Northumberland School Games this June. We wish them the best of luck.

Attendance Update

As you know attendance at school is a key indicator in ensuring children make progress academically but also to ensure friendships thrive and positive attitudes develop. With the onset of summer and the lovely warmer weather everyone is hoping the bugs of winter will lessen and children can come to school every day! It is worth remembering that to have 95% attendance, which is classed as good attendance; a child can only miss 10 days in any school year. Should your child need to be absent due to ill health, parents must notify school by telephone before 9.00am on that day. Holidays will not be authorised in school time, except in exceptional circumstances and a holiday request form must be completed and handed into the office. As attendance is one of our school priorities and Ofsted have told us we must improve this; we appreciate your support in this.

Rewards

The ever popular Asda prize draw will take place towards the end of the summer term and those children with 100% attendance have a special treat! Well done to all those children and families whose attendance remains above 95%.

Mini Police

What a privilege it has been for some children to be involved in the 'Mini Police' project this year. Their recent expedition involved visiting the police helicopter at Newcastle Airport. The children learned how the cameras and navigation systems help assist police officers on the ground. Some of the children have been greatly inspired and are now considering a career in the police.

The children and staff at Horton Grange continue to look forward to many more exciting opportunities that the future may bring!



SHARING OUR LEARNING

NURSERY



Nursery have been listening to the story of Jasper's Beanstalk planting beans and sunflower seeds and watching them grow. They loved singing the song 'Grow Your Bean' and pretending to be a bean growing tall. The Nursery garden has benefitted from some new plants; the children have used their knowledge of how to look after plants to help them grow – keep an eye out for them and see how they bloom!



RECEPTION

The children in Reception have thoroughly enjoyed the topic of 'Growing' and have been very hands-on! They have been planting vegetables, herbs and flowers in the garden and have been totally



engrossed in the new investigation area; looking at the different variables that affect plant growth. They have been keen to predict what will happen to the seeds that they planted and have been completely engaged in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, acting out roles in the castle and even writing their own stories!



YEAR 1

Last half term Year 1 enjoyed finding out about the life of Grace Darling and her heroic rescue. They have shown great empathy for the people rescued and lost in the sea disaster. Their trip to St Mary's Lighthouse was a great success, with both Penguins and Polar Bears being very brave and climbing the 137 steps to the top of the lighthouse! They had great fun outdoors in the rock pools and finding natural materials to use in our sand art. The visit enthused their writing and they were all eager to write postcards home to share their experiences.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this half term in preparation for their Key Stage 1 SATs. They have been very busy working on a range



of skills including reading for meaning and using written strategies to solve problems in maths. They have shown real resilience and determination and we are so proud of their efforts during the SATs tests. We would like to say a great big WELL DONE!



Despite the SATS there was also time for fun and creativity. The 'Moon Landing' topic took them to the stars and back. Once again they became history detectives and used a range of sources to find out all about the past and the life

of the world famous Neil Armstrong. They looked at a timeline of space travel and discovered that he was the first man on the Moon. They have been busy in the computer room this half term and have been developing their coding skills and produced fantastic newspaper reports about the Moon landing. They have also been testing out their 'green fingers' and have planted some beans, they will have to wait and see if they grow into a big beanstalk. Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenge, the display is full of amazing rockets and terrifying aliens!

Year 3

It seems there are some budding farmers in Year 3! As part of the topic 'From farm to fork' children have been learning all about what plants need to stay healthy. With the help of Mr Hogg, they have grown tomatoes, cucumbers, mixed leaf lettuce, carrots, onions, spring onions and radishes. Their crops are coming along nicely with the children tending to them each day.

To support their learning about pollination, the children were lucky enough to have a bee keeper visit. She brought with her a bee keepers outfit and a real bee hive. (Thankfully there were no bees in it!) Children were fascinated to see the inside of the hive, touch the honeycomb and best of all, taste real honey. Thank you to Mrs Ash for arranging such a fantastic learning opportunity for us.



In Literacy Year 3 have read the text '*Kate and the Beanstalk*'. They looked particularly at character description, using rich and varied language. The children also considered whether the story would be different, having a female heroine - thankfully Kate was as brave and as bold as Jack from Jack and the Beanstalk! In maths, the focus has been on fractions and measurement. The children thoroughly enjoyed calculating the perimeter of shapes and can see how they could use this skill in their design work next half term.



YEAR 4

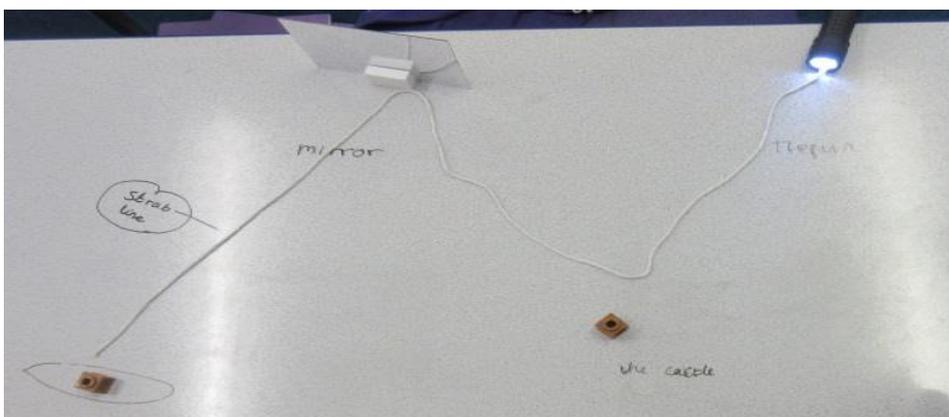
Last half term Year 4 had to go with the flow to hit the dizzying heights as they learned about rivers and mountains. They planned and carried out a survey of the River Blyth and were able to see a lot of geographical features right on their doorstep. Using the wonders of VR technology they were able to stand on the world's highest peaks, without leaving their classroom. Of course the highlight of this term was the residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood, an action-packed three days of adventurous activities. Whether making beds or swooping through the air on the 3G swing, the children were able to experience new horizons and develop their resilience with plenty of fresh air and exercise.



YEAR 5



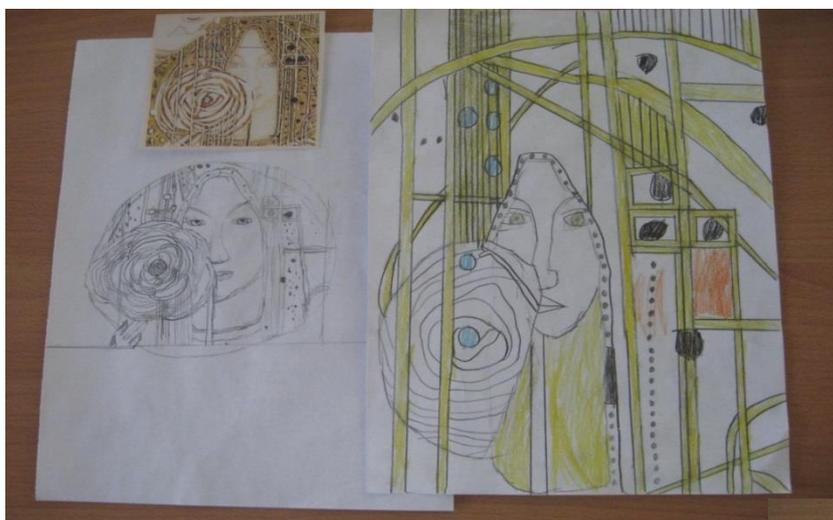
Last term, Year 5 have engaged in activities linked to their Edinburgh trip. They have used their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) expertise to create a pulley system to lift objects to the top of Edinburgh Castle. After evaluating their designs, the children improved them by utilising a variety of materials to strengthen the pulley systems. In Science, Year 5 learned how light travels from a light source and reflects into our eyes by carrying out practical investigations linked to their experiences at Camera Obscura. Additionally, Year 5 have improved their sketching and sculpting techniques in Art by creating 3D models of animals at Edinburgh Zoo.



Year 6

The first thing that must be said about Year 6 during the last half term is how impressed all the staff have been with their incredible hard work on the run up to SATs. Many children were regularly attending the revision clubs - in fact some children came to every single session – very well done to all of you! Thank you also to parents for your continuing support.

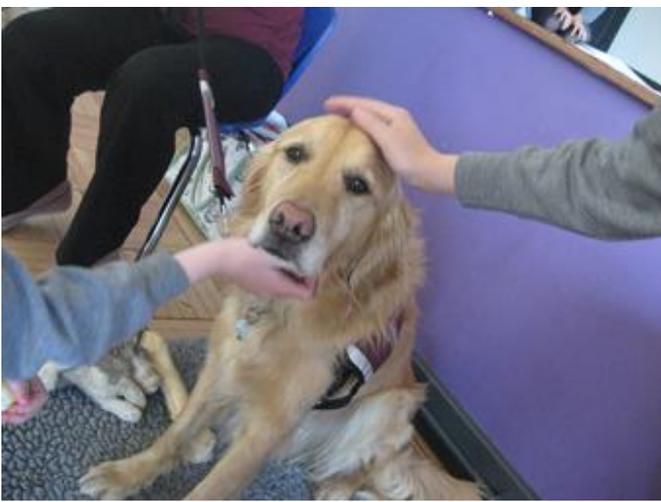
Gallery Rebels has been a popular topic: the children enjoyed painting to explore colour mixing then applied this learning to a science investigation on chromatography where they investigated the dyes used in felt pens. After realising that all the famous artists they had heard of were men, the children investigated the life of Margaret Mackintosh MacDonald of the Glasgow School of Art and created work in her style.



The pencil work on the left is by Jake Downes and the yellow drawing is by Christopher Moffat.

On the right, the pink work is by Demi McGarry.





A highlight of the half term was a visit by the Hearing Dogs Association: Christine, a volunteer who helps train the animals, brought along Goldie, who charmed all of Years 4, 5 and 6 with her wonderful behaviour and obedience.

The Place

At The Place this month they have been planting tomato, bean, pea and sunflower seeds, caring for them and watching them grow. They have also observed frog spawn change into tadpoles. In the coming weeks children will be making a pond for the frogs to explore. Whilst learning more about plants and the need to care for bees we made our own sunflower - keeping The Place warm and bright all day. The children have explored 'Mr McGregor's garden', printed patterns using vegetables and even made vegetable soup which they bravely tasted!

TOPICS FOR SUMMER TERM

The topic overviews for this half term 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 title for Summer 2.



Year	Class text	Topic – Summer 2
Nursery	'Lulu's Holiday' - Caroline Uff	Nursery's topic this term will be ' Where are you going, where have you been? ' The children will be developing language skills through talking about places they have visited – parents could support this by talking with their children about their favourite places to visit. With the summer ahead (hopefully!) Nursery will be considering how to keep safe in the sun and what they would pack if they went on holiday. They will sing songs about transport vehicles and whilst thinking about seaside holidays they will learn about sea creatures and name them.
Reception	'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson	This term the children will be learning all about ' Minibeasts ' and will focus on the story of 'Superworm'. The children will be practically involved in making minibeast dens and looking at 'art in nature' on the visit to Gibside Stables.
Year 1	'My First Book of Nature' by Nichola Davies 'The Big Book of Bugs' by Yuval Zommer	This term the topic will be ' Wonderful World ' where the children will be exploring animal groups and their young, continuing to observe the changing seasons and the animals we find in Summer. Year One will be studying non-fiction texts to find out more about animals to write their own fact files

Year 2	'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram	Year 2 will be continuing their ' Moon Landing ' topic. They will study the story 'Man on the Moon' (Simon Bartram) using the Talk for Writing approach and use it as inspiration for writing their own adventure story. In maths they will continue to deepen their knowledge of calculation and reasoning by solving using mastery. Year 2 are looking forward to getting creative during SMADD week where they will investigate materials with an arty twist!
Year 3	'The Sheep-Pig' by Dick King-Smith	This term the children are continuing with the topic ' From farm to fork ' and our class text will be 'The Sheep-Pig' by Dick King-Smith. Their learning will be supported with a visit to 'The Centre For Life' to take part in planting workshops and learn more about pollination and seed dispersal. They will look more closely at the journey of foods from source to plate. In Literacy and Maths there will be a big focus on securing basic skills to ensure children are ready for Year 4. In Literacy they will spend time practising spellings and developing reading comprehension skills. In maths, children will build confidence using all four operations and using more formal methods to calculate and solve problems.
Year 4	'Fergus Crane' by Paul Stewart	This term Year 4 class topic will be ' Blue Abyss '. Year 4 will be at diving stations as they explore the most mysterious part of our planet, the blue abyss. As well as the features and wildlife of the deep the children will be learning about life on a submarine and designing their own undersea vehicles.
Year 5	'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo	In Summer 2, Year 5 will become ' Stranded ' during their Reading topic. The children will read Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo and complete a range of cross-curricular tasks based on the text. In Literacy, Year 5 will also be reading 'The Highwayman' poem by Alfred Noyes.
Year 6	'If the world were a village' by David J Smith	In Summer 2, Year 6 will focus on a topic about Mexico . They will learn about its geography, history, culture and perhaps, taste some of the food! On that note, we will be reading 'The Chocolate Tree' by Linda Lowery. Year 6 are very excited about the Enterprise project where they will work in teams to raise money to help fund their end of year residential visit to Winmarleigh Hall on Friday 22 June. They are also looking forward to their Prom on Thursday 12 July and the Leavers' Assembly on Friday 13 July.

Summer 2 term clubs

After School Clubs will carry over into Summer 2 finishing on Thursday 21 June.

KS1 Clubs	KS2 Clubs
Coding	Art
Lego	German
Board games	Magic
	Football
	Homework (Y5 & 6)

Athletics club for Year 3/4 will be starting on Wednesday 13 June for 5 weeks.

UNIFORM

I appreciate it is getting towards the end of the year, but a polite reminder that trainers should not be worn, except for PE or outdoor play. We are purchasing a set of new black plimsoles for school. Children who do not wear appropriate footwear will be provided with these to wear indoors on that day. Can I also please remind you long hair must be tied up and that leggings should not be worn. We will be focussing on this over the summer term and if children are not wearing the correct uniform we will be contacting parents.

TRAFFIC ON SCHOOL SITE

SAFETY COMES FIRST and therefore we must restrict traffic access to school site. Parents of children who attend breakfast club are permitted to bring cars on site before 8.40am. However a parent code of conduct must be signed to agree that you will:

- Drive no faster than 5MPH
- Reverse into the designated parking bays
- Follow the marked guidelines for walking your child into breakfast club and use the designated crossings.

Cars are not permitted on site at any other time, including collecting for clubs, unless you are in possession of a disabled badge.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

GDPR

You may be aware that on the 25 May, new data protection regulations came into force. For this reason we have updated our privacy policies which are available on our website. We have also recently sent a new photograph permission form home in light of this. Please return this immediately – we cannot assume we have your permission to use photographs of your child unless the form is returned to us.

I shall look forward to seeing you in school over the final half term at Sports Day, Celebration Assemblies and Year 6 Leavers Assembly.

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.

Monday 11 June	Year 3 - Forest School Week Year 1 – Phonics screening
Tuesday 12 June	Years 3, 4 & 5 – Author visit – Mark Powers Year 3 – (Alnwick Class) – Forest School – Plessey Woods X 8 Year 5 pupils – Blyth Port visit
Wednesday 13 June	Year 3 (Bamburgh Class) – Forest School – Plessey Woods X 8 Year 5 pupils – Blyth Port visit
Friday 15 June	Year 3 – Forest School Parents Learning Session – 2.15pm EYFS – Sports Day - Nursery AM – 9.30am - Nursery PM – 1.15pm - Reception – 2.15pm
Monday 18 June	SMADD Week Sports Day – Year 5 & 6 – 9.15 – 10.45am Sports Day – Year 3 & 4 – 10.45 – 12.10pm Sports Day – Year 1 & 2 – 1.30 – 3.00pm
Tuesday 19 June	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 20 June	SMADD Week – Parent Learning session – KS2 9.15 – 10.15am, KS1 2.15 – 3.15pm
Thursday 21 June	Toy and Book Sale Non-uniform Day 1.00 – 3.00 Toddler Group EYFS Stay and Play - Nursery at the beginning of each session - Reception – 2.00pm
Friday 22 June	Reception – Visit to Gibside Stables Year 6 – Residential to Winmarleigh Hall
Tuesday 26 June	Reception Parent Lunch – 11.00am
Wednesday 27 June	Reception Parent Lunch – 11.00am
Thursday 28 June	Reception Transition Meeting – 10.00am Reception Parent Lunch – 11.00am Years 5 & 6 – Girls Football Team – Northumberland School Games Year 5 – STEM event at Bede Academy
Friday 29 June	Year 6 – (Warkworth Class)– Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle
Monday 2 July	Year 3 (Alnwick Class) – Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle
Tuesday 3 July	Year 6 – (Norham Class) – Get North City Schools Trail, Newcastle Year 4 – Green Power Goblin – SAGE, Newcastle
Thursday 5 July	Year 3 (Bamburgh Class) – Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle 1.00 – 3.00pm – Toddler Group
Friday 6 July	Year 6 – Bake Sale Laurie Wise (Rotary Club) presenting awards at Horton Heroes
Monday 9 July	Year 5 – Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle Year 2 – Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle
Tuesday 10 July	Year 4 – Get North City School Trial, Newcastle
Wednesday 11 July	Transition Day Parent Consultations

Thursday 12 July	Year 1 – Get North City Schools Trial, Newcastle Year 6 – PROM – 6.00 – 8.30pm
Friday 13 July	Year 6 - Leavers Assembly – 2.00pm
Monday 16 July	Transition Week EYFS – Graduation 2.15pm
Tuesday 17 July	KS1 Celebration event – Year 1 (9.15am) Year 2 (2.45pm)
Wednesday 18 July	Year 3,4,5 Celebration event – Year 3 (9.30am) Year 4 (11.00am), Year 5 (2.00pm) Nursery Summer Party
Friday 20 July	School Closes for Summer Holidays (Normal Time)