

NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Dear Parents and Friends

Well last half term may have been short but it was certainly busy!



PARENT OPEN LEARNING SESSIONS

Thank you to parents who attended our 'Come App and Compute with Me' on Wednesday 7 February. There was a great turn out and we generally received some very positive feedback from parents. The aim was to give you a flavour of what is available to support learning free of charge on the internet, how we use them at school and how you could use them at home, but also to give some very important E-Safety messages. Technology moves fast and I am often amazed at how the children use such technology so proficiently; quite often I find my 6 year old son advising me on how to operate Apps and emerging IT equipment. However, as adults we have a duty to keep children safe. That can be challenging when we may not always be as confident as our children. We have adults in school who are specialists, so if you would like some support on safety settings or would like to know more about the Apps your children are using, please contact Mrs Carlisle and she will direct you accordingly. I have had to ask myself many times!

Top tips for keeping your child safe online

1. General advice

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers

www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-for-parents

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

2. Turn on Google Safesearch

<https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/510?hl=en>

3. Turn on YouTube safety mode

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/174084?hl=en>

4. Turn on ISP Parental Controls

e.g. <http://help.sky.com/articles/set-up-mcafee-parental-controls>

5. Turn on parental controls on games consoles

e.g. <https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-360/security/xbox-live-parental-control/>

6. Turn on browser parental controls

e.g. https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/3463947?p=ui_supervised_users&rd=1

7. Turn on online TV and film parental controls

e.g. http://iplayerhelp.external.bbc.co.uk/tv/pg_PIN

8. Turn on PC Operating System parental controls

e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJoB-ZIWtRo>

9. Turn on TV parental controls

e.g. <http://help.sky.com/articles/set-up-parental-controls-on-your-tv>

Further information

<https://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/tools/how-to.html#>

DANGERS OF MUSICAL.LY

In particular, the older children may be aware of an App called **MUSICAL.LY**. Users are supposed to be at least 13 years old in order to comply with the [Child Online Privacy Protection Act \(COPPA\)](#). Muisical.ly is a video community that allows you to create, share and discover short music videos. This may seem like harmless fun but we are advised due to the young age of users younger and younger children are at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content and as a result, younger and younger children seem to be actively participating in creating it. There are also reports of inappropriate adults targeting this App.

Please contact school if you would like any further support with security settings on your child's phone or tablet.

Future Events

The **1 March** is **World Book Day** and I wrote to you in the last week of the half term with details of this event. I have included it below as a reminder:

As usual the children can come into school dressed as a character from a book. This year we would like parents to be involved and are doubling this up as one of our open learning events called '**Get into Character**'. You are invited into school at the following times:

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

2.00 pm to 2.50 pm in class rooms where teachers will demonstrate how the school is teaching and developing a love of story telling and story writing. You will have an opportunity to work alongside your child doing this. At **2.50 pm** there will be an opportunity to enjoy some story telling with your child in the school hall lead by Mrs Ash. This will finish in time to collect your children at the end of the day.



Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)

9.10 am to 10.00 am. This will follow a similar format to Key Stage 1 but at an age appropriate level. Again you can enjoy story telling with your child in the hall with Mrs Ash from **10.00 am – 10.30 am.**

If you would like, feel free to come dressed as a book character too.

As you know we take on board your views and have worked hard to increase the amount of open learning opportunities in school following requests from parents in the past. However, I have received feedback recently that working parents feel there are too many events. We would appreciate your views on this so please contact Mrs Carlisle to discuss.

HORTON GRANGE GROWING IN SIZE!

As a staff, we are very proud of Horton Grange and the journey it has been on. When I arrived here in 2010, it was a very different school. The staff and children work hard to ensure your children get the best possible education - we may not always get it 100% right all of the time but as our school motto states we are ' Learning together to be the best we can be!'. Children leave Horton Grange on average with outcomes higher than the national average – a great achievement! As you know we had a visit from Ofsted recently. The inspector spent a lot of time with the leadership team, visited classrooms and spoke with children. The inspector will write a letter within 14 days, informing us of the outcome. Until then we are not able to give you further details but we were pleased that the inspector agreed with what we say about our school.

We have lots of children who want to attend our school, even those who do not live in our catchment area. From September 2018 Horton Grange will embark on a new and exciting journey to be a 3 form entry school. Initially this will be with Reception but will then grow through school. This is exciting for Horton Grange and will bring lots of new opportunities as well as changes to our school building. Watch this space and I will keep you updated with developments!

STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) at Horton Grange

The community you live in is leading the way with STEM developments and if you haven't visited the Port of Blyth recently it is worth a trip. The work that is currently going on off the coast of Blyth is going to provide immense work opportunities in the future and that workforce currently sits in our schools so we want the children to be prepared for these opportunities. We are working closely with the Blyth STEM hub group to ensure this happens. Meanwhile, STEM continues to develop at Horton Grange. We have been working with colleagues at Accenture, supporting them in their development of a way-finder app to be used by visitors to The Great Exhibition of The North 2018. 120 of our children, from year 2 to year 6, took part in user testing activities during which they discussed their own preferences, designed app characters and created a wireframe. All of this work supports the children's understanding of app development.

STEM Club

STEM club is up and running and children carried out their first tests this week. Their enquiry question was 'Does smell affect your taste?' After writing their hypothesis, children were blindfolded and with noses nipped, the tasting began.



With delights such as pickled onions, mango, crème fraiche and milk, the children bravely tasted test samples and recorded results. Findings were discussed. Some of the children felt that smell did affect our taste but they also found that texture and consistency of a product helped them to make judgements too. Well done to all at STEM club and thank you to Mrs Greig for running this club.

SPORTS UPDATE

Year 5 Netball

In January, the Year 5 Netball Team took part in a tournament at Blyth Sports Centre. They played fantastically throughout the tournament and finished third place overall. An excellent result!

Year 3 Gymnastics

The Year 3 Gymnastics Team took part in a competition at Blyth Sports Centre in February. This is the first time that Horton Grange has entered this competition. The team worked very hard and spent a lot of time practising with Mrs Allman in the lead up to the competition. They finished seventh overall and are already talking about their entry for next year!

Year 6 Netball

The Year 6 Netball Team had a great afternoon at their final netball tournament of the year. It has been fantastic to see the girls' netball skills develop over the course of the year. Once again, they worked extremely well as a team, demonstrated their skills and finished fifth in their group overall.



FA Soccer Skills

This half term, the children in Year 6 have been lucky enough to have a FA Skills Coach teaching their PE lessons. Over the five weeks, they have developed their dodging, dribbling and defending skills and taken part in a whole-class tournament.



SHARING OUR LEARNING

2 Year olds

The children in our Two Year Old provision have been challenging their physical skills of moving, balancing and controlling objects. They particularly enjoyed using balls of different types and realised that with lots of practice they could sit on them.



Nursery

The children have been learning about Winter by getting wrapped up and venturing out on a Winter walk. Whilst noticing there were no berries for the birds to eat, the children came up with the idea to make bird feeders, which they later took home to hang in their gardens. The nursery children are now on the lookout for birds everywhere!



As well as caring for animals in the environment the nursery children have been looking after animals in Nursery in the role play vet. Thank you to James' Mum, a Veterinary Nurse, who came into Nursery to talk to us about how to look after pets at home. They talked about which foods pets should not have, looked at the microchip machine and dressed up as a vet.

Reception

Over the past few weeks Reception have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about different types of bears. They thought of lots of facts they wanted to find out about bears and used the internet to learn more information. The children have been developing their story telling, making some amazing story maps and even writing speech bubbles for their bear characters!

Staff would like to thank parents once again for supporting their children to create some amazing homework contributions this half term; it is evident how much time and effort has gone into them.



This half term we will be taking a short break from the weekly workshops. Following requests from parents, Mrs McGuire will be holding longer sessions explaining and discussing the expectations at the end of reception, this will be an excellent opportunity for parents to ask for advice and support. The workshops will resume after Easter as we work towards the End of year expectations.

Year 1

Year 1 have been very hard-working this half term. Their topic 'Ice Magic' has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. Polar Bears and Penguins have enjoyed talking about the different types of weather, keeping a weather diary and discussing how the weather changes throughout the seasons. They found out about hot and cold places around the world and the types of clothes they should wear in these places.

In Science the children have been naming and sorting a range of different materials. They then carried out an investigation to find out the best material to repair a broken umbrella!



They explored different materials, asked lots of questions and then made a prediction as to the best material to use. The homework challenges have once again been fantastic! Thank you to the many who have taken part. They have been particularly impressed with the ice sculptures and enjoyed watching them melt in class.

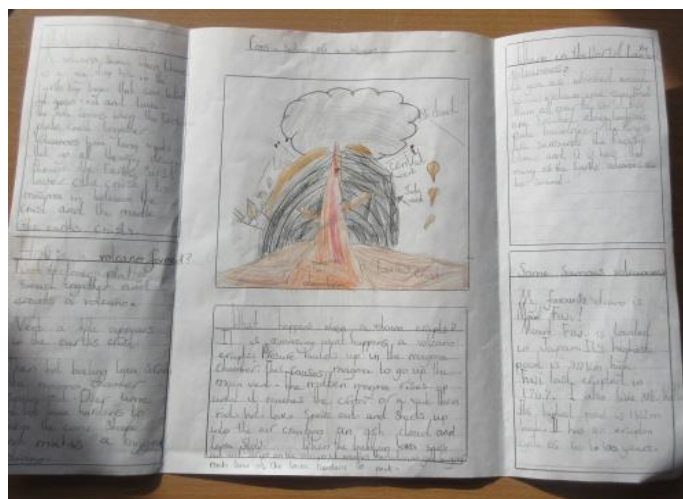
Year 2

Year 2 have once again had a great half term. The 'Amazing Africa' topic has been a roaring success. They have explored the local area and produced maps of local landmarks with a key. They became Masai warriors and designed and made their own warrior necklace using African repeating patterns. Some of them were truly terrifying! Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenges. The KS1 corridor looks like the African jungle!



Year 3

Spring term certainly started with a bang in year 3! Children have learned about the Earth's layers, including tectonic plates. They found out how tectonic plate movement creates natural disasters, such as volcanoes and earthquakes. Using globes, maps and atlases they located The Pacific Ring and surrounding continents. By studying different maps, they were able to make the links between tectonic plate boundaries and the location of volcanoes around the world. They produced some wonderful non-chronological reports, which will be shared with other classes around school. Some of the illustrations that the children did were beautiful and showed a growing pride in the presentation of their work.



Year 4

Journeying from coast to coast, this half term Year 4 have been on a road trip across the USA. Through their art, geography, history and music lessons they were able to get a real sense of the rich culture of this amazing country and have produced some great homework including some monstrous totem poles. In science the children have been investigating electricity and created their own working circuits which included switches, bulbs and buzzers.



Thoroughly enjoying their class text 'The Indian in the Cupboard,' Year 4 have been dealing with their own case of toys coming to life. The children were shocked to discover that their classrooms had been messed up and the prime culprits were some mischievous toys. Acting as investigating reporters they questioned the witnesses before writing a newspaper article about the mystery.

Year 5

Year 5 have really enjoyed their topic of 'Carnival'. Through Geography, the children explored the physical and human features of Brazil and the importance of its natural resources to the Brazilian economy through trade links. Next half term we will be continuing with this topic and working towards our class carnival through music, DT, and dance.

In science, they have been investigating the properties of different materials including whether materials are soluble or insoluble and whether you can separate mixtures and solutions. The children have really enjoyed learning about different materials this half term and will be applying their new knowledge about properties of materials to their DT next half term.

In Literacy, the children have been kept on the edge of their seats finding out all about the adventures of Alex Rider in their text Stormbreaker. Next half term, they will be focusing on writing their own Alex Rider mission.



Year 6

The Arctic Circle and Antarctica have been the focus for learning in year 6 this term and the children have produced some excellent work in their books. They have researched both areas to compare climate, population, animal and plant life as well as finding out about the Inuit people who live within the Arctic Circle. The Titanic has proved to be a very popular topic in Literacy and some absolutely amazing newspaper reports have been written about the disaster as if we were still in 1912!



Lots of fun was had when the children tested different materials for insulation. In small groups, the children took measurements to see which material (plastic, air or lard!) allowed the children to keep their hand in a bowl of icy water the longest. They then related this to the fur and blubber which polar animals have to keep them warm.



New Topics

Year	Class text	Topic – Spring 2
Nursery	Who's on the farm by Julia Donaldson	Our topic for this term in Nursery is 'Animals, animals everywhere!' We will be learning about farm animals and their homes. We will be naming animals and their babies. Our topic book is 'Who's on the farm?' by Julia Donaldson. We are very excited to be hatching chicks and watching them grow.
Reception	The Three Little Pigs	Reception's topic for next half term is 'Down at the Farm'. The children will have the opportunity to learn about farm animals and their young by hatching ducklings and visiting a farm. They will be creating video diaries to describe the eggs hatching and learn 'The Three Little Pigs' story through talk for writing. This half term Early Years will be taking a short break from the weekly workshops. Following the requests from parents, Mrs McGuire will be holding longer sessions explaining and discussing the expectations at the end of reception, this will be an excellent opportunity for parents to ask for advice and support. The workshops will resume after Easter as we work towards the end of year expectations.
Year 1	Jack and the Beanstalk by Iona Treahey Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs	The topic will be ' Roots, Shoots and Fruits ' which will have a Science focus. The children will name a variety of common wild and garden plants, and learn to label the parts of a plant and tree. They will investigate - Are all leaves the same?
Year 2	The Day the Rains Fell by Anne Faundez	The children will be continuing with their topic 'Amazing Africa' and will begin to compare life in Blyth to life in an African village. They will explore their local community and will discuss the similarities and differences. They will begin to innovate their class text 'The Day the Rains Fell' by Anne Faundez using the Talk for Writing approach.
Year 3	Iron Man by Ted Hughes.	The topic is ' illuminating Light '. Children will be reading the text 'Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. In Literacy, they will be writing newspaper reports, writing their own poems and re-telling familiar fairy tales, using a light source and shadow puppets. The children will create short animations of this to share with KS1 children. In maths, children will further develop their multiplication and division skills. They will also be comparing and ordering fractions.
Year 4	Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell (end of day	Year 4 topic will be traders and raiders where the children will get the opportunity to develop historical research skills, while they learn about Anglo Saxons and make comparisons to the lives of Vikings. They will also learn to plot settlements on maps, design and make a Viking Longboat in DT and in art create a 2d Viking boat head (drakkar) from clay.

	book)	
Year 5	Stormbreaker by Alex Rider	The Carnival topic will continue with a focus on music, DT and dance as they plan to take part in a class carnival. They will also write their own Alex Rider mission in the style of 'Stormbreaker'.
Year 6	The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall.	'A Child's War' which is all about the Second World War. With a history focus, the children will learn about how the war began, evacuation, rationing, propaganda and wartime homes including shelters. We will look at the diary of Anne Frank in English and our class text will be The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall, a wartime adventure story set locally. An excellent way to get your children interested in the topic would be to visit Blyth Battery http://blythbattery.org.uk/ or, if you wish to venture further afield, the wonderful Eden Camp museum in Malton http://www.edencamp.co.uk/

Spring Term Clubs

The table below is for **information only** as these clubs are a continuation of Spring 1 clubs. New clubs will be in place for the summer term.

7 weeks- WB Jan 25th – 8th March

KS1 Clubs
Lego Club – (Thursday evening)
Scratch Junior Coding Club – (Thursday evening)
Clubs open to KS1 and KS2
Design Club –(Thursday evening)
Choir Club – (Thursday evening)
KS2 Clubs
STEM Club – Karen G and Alexis (Thursday evening)
Multi – skills (Year 3 &4) (Monday lunchtime)
Football (Year 4) (Wednesday evening)
Football (Year 5 & 6) (Wednesday Evening)
Dance (Year 6) (Friday lunchtime)

Attendance

Attendance during January and February has taken a battering from an onslaught of bugs and germs! Thank you to all the parents who continue to support their children to be in school as much as possible! There are 69 pupils who have 100% which is an amazing achievement. Remember, the Asda prize draw will take place before the Easter holidays for children above 95% and a special prize for a child whose attendance has improved. Please be advised that it is a parent's responsibility to notify school of any absence or illness on the first morning of absence. Children with attendance below 90% are considered persistent absentees and may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

Packed lunches

Please support us in ensuring that packed lunches don't include sugary drinks, sweets or chocolate.

Parents Open Evening

Finally, we will be holding a **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 21 March**. This will be an opportunity to look at your child's books and discuss their progress so far. Teachers will also explain what your child's next steps are and how you can help at home. Your child really appreciates you knowing about how they are doing so please try to come along. Unlike in previous years all children will leave school as normal and the first appointment will not begin until 3.35 pm. Parents who are allocated this slot should enter via the main entrance. Some larger classes may start appointments earlier – further information to follow.

HEADLICE

I have included some advice about dealing with headlice for your information. We also have a very useful DVD in school and anyone wishing to view the DVD can contact Mrs Carlisle who will be happy to arrange this.

Wet combing

Wet combing involves removing head lice with a special fine-toothed comb. It's suitable for everyone and is relatively inexpensive. A number of lice removal combs are available to buy. Combs with flat-faced teeth spaced 0.2-0.3mm apart are best for removing head lice, although combs with smaller gaps can be used to remove eggs and nits (egg cases) after treatment. The comb may come with instructions outlining how to use it. A commonly used method is described below.

- Wash the hair with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner.
- Use an ordinary, wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb.
- Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time – remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it.
- Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Do this at least twice to help ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found.
- Always clean brushes and hair accessories to prevent any eggs going back into the hair.
- Combs can be obtained from the school office or by contacting Mrs Carlisle.

FINAL POLITE REMINDERS

UNIFORM – Whilst I appreciate this can sometimes be a delicate matter, I would like to ask for your support in ensuring the following elements of the school uniform code are followed:

- Shoes – please ensure your child has black shoes – no heels or sports logos.
- No jewellery other than stud earrings and a watch.
- A reminder that hair should be cut no shorter than a number 2 and should not be cut in a way that makes it noticeably different from the norm.
- Leggings are not permitted to be worn as trousers.
- Girls hair should be kept off the face and if necessary tied back using clips / bands.

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)

Monday 19 February	School reopens Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm
Thursday 22 February	Toddler Group – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Monday 26 February	Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm
Wednesday 28 February	Mini police deployment – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Thursday 1 March	World Book Day – family event Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 – 9.10 am – 10.30 am Years 1 & 2 – 2.00 pm – 2.50 pm
Monday 5 March	Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm Parent Drop In – 3.30 pm
Thursday 8 March	Football tournament at Hirst Welfare – 1.00 – 3.00 pm Toddler Group – 1.00 – 3.00 pm
Monday 12 March	Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm
Thursday 15 March	Year 1 Phonics screening meeting Year 5 Carnival – 2.00 pm
Monday 19 March	Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm
Wednesday 21 March	Parent consultation meetings – 3.35 pm
Thursday 22 March	Tiddlywinks – Nursery am and pm Year 6 Hockey tournament – 1.00 – 3.00 pm – Blyth Academy
Monday 26 March	Year 3 / 4 Multi Skills - 12.10 – 1.10 pm
Monday – Wednesday 26 – 28 March	Year 5 - Edinburgh Residential Visit
Thursday 29 March	EYFS Stay and Play – Easter Egg Competition Year 6 Dance Festival – Blyth Academy – 9.30 am – 12 noon School breaks for Easter
Monday 16 April	School reopens