

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the November Newsletter. Can you believe the first half term is over and we start the journey towards Christmas once again.

Reading Rocks

What a brilliant start we have had in the first half term! We were so

proud that Horton Grange was able to host a national reading conference on the weekend of 13 October called Reading Rocks. Over 150 education related professionals attended discussing ways to make reading ROCK for every pupil. We were even lucky enough to have top children's authors Piers Torday, Ross Welford and Dan Smith with us. I couldn't have been prouder of the school, children and staff on that day, and the comments from delegates on how impressive our school environment was were nothing short of incredible. Horton Grange really is leading the way! Well done TEAM HORTON.



Horton Grange Growing in Size

You may remember last year I informed you that Horton Grange would be growing in size over the coming year to become a three form entry Primary School, making us one of the biggest Primary Schools in the North East. Over the coming year, changes will be being made to the current building to accommodate this. In particular this will involve a small additional extension to the EYFS unit to provide a cloak room and additional toilets. Re-development of staff areas to provide additional classroom space and an extension to the KS2 building to provide additional classrooms, toilets and staff areas. Careful planning is taking place to ensure minimal disruption to day to day school and Safeguarding will be kept at the forefront. This is really exciting for the school and I will keep you up to date with developments.

Parents Sharing Learning – Science Exhibition of Learning

Thank you to all of you who attended the Science Open Learning event – over 160 of you in total! After a whole school project on animals, it was the perfect opportunity for children to share their learning with parents and it allowed staff, children and parents to see progression of knowledge and skills across school. Your feedback was really positive. Some of the comments included:

“Absolutely inspiring. The standard of work is a credit to the children, staff and school.”

“A super event to showcase all the splendid work the children have done – so much achieved in the first half-term. Thank you.”

“Lovely to be involved in the children’s learning. Nice to be able to see both girls together.”



Sporting updates

Year 6 Tag Rugby Tournament

On 25 October, the Year 6 Tag Rugby Team took part in the first sports tournament of the year at Blyth Academy. The team played brilliantly and it was fantastic to see how much progress they made from their first match to their last. A fab afternoon of sport with an excellent outcome - making it to the final finishing in second place - well done Year 6!



Celebrating learning from Autumn 1

2 Year Olds

This half term 2 Year Olds have enjoyed exploring sensory experiences. Here they gained more control of the spoons they used as they explored early maths through emptying and filling the different sized bowls and containers with Rice Krispies and making crispy cakes. The children have been becoming more independent by trying hard to put on their own coat and changing their shoes for wellies before they've gone outside. They have been exploring puddles, playing chase with each other, looking for autumn leaves and bugs, making bird food and feeding the birds! These experiences have given them lots to talk about in their new cosy spaces.



Nursery

Nursery children have had an amazing start to the new term! They have settled in really well and have had lots of fun getting to know each other while learning lots of new things. The children have loved learning about Autumn. They have been excited to bring in leaves, conkers, pine cones and other interesting things they have found when out and about. Autumn learning has

included, making scarecrows, painting with straw, going on an Autumn walk, as well as, baking delicious apple crumbles!



The children are now all very busy taking part in the “10 things to do in Autumn Challenge” and performed some Autumn songs for their parents and carers during the Halloween Stay and Play!

Reception

This term Reception have loved finding out about bears. They have made beautiful bear masks at home and the children have brought in their favourite bear books for their friends to enjoy. After finding out all about special occasions a birthday party was held for Douglas, the Reception bear. After playing some fun party games there was a healthy and delicious party tea. Autumn has been in the air and the children saw lots of signs of the season changing during their Autumn walk around the school grounds.



Year 1



This half term year 1 have enjoyed learning all about "Amazing Animals". They have enjoyed finding out about different animals and grouping them in different ways. There have been lots of opportunities for outdoor learning as they have been finding out about Autumn. They went on an autumn walk, found lots of autumnal objects and even wrote autumn poems. Great fun was had reading and learning the story of



The Little Red Hen. The children made beautiful puppets and used them to act out the story. They also made bread and enjoyed eating it too!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year and have settled quickly into their classes. Their Circle of Life topic has been amazing and they have enjoyed delving into the animal kingdom. They have also enjoyed exploring some truly beautiful class texts this half term. For



National Poetry Day the children read a selection of autumnal poems from the book A First Book of Nature, and discussed the types of poetry and why they liked them. They were then inspired to write their own shape and acrostic poetry which they read aloud to their peers. Just like the leaves on the trees, Year 2 teachers were blown away by their creativity! The children particularly loved studying the illustrated non-fiction book Above and Below. The children will amaze you with all the facts they now know about different habitats! The children loved sharing their science learning with their parents during the Open Day. They were so proud of the progress they have made so far – well done Year 2!



2KG enjoyed their visit to Blyth Sports Centre to participate in the Multi-Skills Festival. They played agility and balance games alongside children from other primary schools in Northumberland. 2CK are looking forward to going to the next event soon.

Year 2 would also like to say thank you to all the parents who have helped with the homework challenges, some of the animal models look like they are ready to pounce!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant start to the year and have settled well into KS2. They have thoroughly enjoyed their Brilliant Bodies topic and have really impressed us with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn more about the human body, becoming nutritional experts and they now know the importance of having a healthy and balanced diet. The children even designed their own lunch menu based around this and carried out a survey to decide which meal plan would be the most popular. It was great fun building a life-sized model of the human body and can now name many of the bones as well as explaining the function of the skeletal system. The children have carried out several science investigations based around the human body and have been quite surprised by their results.



Year 3 staff have been amazed by the quality of the homework produced this half term and are delighted to see that their learning is continuing beyond school. Year 3 would like to say thank you to all the parents and carers who have helped with this.

Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have dived deep into the ocean. They have been totally captivated by The Secret of Black Rock and produced some fantastic writing recounting the adventures of Erin Pike. They also became campaigners for stopping the pollution of our oceans by plastic waste; shocked by hearing how much plastic waste can be found in our oceans they visited Blyth Beach to clear up and wrote amazing leaflets to persuade everyone that we need to use less plastic. Year 4 have also been developing a love of reading for pleasure by sharing books with each other – they all loved Oliver and the Seawigs, which had them on tenterhooks and in stitches.





Year 5

Year 5 met some exciting visitors as part of their 'Animal Kingdom' topic this half term; tarantulas, scorpions and millipedes invaded the classroom when 'Bugs n Stuff' visited. The children were really engaged by this up close and personal experience with the animals and they were able to enhance their understanding of animal habitats, life cycles and classification. They then went on to apply this knowledge to different subject areas throughout the topic. In Science, the children investigated the differences between life cycles of different animals and dissected a flower in order to identify and explain how plants reproduce.

Year 6

The Year 6 residential visit to Hawse End was enjoyed immensely by everyone and all the children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones by trying new activities. They discovered they had tremendous resilience and felt very proud of their achievements and teamwork. Back in school, some excellent writing has been created in the form of diaries about their exploits. Studying the geography of the Lake District has also been a focus for Year 6 and they thoroughly enjoyed learning about the wildlife which lives there.



Wildlife continued to be a theme with our class novel, *The Last Wild*, by Piers Torday, a novel set in the future when almost all animals have become extinct. The children learnt lots of new vocabulary from reading this book which they then used in English lessons to create their own stories based on the text. Further learning about animals took place in science where the children studied how animals evolve and adapt to their environment.

The Place

This half term The Place have been exploring and enjoying the great outdoors, seeing what Autumn has to offer. They have looked for signs of Autumn, made blackberry crumbles, painted with blackberry juice, made hedgehogs with sticks and clay and have rubbed and printed with leaves. Whilst talking about Harvest they made vegetable soup and created a salt dough wheat sheaf together. Some of the children have bravely put their hands in pumpkins, feeling the cold slimy insides whilst removing the seeds.



Autumn Term 2 is History focus across school. The whole school will also read the text of Town is by the Sea by Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith.

Topics for the Autumn Term 2 are:

Year	Topic	Class text
Nursery	The Nursery children will continue learning more about the topic This is me! They will be finding out more about themselves and others in their group. They will also continue learning about Autumn, naming vegetables and making some delicious vegetable soup!	Enormous Turnip
Reception	The children in Reception will continue to discover more facts about bears and there will be lots of opportunities to use their new writing skills. As the festive season approaches Reception will be busy practising for the Nativity and also looking forward to an exciting trip to Gibside.	Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Year 1	Year 1 will be exploring different materials and finding out who Grace Darling was.	Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
Year 2	Year 2 topic will be Time Travellers . Using the text Ocean Meets Sky by The Fan Brothers the children will look back in time and explore how transport has changed over time. They will investigate great inventions and consider their impact. They will also find out about The Great Fire of London and how this historical event brought changes to daily life.	Ocean Meets Sky by the Fan Brothers
Year 3	Year 3 will be travelling all the way back in time to the Stone Age in their topic Tribal Tales . They will be exploring what life was like and how it has changed over time. They will also be reading Iron Man by Ted Hughes and will be using this as inspiration for their own writing.	Iron Man by Ted Hughes
Year 4	Year 4 will be travelling back in time to explore the Romans . The children will look at the impact this ancient civilisation has had on our lives and seeing some of it first-hand by visiting Hadrian's Wall. Alongside this they will be enjoying Across the Roman Wall by Theresa Breslin as their class text and The Dark by Lemony Snicket in Literacy.	Across the Roman Wall by Theresa Breslin The Dark by Lemony Snicket in Literacy

Year 5	Year 5 will be investigating Explorers of the Past in a history based topic. They will find out about how explorers from around the North East have impacted upon the world we live in today. The children will then delve further into the past and learn about how and why the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain. This will link to the Year 5 class text.	Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo
Year 6	As the 100 th anniversary of the end of World War I approaches, Year 6 will be studying this topic, and the theme of war will continue into Autumn 2 as they also learn about World War II, especially the impact of these conflicts on Blyth, coal mining and the local community. They will look at healthy lifestyles and the digestive system in science and relate this to rationing and the wartime diet. In art, we will study propaganda posters and the Pitmen Painters.	The Machine Gunners by Robert Westall, which is set locally and, just like during the war, we will listen to radio broadcasts of Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo.

Several subjects within the National Curriculum are covered within the topic. Please refer to our website for curriculum topic plans.

Now of course we're on the run up to **Christmas**, and we will once again be keeping Christmas traditional with nativities in Early Years and KS1, a Christmas Singing Performance in school for Year 3 and 4 and a Traditional Carol Service at Church for Years 5 and 6. The Year 5 and 6 Carol Service will be held in St Cuthbert's Church. Once again due to updated fire regulations we will have to restrict tickets and numbers this year – further information to follow.

Before then we have the **Autumn term parents' evening** on Wednesday 21 November so please try to come along. Hopefully our **new prefects** will be on duty to show you around the school and answer any queries.

Developing Responsibility

As you know, being responsible is one of our Horton Grange values and we support children to develop this in many different ways. In Year 6, we develop this further by children taking on specific roles and by them all having jobs within school.

Well done to the children who are taking on the important roles of prefects in Year 6:

Head Prefects: Harvey Stewart and Holly Wight

Deputy Head Prefects: Daniel Fleming and Freya Johnson

Sports Leaders : Katie Walker, Connor Rutherford, Connor Clough and Alan Richards

Prefects : Bobby Spence, Shane Kasbia, Billy Coulson, Liam Waugh, Reece Davison, Darcey McGowan, Ellie Hewitson, Molly Holland, Abbie Douthwaite, Lillymay Phillips, Emily Hall, Amy Kennedy, Demi Ross, Olivia Robson, Scarlett Moore and Brooke Richardson

Mini Police

Horton Grange are proud to announce that the mini police scheme will be running for a second year. Staff at Horton Grange liaise with Northumbria Police to bring a range of experiences that children can benefit from.

10 new children from Year 5 have been selected to act as mini police cadets promoting a sense of responsibility whilst learning about specific roles within the police force. Other children will also have the opportunity to ask police officers questions as they visit school throughout the year.

The new mini police will take part in their first deployment on Remembrance Sunday in Blyth where they will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. More details to follow.

We would like to say a huge thank you to those children who were the mini police last year. You represented the school values of respect and responsibility throughout and helped to facilitate the handover to the new mini police cadets.

Autumn 2 Term Clubs

Autumn 2 clubs will run from Week commencing 12 November until Christmas

KS1 Clubs
Lego Club (Thursday evening)
Multi-Skills Club (Thursday evening)
KS2 Clubs
ICT Club (Tuesday evening)
Football Club (Wednesday Evening)
Christmas Choir Club (Thursday evening)
Recorder Club (Thursday evening)

Attendance

We all know the importance of good attendance and ensuring children are making the most of their time at Horton Grange. Being here every day is very important. This is because there is a clear link between attendance and achievement and we really want the best for our children, both now and in the future. That's why we make attendance a focus in weekly assemblies and reward children who attend regularly. These rewards include;

- Extra playtimes / rewards for classes achieving 100% in a week
- Termly prizes for 100% attendance
- A yearly trip for 100% attendance
- Asda voucher prize draw for attendance above 95%
- There is also a voucher awarded termly to a child whose attendance has significantly improved

Children made a great start to the new school year and attendance was excellent with some classes achieving 100%. The overall attendance at the end of Autumn 1 was 95% - just short of our school target of 96%.

Points to remember

If your child is absent you must phone school or inform the office on the first morning of their absence. Failing to do so will mean their absence is recorded as unauthorised, which can trigger involvement from the Education Welfare Officer.

- Holidays should be avoided in school time. If they are unavoidable a holiday form must be submitted,
- Children falling below 90% attendance are classed as persistent absentees and will be monitored by school and in some cases by the Education Welfare Officer

Key dates when holidays must not be taken:

- **Month of May: Year 2 end of Key Stage assessments:**
- **Week commencing 10 June: Year 1 phonic check**
- **Week commencing 13 May: Year 6 SATs**

Safeguarding



During the week of the **16 November** we will be supporting Anti-Bullying Week with lots of events in school. The theme this year is "Choose respect". It will link to our school value of Respect. Our School Council will play a key role in this. In school we use **STOP** to represent two slogans: **Several Times On Purpose** and **Start Telling Other People**.

Scooters and Bikes

Can I please ask you to remind your children to park their bikes and scooters in the designated area behind the KS1 hall. Children must not ride bikes and scooters once on the school site.

Uniform

I know parents try very hard to follow our uniform guidance and we appreciate your on-going support with this. However, we have a large number of children not bringing PE kit for PE lessons. This is part of the curriculum and children need to be prepared to take part. It may be easier to send PE kit on Monday, leave in school until Friday and then take home to be washed. If you are unclear of which day your child needs PE kit please contact school. Also for safety reasons, even stud earings which are allowed as part of uniform code, cannot be worn for PE. Therefore it is advisable that children do not get their ears pierced unless there is sufficient time to allow them to be removed for PE i.e at the start of the 6 week break in the summer. Can I also give a polite reminder that extreme hair-cuts are not allowed and that plain black shoes should be worn. If you have any queries around uniform please contact Mrs Hewes to discuss.

Horton Heroes

The children tell me they love Horton Heroes and enjoy you coming into school to celebrate their achievements. However, can I please ask that mobile phones are turned off or on silent and are not used to take photographs; also can parents remain seated until all children have left the hall. Where possible, we advise that younger siblings who will naturally find sitting quietly throughout the assembly difficult are not brought into this special assembly.

Thank You to Parents for Ongoing Support

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your on-going support. Your children attend a **good and improving school**, they are well looked after, are provided with an engaging curriculum, given opportunities to visit new places through a structured visit and residential programme and we know that outcomes for our children by the time they leave are excellent – ensuring as our vision statement says – **Excellent outcomes for all!** As staff, we are striving to make this school **the best it can be** and we will always believe we can make it even better because we are a **learning community**. Can I please ask that if you have any concerns or suggestions on how we could improve that you contact Mrs Hewes to discuss and she will share these with me.

Best wishes
Nichola Irving
Headteacher

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.

14/11/18	School Photographs
15/11/18	2CK Multi-Skills Competition
16/11/18	Children in Need – non-uniform day
19/11/18	Road Safety Awareness Week
21/11/18	Author Visit Y4; 5 & 6 Parent Consultation Evening
29/11/18	Y5/6 Bowling Competition
6/12/18	Y5/6 Sportshall Competition
7/12/18	Reception Trip to Gibside Stables
11/12/18	EYFS Christmas Production 9.30am (AM & 30 hours) 1.15pm (PM Nursery)
12/12/18	Reception Christmas Production 9.30am & 2.15pm
13/12/18	KS1 – Christmas Production 9.30am & 2.00pm
14/12/18	KS1 – Christmas Production 9.30am & 2.00pm
17/12/18	EYFS Christmas Party Y3/4 – Christmas Celebration 2.00pm
18/12/18	Y3/4 – Christmas Celebration 2.00pm & 5.00pm KS1 Christmas Parties
19/12/18	Christmas Lunch Tiddlywinks Years 5/6 – Carol Service 2.00pm & 5.00pm
20/12/18	KS2 Christmas Parties
21/12/18	Last day of term Panto Xmas Jumper Day SCHOOL CLOSES 2pm SCHOOL RE-OPENS 7/1/19