

Newsletter September 2018

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of another school year and I hope you have all had a great summer – the weather was fabulous for once! They all looked super smart in their new uniforms on the first day back eager to start the new term. After another year of excellent outcomes achieved by our Year 6 children at the end of last term, placing us once again above national outcomes; we are very excited about the coming year and we are confident that we are doing a good job helping your children to make very good progress in their time at Horton Grange. Ofsted graded us as 'good' again last year but have asked us to improve attendance – please support us with this by not taking holidays in term time and supporting children to come to school each day.



The end of last year was as poignant as ever with our Year 6 children sharing their dreams and aspirations and moving on to secondary school. They ended the year developing skills as young business men and women! The children themselves came up with ideas to raise money towards funding one last residential visit before moving on to secondary school. They worked in small groups to organise a toy and book fayre, a non-uniform day, a bake sale and sponsored events. Much fun was had by all and important skills have been learned; allocating roles within a group, promotion of events and how to forecast and calculate profits.



Other highlights from the summer term



Fabulous weather for the Year 6 residential to Winmarleigh!



Children in 2 year olds explore plants and flowers



Nursery children enjoy stay and play



Reception have a brilliant day at Gibside



Year 1 study Kandinsky in SMADD week



Year 2 make moonbuggies



Children and parents in Year 3 enjoy art lessons together

Year 3 also visit Plessey Wood





Year 4 visit the Baltic as part of The Great Exhibition of the North



Year 5 experience "Show Racism the Red Card"

Staffing

We have started the new academic year with a few planned staffing additions. We welcome Miss Hewson, who is our new Reception teacher and Miss Knight who will be teaching in Year 3. Mrs Rowland will be supporting in Year 1 and Miss Goodwin in Year 2. We have also appointed Mr Mitchell, who will be supporting PE lessons and helping to run sports clubs. I am sure you will support me in welcoming them to the team.

Miss Hewson



Miss Knight



Mrs Rowland



Miss Goodwin



Mr Mitchell



Congratulations to Miss Tartt and Miss Robinson who got married over the summer and are now Mrs Morgan and Mrs Hodgson.

Curriculum

Topics and class texts for the Autumn Term 1 are set out below. This half term Year 1 to 6 topics all have a Science focus linked to the animal kingdom although **all** other areas of the curriculum will still be taught within this. This is a whole school topic with progression in key knowledge and skills through Science. Key knowledge and skills are listed below. Topic overviews showing the wider curriculum and homework menus will be sent home soon.

Year	Topic title	Class text(s)
Nursery	<p>This is me Children will explore how they look, the similarities and difference between themselves and others, naming parts of their face and body. This topic encourages children to discuss how they have grown and changed, looking at pictures of themselves as babies. They will also be involved in lots of role play using the home corner and learning how to take care of babies.</p>	What do I look like?
Reception	<p>Down in the woods If you go down to the woods today...you are sure to find the Reception children on an intrepid bear hunt! As they learn about healthy food choices, the children will help create a shopping list of delicious and nutritious food for a teddy bears' picnic. To keep their bodies healthy, the children will be taking part in a "daily dash" alongside the teachers.</p>	Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Year 1	<p>Amazing animals – UK, Europe and Polar Regions Key skills and knowledge: Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Describe and compare the structure of a variety of animals.</p>	The Little Red Hen by Pie Corbett
Year 2	<p>Amazing animals – UK, Europe and Africa Key skills and knowledge: Identify what animals need to survive. Animal habitats and microhabitats. Food chains.</p>	Aesop's Fables by Michael Morpurgo
Year 3	<p>Amazing animals – UK, Europe and Asia Key skills and knowledge: Animals and human nutrition to survive. Identify that humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.</p>	Sparrow Girl by Sara Pennypacker
Year 4	<p>Amazing animals – UK, Europe and Asia Key skills and knowledge: Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identify producers, predators and prey. Describe the simple functions of the digestive system in humans. Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions. Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. Explore the use of classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose danger to living things.</p>	Oliver and the Seawigs by Philip Reeve
Year 5	<p>Amazing Animals - Farming - UK / America Key skills and knowledge: Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. How to categorise animals into their groups (reptile/mammal/amphibian/insect).</p>	Charlotte's Web by EB White
Year 6	<p>Amazing Animals - Evolution /Endangered Species Key skills and knowledge: Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals. Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the earth. Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents (link to farming / lake district). Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.</p>	The Last Wild by Piers Torday

You will find further information on our curriculum on the school website (we are currently updating this). We will of course continue to use our Facebook page and text messages to keep you up to speed. Please let us know if you think something isn't working then we can try to put it right.

Parents into school

The Autumn term topic will culminate with an end of half term museum to share learning. This will form our parents into school event and will take place on Thursday 11 October at 9.15am for KS2 and 2.30pm for KS1. Unlike previous events this will take place in the school hall. Learning will be displayed and your child will join you in the hall to talk through their learning. We have listened to your feedback regarding visiting the classroom of more than one child at the same set time. This format will allow siblings in the same key stage to spend time with parents in the hall at the same time. We shall trial this approach and review as needed. Further information will follow.

Communication with parents

Our texting service is an efficient way of keeping you up to date so please ensure we have up to date contact details for you. Current guidance states we have at least two emergency contact numbers in school. Our aim is to reduce the number of paper copies we send to you, so please keep us up to date with your contact details and let us know if you don't have access to either Facebook or the website.

You will have received your contact information and collection arrangements form already. Please could you complete and return to school as soon as possible.

Breakfast Club

The club is running once again in the dining room from 8.00am to start of school. This is £1.00 per day. If you wish to use Breakfast club you will need to complete a booking form termly and sign the codes of conduct. Please follow the 5mph speed limit, avoid parking too close to the zebra crossing, stopping on the driveway and please accompany your children to the door. Children in Reception to Year 4 must be signed in by an adult. Children in Year 5 and 6 may arrive independently if permission for this has been given on the initial booking form. The driveway is covered by CCTV and parents who do not adhere to the 5mph speed limit will be contacted and may be refused access to the school site by car in the future. Please also remember cars are not allowed on site at the start / end of day or for Horton Heroes unless you hold a disabled badge.

Pupil Premium Grant

Just a reminder that if you are in receipt of the benefits listed below school will receive additional funds into their budget. This is used to help fund additional intervention/support and subsidise the range of school visits for the children who are entitled to this funding. It also entitles your child to free school meals beyond Year 2. Even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1 and you do not pay for lunch under the universal free school meals programme you should still apply to ensure these additional funds, which benefit your children are received. For more information, or support with completing the form please contact Mrs Hewes, our parent liaison officer, who will happily advise and support you with the process. You must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

1. Child Tax Credit Only - Income below £16,190 (Families receiving Working Tax Credit are not eligible)
2. Income Support
3. Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
4. Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
5. Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
6. The Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

School Dinners

From Year 3 onwards, if you are not entitled to free school meals, the cost of a school dinner is £2.30 per day. You can pay either online via Live Kitchen or direct to school. Envelopes are available from the school office.

Uniform

Thank you to those of you, who are following our clear guidelines on uniform and hair at Horton Grange. If you are unsure of any of these please contact Mrs Hewes, Parent Liaison Officer. If your child has recently had a haircut, which is shorter than a number 2 could you please allow it to grow. Please also ensure that long hair is tied back as this help prevents the spread of head lice.

Clubs

At Horton Grange we are committed to providing a range of opportunities for children and we know how much the children enjoy clubs. We are working hard to increase clubs available at school - further information on Autumn term clubs to follow.

Horton Heroes

Parents and children tell us that they enjoy Horton Heroes and Forest School Friday so we plan to continue this as a way of celebrating children's achievements. We welcome parents and younger siblings to our Horton Heroes Assemblies. Please remember it can be difficult for pre-school children to sit quietly throughout so feel free to pop out of the hall for a short period of time until they settle. Can I also remind you that mobile phones should be turned off and it is not permitted to take photos or video during the assembly. If you wish to take a picture of your child with their award, this can be arranged after the assembly when other children have left the hall.

PARENT FORUM

Parent forum sessions will continue this year and Mrs Hewes hopes to have a different theme for each one. If you have any ideas please contact Mrs Hewes.

KEY DATES 2018

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
September 2018	
21 September	Author: Gabrielle Kent – Years 4, 5 & 6
25 September	Reception Parents Meeting - 2.30pm
October 2018	
1 October	Parent Drop-In – 4pm
3– 5 October	Year 6 Hawse End
11 October	KS2 Parent Learning Session - Curriculum (Science & Art) – 9.15am KS1 Parent Learning Session - Curriculum (Science & Art) – 2.30pm
17 October	Year 5 - Bugs 'n' Stuff 1pm – 3pm
24 October	Halloween Disco Nursery and Reception Stay and Play
25 October	Years 1 to 5 Nasal Flu Vaccinations
26 October	Teacher Training Day

November 2018	
5 November	Parent Drop-In - 4pm
8 November	KS1 & Y3 – Tom Percival (Author)
14 November	School Photographer
21 November	Parent Consultations – 3.45pm
December 2018	
7 December	Reception – Gibside Stables
11 December	EYFS – Christmas Production – 9.30am & 2.15pm
12 December	EYFS – Christmas Production – 9.30am & 2.15pm
13 December	KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am & 2pm Tiddlywinks - Nursery
14 December	KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am & 2pm
17 December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Celebration – 2pm EYFS Christmas Party
18 December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Celebration – 2pm & 5pm KS1 Christmas Party
19 th December	Christmas Lunch Years 5 & 6 Carol Service – 2pm & 5pm
20 December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Party Years 5 & 6 Christmas Party
21 December	Panto & Christmas Jumper Day School closes at 2pm

Best wishes

Mrs Irving