

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018



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 2018 – 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!



TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

As you know we place a big emphasis in school on children taking responsibility, as this will help the children in the future to be successful adults. We were pleased that the second half of the Autumn term saw the appointments of our new Head Girl, Head Boy and Prefects.



Head Girl: Demi
Deputy Head Girl: Isabelle
Sports Captains: Jay and Libby



Head Boy: Josh
Deputy Head Boy: Kia

Our Prefects



Well done to them all and look out for them around school at forthcoming events. All Year 6 pupils also now have a job – they have got off to a fantastic start; taking their role seriously and demonstrating great commitment. Staff have been really impressed with their dedication and enthusiasm. There are some particularly brilliant Early Years Assistants, Office Assistants and Receptionists this year. Keep it up Year 6!



HORTON SPORTS UPDATE

WINNERS!

At the start of the half term, the Year 5/6 Girls Football Team won their tournament for the **second year running!** The tournament was held at Hirst Welfare Centre with around 200 girls taking part. Team Horton sailed through the group stage, winning their first four matches and drawing their fifth. In the semi-final they took on Meadowdale and beat them 3 – 0. The final was very close. Team Horton took on Croftway and scored early on in the match. They clung on until the final whistle and won the game 1 - 0. The team thoroughly deserved to keep their trophy – every single player worked hard and displayed fantastic football skills. Teachers from other schools even commented on how great our players were. A thrilling afternoon of sport! The Year 5/6 Girls Football Team will once again represent Blyth and Bedlington at the Northumberland School Games in June.



RUNNERS-UP

In November, the Year 6 Netball Team finished second in their tournament. They were runners-up in their section which earned them a place in the semi-finals. In the semi-final, the team played Newsham; it was an extremely tense match which ended in “sudden death”. Our team made it to the final and the match ended 3 – 0 to St Bede’s. Team Horton showed great determination and resilience throughout the tournament, with each player working extremely hard for their team. The Year 6’s next tournament will take place in February.



Indoor Athletics

In November, 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 finished fifth overall and had a great afternoon of athletics. They are looking forward to the outdoor athletics competition later on in the year.

Gymnastics Festival

A group of Year 3 children recently took part in a gymnastics festival at Blyth Sports Centre. This was the first time Horton Grange has ever taken part in this event and we will definitely be returning! The children had a fantastic morning and presented an impressive gymnastics routine to a very large audience. The gymnastics group are looking forward to their next event in February. Thank you to Mrs Allman for leading this.

SHARING OUR LEARNING FROM ACROSS SCHOOL

Early Years



The children at **Toddler Group** enjoyed some Christmas crafts, making reindeer food and had a visit from Santa. We would love to see more of you so why not come along!

The upcoming dates for the Toddler Group are:

Thursday 25th January

Thursday 8th February

Thursday 22nd February

Thursday 8th March

Each week will include some messy play, mark making and treasure basket play amongst other things. Pop in between 1-3pm.

The children in our **two year old provision** have also enjoyed lots of creative activities in the run up to Christmas including making picture frames, Christmas cards and tree decorations. They particularly enjoyed helping to wrap their own Christmas gifts and decorating the gift tags.



Nursery

The children got off to a great start in Nursery beginning the term with a visit from the Fire Brigade. They were very excited to find out lots of things that Fire Fighters do to help them. The nursery children went on to be Fire Fighter great detectives finding the smoke alarm in their own homes.

When winter approached the Nursery children went on a wonderful Christmas Adventure with Tiddlywinks Dance and Drama. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow and all children participating. Dressing up and dancing to music was great fun! Nursery children ended the term with a wonderful nativity as Twinkling Stars. They wowed the audience with their beautiful singing voices and star quality!



Reception

Reception had an amazing start to the “People Who Help Us” topic, and were thrilled to be able to go in the fire engine and police van, and try on the uniforms! They all had the opportunity to ask questions and find out lots of information from the visitors about their occupations and how they help people. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed learning the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff, and even had a visit from the ugly troll, who left sticky green footprints in the creative classroom! They have loved re-telling the story, creating story maps and are now beginning to think of their own stories!



Reception would like to thank all of the parents and carers for supporting the children this half term in the parent workshops, stay and play and also preparing for the Nativity. The children tried so hard and were fantastic at speaking in loud, clear voices in front of such a large audience.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a great half term. To begin their “Toys Galore” topic there was an exciting delivery of an old suitcase full of old toys which sparked some very interesting questions! The children enjoyed becoming toy detectives, exploring toys old and new and talking to their grandparents about toys they enjoyed playing with when they were children. They looked at the different materials that toys were made from and how this has changed over time. The children loved reading teddy bear stories and especially enjoyed planning and writing their own stories. In Science, the children have been exploring the importance of our senses for finding out about the world around us. They have carried out some senses investigations where they had to guess the smell of different foods and guess the correct taste of different flavoured crisps.

Year 1 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenges!



Year 2



In Year 2, the “London’s Burning” topic has been brilliant and they have enjoyed travelling back in time to become history detectives. It all started with a mysterious, old trunk and the children had to use their research, inference and deduction skills to work out who the trunk belonged to. After looking at a range of sources including paintings, diary entries and actual artefacts they discovered to their amazement that the trunk belonged to Samuel Pepys. They were amazed to find out that he was actually alive during the great fire and that he kept a diary. They then became Tudor architects and designed and built a mini model of London Town. They have also been developing their scientific investigation



skills and have tested a range of materials for different purposes. They investigated which material would be best suited to build a bridge and then tested out their predictions, with some surprising results. Year 2 staff would like to once again thank all the parents and carers who have helped with the homework challenges!

Year 3

This half term Year 3 children became historians, making timelines which dated back 65 million years to when the dinosaurs roamed the world. They researched to find out where The Stone Age fitted onto their timeline and were astonished to see that The Stone Age covered such a long period of time. They have investigated Stone Age life, learning about early settlements, Stone Age diet and weapons. In



science the children studied rocks. They classified rocks in different ways and found out how sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks are formed, and produced brilliant rock posters to share their learning with younger children. Following their investigations into how fossils are formed they are all now keen rock detectives in search of their own fossilized treasures. Happy rock hunting!



Year 4

Over the last two months Year 4 have been loyal citizens of the Emperor as they have researched life in Ancient Rome. The children started the term with a highly enjoyable and informative trip to the Roman Fort at Arbeia. During this visit they got the chance to handle real Roman artefacts and learned how to work as archaeologists.

As well as travelling back in time Year 4 have also been journeying around the globe in their class text, "Stories From Around The World". This collection of traditional tales has enabled the children to sample stories from countries as diverse as Cambodia, New Zealand and the Czech Republic.



Year 5

This half term Year 5 were transported back to the Anglo Saxon period in their History topic. As a hook into their topic, the children visited the Great North Museum to explore artefacts which gave them an insight into Anglo Saxon life. This information was then transferred to the children's learning when they created posters and presentations about sources from the period. Learning about the Anglo-Saxons has also given the children the chance to use their geography skills to locate the countries the Anglo Saxons came from and the towns where they settled in Britain.



In Literacy, Year 5 have been reading the legend Beowulf, which is set during the Anglo Saxon period. The children really enjoyed exploring the gruesome tales of the monster Grendel and the heroic victories of Beowulf. They produced some fantastic speeches to convince the listener that Beowulf was a worthy champion.



Year 6

This term Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Victorians; the extremely strict nature of school at the time with the use of the cane and dunce's hat were of particular interest, as were the rather harsh punishments given to criminals such as deportation to Australia and even hanging! There has been a lot of interesting debate comparing those times to our own. The children have also investigated circuits and created posters on how to stay safe around electricity.



A fascinating day was also had by all when they visited Safety Works in Newcastle – an ex film set where Byker Grove was once filmed – to learn all about staying safe in various ways. Road safety, first aid and fire awareness were all part of the day as well as finding out about police procedures and how to stay safe near railway tracks.

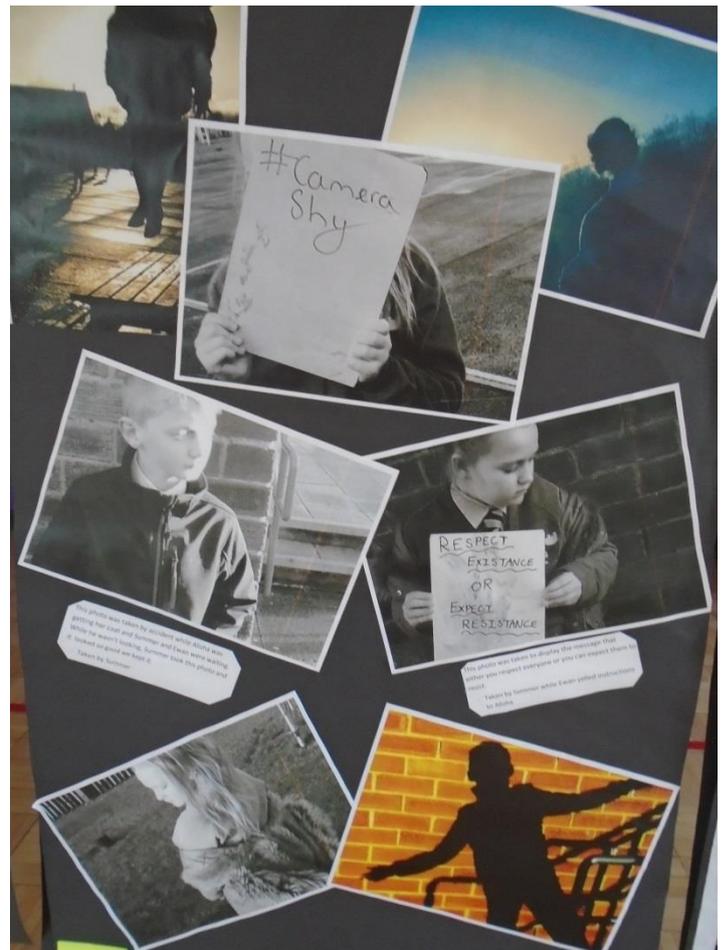
READING

In our quest to develop lifelong readers and a strong reading culture at school, Mrs Ash has invited several authors into school. Recently, Andy Riley delighted our children with his new book King Flashy Pants. He read the story to the children and then gave them a master class in how to create illustrations for stories. Children who bought copies of his book had them signed and dedicated specially to them. Andy then opened our new Key Stage One library.

Come Dine and Read with Me was a great success again this year and our libraries were packed out with children enjoying books with their visitor. Over the week we had 190 parents into school - thank you for all of your support as we encourage our children to become lifelong readers.

Year 6 Digital Photography Exhibition

Your children never fail to impress us with their many talents and last half term Year 6 showed just how creative they can be. Mrs Brownrigg has been teaching Year 6 computing and the children were tasked with a digital photography project. This culminated in an exhibition in the school hall. Thank you to parents who came along to see the children's work.



Spring term 1 learning – Key subject focus: Geography

The topic overviews for this half term will be sent home separately and will be available on the school website. Topic titles for the Spring Term 1 are:

Year	Topic	Class text
Nursery	What's Changing?	One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth
Reception	Where are the bears?	Goldilocks and the Three Bears
Year 1	The Year 1 topic will be “Ice Magic” which will have a geography focus. Year 1 will be looking at how the weather changes throughout the seasons and they will be exploring and naming a variety of everyday materials.	Stick Man by Julia Donaldson
Year 2	Year 2 will become Maasai warriors and will be exploring the great African continent with their new topic “Amazing Africa”. They will be comparing life in Blyth to life in an African village. They will explore their local community and will discuss the similarities and differences. They will be making necklaces, drums and masks.	The Day the Rains Fell by Anne Faundez.
Year 3	The Year 3 topic will be “Tremors!” The children will learn how Mother Nature’s awesome energies hiss and roar deep within the Earth. They will discover the dangerous and ferocious world of volcanoes; investigate how they are formed and the deadly effects they bring. In Science they will find out how soil is formed and begin to look closely at the water system within plants.	The Volcano by Rick Lomas
Year 4	The children will be taking a holiday stateside as they begin their exciting new topic, “Road Trip USA”. From the bustling streets of New York to the empty spaces of the Mojave Desert Year 4 will be learning all about the fascinating people, culture and history of America.	The Indian in the cupboard by Lynne Reid
Year 5	Year 5 will be looking forward to a class carnival as they explore the exciting Geography topic of “Brazil”.	Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz
Year 6	Year 6 will focus on a topic called “Frozen Kingdom” which is all about the polar regions of our planet. With a science and geography focus, they will learn about these landscapes and the creatures which live there. An excellent way to get your children interested in the topic would be to watch some of David Attenborough’s excellent series; Frozen Planet.	Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman is our class text which has been made into the film; The Golden Compass.

Spring 1 Term Clubs

KS1 Clubs	Years 3&4 Clubs	Years 5&6 Clubs
Lego	Football (Year 4)	Football (Y5 /6)
Scratch Junior	Gymnastics (Year 3)	Netball (Y5/6)
Design Club	Hip Hop Dance (Year 3)	Dance (Y6)
Choir Club	Design Club	Design Club
	Choir Club	Choir Club
	STEM Club	STEM Club
	Multi Skills Club	

Most clubs are run by our staff and there is no charge. We are also making use of our Sports Premium grant to provide a free lunch time club this half term. Initially it will be available to children in Years 3 and 4 and will be a multi skills club. If this is successful, we will look to expand to other year groups. More information on this will be provided to the year groups involved.

E-Safety

For those of you who attended performances in school on the run up to Christmas you will be aware of the messages we gave regarding photographs of children. I would like thank parents who followed our guidance and hope that you liked the picture you received.

The children will also be taking part in Safer Internet Day this half term. **Safer Internet Day 2018** will take place on 6 February with the theme "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you". Further information can be found at: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018>. Cyber-bullying was part of Anti-bullying week in November.

Advice for parents:

It is important for parents to know about cyber-bullying in order for you to support and help your children. Here are some tips for parents:

- Discuss cyber-bullying
- Always remember that cyber-bullying is bullying through the internet and technology, and just like other forms of bullying it is when someone is being unkind on purpose and it is happening more than once.
- Cyber-bullying can happen anywhere online, including: games, apps, websites, text messages, phone calls and on social media.
- A cyber-bully can be someone they know but could also be a stranger online
- Understand the tools you need to be able to help your child make a report and block a cyber-bully:
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report>

Parent Open Day

After the success of our "Marvellous Maths" and "Get it Right" open day; this half term we will be holding another open day on **7 February** and the focus will be "Come app and Compute with me".

Key Stage 1: 9.05 – 10.00

Key Stage 2 : 2.15 – 3.15

Breakfast Club

You will be aware that we have made some changes to breakfast club booking, costs and systems. These will begin immediately. Remember, without a booking form and signed codes of conduct a place cannot be guaranteed. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the school office. Please note that the cost of breakfast club is now £1.00 per day.

Good bye for now....

The end of last half term we said good-bye for now to Mrs Cornwall as she begins her maternity leave. We would like to wish her luck and hope she enjoys her time off with her growing family. Miss Hudspith will be replacing Mrs Cornwall and I would like to welcome her to the team.

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 progressing. They agree with us that your children go to a "good" and improving school. 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)*

Monday 8 January	School Re-opens FA Soccer Skills Coach (Year 6) Parent Drop in after school session
Wednesday 10 January	Year 4/5 & 6 Football Club starts Year 5/6 Netball Club starts
Thursday 11 January	Reception workshops 2.45pm Year 3 Hip Hop Dance Club starts
Wednesday 17 January	Year 2 SAT's meeting at 2.30pm
Thursday 18 January	Year 1 Multi-Skills Day Reception workshops 2.45pm
Monday 22 January	FA Soccer Skills Coach (Year 6)
Tuesday 23 January	Year 6 SAT's meeting (after school)
Thursday 25 January	Year 5 Netball Tournament at Blyth Sports Centre Toddler Group 1.00 - 3.00pm
Monday 29 January	Year 6 trial SAT's week FA Soccer Skills Coach (Year 6)
Wednesday 31 January	Parent Forum Meeting
Thursday 1 February	Year 3 Gymnastics Competition Reception workshops 2.45pm
Monday 5 February	FA Soccer Skills Coach (Year 6) Parent Drop in after school session
Tuesday 6 February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 February	Come App and Compute with Me (KS1 9.05-10am) and (KS2 2.15-3.15pm) Valentine's Disco
Thursday 8 February	Tiddlywinks (2 year olds) Year 6 Netball Tournament at Blyth Sports Centre Reception workshops 2.45pm Toddler Group 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 9 February	School breaks up for half-term
Monday 19 February	School re-opens