

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Dear Parents and Friends

Well last half term may have been a shorter one but it was certainly busy. Even though we saw our first dusting of snow, it does appear at last to be staying lighter just a little longer.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

During Safer Internet Day the children were reminded of how to keep themselves safe online. As a parent myself this is a great worry and a challenge with new and emerging technology developing all the time. Technology moves fast and I am often amazed at how the children use such technology so proficiently. 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 Hewes 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

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

COME DINE AND READ

Come dine and read is always a popular event in school and once again we were amazed at the number of parents who attended – almost 200! We received some fantastic feedback so thank you for your support.

Future Events

Our next parents into school event will take place on **Thursday 28 March at 9.15am for KS2 and 2.30pm for KS1**. This will follow a similar format to our autumn term one, where learning will be displayed and your child will join you in the hall to talk through their learning. This format will allow siblings in the same key stage to spend time with parents in the hall at the same time. The focus will be **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – we look forward to seeing you there.

Mini Police

So far this academic year, the mini police have taken part in two deployments where the aim is to make an active contribution in their community. The first one was taking part in the Remembrance Service held at Blyth Cenotaph where they laid a wreath to remember those who have fought during the war. The children commented on how proud they were to, not only represent Horton Grange, but to pay their respects amongst so many others from the community. The second deployment involved the children speaking to members of the public during “The Blyth Christmas Lights Switch On” on how to help keep their possessions safe, developing their communication skills further. The third deployment will take place after half term where the children (and officers) will pull over vehicles that exceed the speed limit to discuss the impact on the local environment.

The children have also thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Bedlington Police Station Headquarters where they spoke to different officers representing the many sections from within the police force. Thank you to PSCO Dave Johnson and Sergeant Lunn for working with school to create these great opportunities and we hope to create more opportunities that the whole school can benefit from in the near future!

Sports Update

At the end of January, eight Year 6 girls competed in a Netball competition at Blyth Sports Centre. The girls had worked hard to improve their skills before the event; taking part in netball club after school and sneaking in some extra lunch time training with Mrs Slater. Their hard work paid off as they made it to the semi-finals and came third.

Some of the children in Year 3 spent an afternoon at Blyth Sports Centre competing in the 2019 “Multi Sport Competition and Personal Best Festival”. They competed in tag rugby, dodge ball, golf and tennis. They really impressed the coaches with their resilient attitude and really embraced this opportunity to experience something new.



Attendance

Thank you for your ongoing support regarding your child’s attendance. Good attendance is key to your child’s happiness and success at school and is also an area we are working hard to improve as a school. Every day your child is in school they receive an Epraise point (KS2) or a Class Dojo point (KS1) and these build up to help achieve further rewards. The children have loved gaining these rewards and know the importance of good attendance.

As a reminder, children with an attendance of less than 95% are not classed as having good attendance and attendance below 90% falls into the category of persistent absenteeism.

If your child is ill, please contact school before 9.00am.

Should you require support with attendance or wish to seek guidance on our school policy, please contact June Hewes via the school office.

Epraise

Epraise is a merit reward system introduced at the beginning of this year for children in KS2. The children gain a merit for every day they are in school, as well as additional merits linked to our Horton Grange values. The children accumulate their merits and then can spend them on experiences such as sports sessions, slime making sessions or a trip to the Horton Grange café. Some children have already gained enough merits to start buying experiences and these will be given once enough children have bought the experience to make it viable to run. Parents who used the system to book parents evening appointments loved the system for its convenience and ease. If you currently don't have a login and would like one please contact Mrs Brownrigg via the school office.

TT Rockstars

TT Rockstars is an online programme aimed at improving the speed and fluency for recall of times tables facts. This has proved hugely popular with the children and has had an immensely positive impact on the children's overall fluency in numeracy. All children have a login and the programme can be accessed on a PC or on tablets or phones. Daily practice of 10 minutes is a great way to support your child in maths. It even has a rock playlist that they can listen to while they are playing – there are some brilliant 90's power ballads on there!!

World Book Day

We will be celebrating **World Book Day** in school on **Thursday 7th March**. Your child is welcome to come dressed as a character from a book, poem or story. We will be reading, discussing our favourite authors and sharing stories and poems. Reading is part of the fabric of Horton Grange and the children hear stories read aloud every day in school. If you would like any ideas in supporting your child with reading please contact Mrs Ash via the school office and she will be happy to help.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Two Year Olds

In Two Year Olds this half term the children have enjoyed exploring the winter weather. They have been practising getting their own coats and shoes on. Once outside, the children have been playing chase, stomping in the snow and chasing bubbles and balloons in the wind! They've also been exploring the mud kitchen in the nursery garden.

The children enjoyed digging in the mud and pretending to cook it in the pots in the kitchen. They have also been learning to use the Smartboard in the nursery. The children were excited to try this.

Once a week they have been going to the hall to sing songs and play games with the parachute. The children hold hands and walk beautifully through school!



Nursery

One Snowy Night turned into one snowy day this term in Nursery. After reading the story, One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth, Nursery children were astonished to see it snow! They wrapped up warm and took full advantage of the winter weather. Using their senses, they

experienced first-hand what it felt like to have snow falling all around them. They also got the opportunity to use some of the winter vocabulary they had been learning. After the snowy walk, some children made pictures in the snow while others were dancing on ice with Mr Hansen! To complete their Winter adventure, the children thoroughly enjoyed drinking Mrs Rose's hot chocolate to warm them up!



The children have also loved winter art activities; from painting snowmen to having arctic adventures in shaving foam! They were fascinated watching the icing sugar fall down the paper when they made icicle paintings.

During their winter walk, the children realised that there were no berries on the trees for the birds to eat. Showing care and concern, they came up with the idea to make bird feeders. Staff have been blown away by the contributions from parents on Tapestry, showing children continuing their learning at home. Hanging their bird feeders in their gardens at home and watching out for the birds to enjoy the tasty treats!

Reception

Reception transformed into a winter wonderland last half term and the children loved experiencing the snowy



weather outside on some nature walks; exploring ice in the outdoor area and how it changes.

Excitement levels rose when the children arrived at school one day to find a trail of straw which led to a mysterious box containing a letter from the Three Billy Goats Gruff. Since then, the children have created troll traps, constructed homes for goats and written messages to the goats during child-initiated play.



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning all about "Ice Magic". They were very enthusiastic in their re-telling of the story of 'Stick Man' and have produced some excellent stories of their own. The children have continued to work really hard on their number bonds to 10 and have been looking at various 2D and 3D shapes. They have learned about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. Investigating and labelling different common plants and trees has been great key learning. The children especially enjoyed the school trip to The Rising Sun Country Park; spending time outdoors and looking at all of the wildlife. We were very proud of the children for being so sensible on the visit!



Year 2

What a half term Year 2 have! The "Amazing Africa" topic has been a roaring success! The children have loved taking their learning outdoors. In geography they have explored the local area and have produced maps of local landmarks, using a key.

During their visit to The Great North Museum, the children looked closely at habitats around the world, supporting their learning in science. This supported the children in



producing non-fiction texts about the polar bear, the red squirrel and even the thorny devil! Closer to home, we explored micro-habitats within the school grounds and identified the animals and plants that live there.

Year 3

Year 3 have had an explosive half term; thoroughly enjoying their “Tremors” topic travelling deep into the Earth’s core. Their independent research skills have supported the children in finding out about volcanoes, developing their vocabulary and their understanding of physical geography. They have also continued to improve their scientific enquiry skills through studying soil and fossils. Talk for Writing skills have been used to tell the slightly sad story of Dave the Dinosaur, a dinosaur who became a fossil. In literacy they have been newspaper reporters and have done a fantastic job of reporting on the exciting and rather strange appearance of the Iron Man.



Year 4

This half term has been like a whole series of the BBC’s The Apprentice! Before Christmas, the children took part in an enterprise challenge where they had to work together to construct gliders and record the average distance they flew. They did brilliantly and qualified for Stage 2 of the challenge. In this stage the children were given £100 and challenged to make as much money from it as possible. They came up with the fantastic idea of Horton Cafe, where they sold ice cream and gingerbread men alongside refreshments and a raffle. It was incredible to see the response from parents and carers after school and I know the children want to say a big thank you! They made over £200 profit and are already planning their next business proposals!



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have travelled across the Atlantic ocean to study South America with a focus on Brazil. The children have used their geographical knowledge and skills to locate the countries of South America and have identified human and physical features such as Christ the Redeemer and the Amazon rainforest. In addition, the children then made comparisons between the geography of Brazil and Blyth.

In literacy, the children have read traditional Brazilian folktales and compared them to traditional European folktales. Once the children could identify themes and conventions within the texts, they planned and wrote their own folktales based on ‘Creature of Fire’. Year 5 enjoyed creating their own gruesome monster and their stories taught the reader a moral lesson.

In the last week of the half term, the children had the exciting opportunity to participate in workshops, which explored the polar regions. The children investigated how animals might adapt to living in extreme temperatures and discussed how climate change may have an impact on Antarctica and the world. During the experiments, the children utilised their scientific enquiry skills, using a range of tools with precision and enjoyed the hands on learning experience.



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this half term, as the SATs edge ever closer. Some children have been improving their reading, writing and maths skills in the afternoons and they all hope to make good progress during our practice SATS week beginning Monday 4 March (second week back after half term). Film has been an inspiration for our writers who have produced imaginative work: a spy story and a horror story! Sky Song has proved to be a very popular text and below are listed other books by this author should your child wish to read more widely from her:

- The Dreamsnatcher
- The Shadow Keeper
- The Night Spinner

One of the books chosen for World Book Day this year – Ever Dark – is also by this talented author.

The children have been exploring the Arctic and Antarctic in their topic lessons, learning about the animals and people that live there. Taking part in discussions, research and group work, the children have looked at how humans are damaging these areas of the globe, as well as considering how they could help. Our science focus has been the work of Charles Darwin and the children enjoyed studying the theory of evolution by looking at how biscuits have changed over time.

Gymnastics has been the focus of PE lessons this term and the children have benefitted from having a specialist PE teacher.



A visit from the Fire Service was also a highlight. The children learned about what to do in an emergency and how to stay safe. Exploring the fire engine was fun, as was trying some of the equipment.

The Place



At The Place children have continued exploring winter. Clay has been used to make snowflakes, talking about the texture and the temperature of the clay as they manipulated it. Shaving foam was used for messy snow play. Ice pieces of different shapes and sizes were used to explore movement, temperature and memories. Children talked about colours linked to feelings, as well as colours linked to seasons, creating cold colours for our winter trees. Outside, the children have played in the snow, collected materials to make winter messages and used digital cameras to capture signs of winter.

New Topics

Year	Class text	Topic – Spring 2
Nursery	Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth	<p>This half term in Nursery the children will continue to think about “What’s Changing?” They will prepare the Early Years garden ready for planting seeds and bulbs and go on a walk looking for signs of Spring. As well as learning about the names of animals and their babies the children will have the opportunity to experience real chicks hatching from their eggs!</p> <p>The children will be learning mathematical language of height - short, tall and taller, tallest!</p> <p>In phonics the children will continue to identify the initial sounds in words and begin to listen to sounds to make a word.</p>
Reception	The Three Little Pigs	<p>Reception will continue to learn about animals this half term. They will focus on the story of ‘The Three Little Pigs’, looking closely at how a story is structured and then beginning to create their own stories.</p> <p>In maths, the focus will be on addition and subtraction, where the children will continue to consolidate their understanding of number by solving problems and recording their answers.</p> <p>Reception’s exciting trip will allow the children to experience life down on the farm. There will also be an exciting arrival next half term, who knows what it is.</p>
Year 1	How To Grow A Dinosaur by Caryl Hart	<p>This half term the class text will be ‘How To Grow A Dinosaur’ by Caryl Hart.</p> <p>Year 1 will be growing their own garden and learning the names of different plants. They will also be finding out about different insects and then designing and making the perfect habitat for an insect of their choice, and writing a bug fact file.</p> <p>They will also learn about the countries of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>In maths they will be learning to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 up to 50.</p>
Year 2	Lila and the Rain by David Conway & Jude Daly and Meerkat Mail by Emily Garvett	<p>This half term Year 2 will continue with the topic “Amazing Africa”.</p> <p>In literacy, they will be reading the texts <i>Lila and the Rain by David Conway & Jude Daly and Meerkat Mail by Emily Garvett</i>. Parents could support children at home by showing them a variety of letters and discussing how letters are presented. In maths, the focus will be on multiplication, division and fractions. Daily practice of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables will ensure that your child can recall multiplication facts quickly and accurately.</p> <p>In geography, children will begin to compare life in Blyth to life in an African village. They will get out and about and explore the local environment. The children will learn about the human and physical features of a place and find similarities and differences between the contrasting locations. In science, the children will continue to look closely at animal habitats, micro-habitats and animal food chains. The staff are excited about the whole school STEM focus this half term. In Year 2, children will be designing, building and evaluating a sand buggie. Their vehicles, with moving wheels and axels will all take part in The Great Sand Buggie Race.</p>
Year 3	The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo	<p>This half term Year 3 will be learning all about ancient Egypt in their “Exciting Egyptians” topic. They will be traveling back in time to the land of the pharaohs; delving into the inner workings of a pyramid and will learn all about life in these ancient times. To put their design skills to the test, they will be designing and making their own shadoof (an ancient farming device).</p>

Year 4	Who Let the Gods Out by Maz Evans	This half term is a STEM focus so Year 4 will be focusing on developing their creative, scientific sides to develop a product to share with parents.
Year 5	Walking with Witches by Lynn Huggins-Cooper	This half term, Year 5 will focus their learning on their Edinburgh trip in a range of cross-curricular experiences involving STEM. In literacy, the children will be reading Walking with Witches by Lynn Huggins-Cooper in preparation for writing their own spooky story at the end of the half term.
Year 6	Street Child by Berlie Doherty A historical novel which tracks the work of Dr. Barnardo	This half term, Year 6 shall be re-visiting electricity as their science topic and, alongside this, designing and making a product in DT. They shall be learning about the Victorian period in history and discovering all the many inventions and social changes which took place during that time. Inspiration for Year 6 artwork will be the textile designs of William Morris.

Parents Open Evening

We will be holding a **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 20 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. Children will leave school as normal and the first appointment will not begin until 3.35pm. Parents who are allocated this slot should enter via the main entrance. Please remember there is also a drop in session on the first Monday of every month until 4.00pm.

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
- Long hair should be kept off the face and if necessary tied back using clips / bands

DINNER MONEY CHARGES

All children are entitled to free school meals from Reception until the end of Year 2 under the universal free school meal scheme. Beyond this school meals should be paid for unless you are in receipt of any one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you are entitled to free school meals and have children in Year 3 onwards, Mrs Hewes is able to support you with completing the paperwork if needed, or you can do this over the phone by contacting the Free School Meals Team on (01670) 623592.

In all other cases school lunches **must be paid for**. If you become in arrears with lunch payments then you will be contacted to pay your bill. If you are two weeks in arrears then you will have to provide a packed lunch for your child until this debt is cleared. **You would not take your child to a restaurant and expect them to be given food without paying; the same applies at school. School cannot subsidise this.**

Best wishes

Mrs Nichola Irving

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 28 February	Heights and Weights Measurements for Reception and Year 6 Year 5 Boys Football Team Competition
Monday 4 March	Year 6 Trial SATs week Dance Workshop Parent Drop in after school
Wednesday 6 March	Year 5 Parents Evening
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day Y6 Boys Football Team Competition
Friday 8 March	Reception trip to Tweddle Farm
Monday 11 March	Year 5KT Edinburgh residential 3.00pm – 6.00pm Consultation on Extension
Tuesday 12 March	Year 5KT Edinburgh residential
Wednesday 13 March	Year 5KT Edinburgh residential
Thursday 14 March	Year 3 Multi-Skills Festival Year 1 Phonics Screening meeting 2.45pm
Monday 18 March	Year 5AMcK Edinburgh residential
Tuesday 19 March	Year 5AMcK Edinburgh residential
Wednesday 20 March	Year 5AMcK Edinburgh residential Reception Dental Screening 9.30am Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 21 March	Year 4 Girls Netball
Monday 25 March	Reception SRE parents meeting 2.00pm
Thursday 28 March	Parents sharing learning event - focus STEM KS2 9.15am / KS1 2.45pm Years 5 & 6 Hockey competition Nursery in-take meetings 4.00pm
Wednesday 3 April	Parent Forum Meeting
Thursday 4 April	KS1 Dance Festival
Friday 5 April	School closes for Easter Holidays School re-opens on Tuesday 23 April