

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

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 2019 – 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!



HORTON SPORTS UPDATE

At the beginning of November, a team of girls from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at a football competition at Blyth Sports Centre. Through good communication and excellent teamwork, the girls managed to achieve second place – excellent outcome!

Upper Key Stage 2 also took part in a Sports Hall Competition later in November. Children from Years 5 and 6 competed in a range of athletics events including long jump, hurdles and sprinting. Some of the events were paired or team events and required excellent team work. The children excelled as a group and achieved second place in their category.

2CK had a brilliant morning at Blyth Sports Centre taking part in the Multi-Skills Festival. They participated in a range of games to develop their agility and balancing skills including parachute games, circuit training and team relay races.

SHARING OUR LEARNING FROM ACROSS SCHOOL

Two Year Olds

This half term in Two Year Olds we have been developing the environment and offering lots of opportunities for the children to engage in more open-ended play and extend their own experiences with each other. The children have really enjoyed using the cosy spaces to share stories with an adult, to have a rest and sometimes to role play - hiding from dinosaurs and monsters! The children have been very interested in our physical development area which they have used for climbing, balancing, jumping and rolling. It has also offered good opportunities for turn taking. Great fun has been had wrapping up and exploring the winter weather and outside the children have had fun in the puddles, exploring the field and watching the wind blowing the fallen leaves.

Some of the older children have enjoyed visits to nursery and exploring the new environment, ready for moving up in January. In the run up to Christmas, the children have been doing lots of lovely activities, using different craft materials, exploring messy textures and some festive baking too – this culminated in a fantastic stay and play.

Nursery

It has been another busy half term in the nursery; the children have enjoyed a number of cooking activities and learning how to safely cross the road.

The children cooked apple crumble to take home, and delicious autumn soup; as well as naming all the vegetables that went into it. The children enjoyed tasting the vegetables and showed great independence and determination to cut up the ingredients that went into the cooking pot.



During road safety week, the children used the zebra crossing in the school grounds to practise crossing the road safely; they made sure to hold someone's hand and enjoyed singing Stop, Look and Listen. The children were very excited to look for road signs when out and about on their way to Nursery; they made their own stop and go signs outside with lollipop sticks and tape.



Reception

As autumn has turned to winter the children in Reception have enjoyed some seasonal activities. They had a wonderful time on their trip to Gibside - following the clues on a Christmas trail and eating delicious marshmallows that they toasted over a real fire. The children showed their growing confidence during the performance of the Nativity story, Born in a Barn. Fantastic costumes and enthusiastic singing ensured a memorable show for the audience and performers.



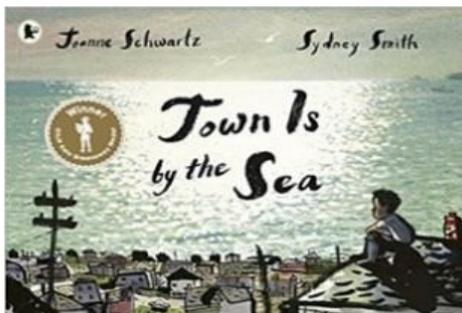
Year 1

This half term Year 1 have enjoyed learning all about Town by the Sea. Reading and re-enacting the story of Grace Darling was great fun! The children were very enthusiastic in their re-telling of Lost and Found and have produced some excellent stories of their own. In maths they have worked really hard on their number bonds to 10 and are looking forward to further challenges of bigger numbers. Year 1 have also learned about road safety and enjoyed using the props very much. They have investigated lots of different materials and can use different words to describe them. We ended the term with a traditional Nativity. The staff were proud of the children for using their lovely loud voices and singing all those songs too!

Year 2

Year 2 have had another great half term; the Time Travellers 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 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 that the trunk belonged to Samuel Pepys. They were surprised to find out that he was actually alive during the great fire of London and that he kept a diary. The children loved finding out lots of gruesome and grisly facts about London at the time of the fire – some may even shock you!



Year 2 also studied the text *Town is by the Sea* by Joanne Schwartz and compared it to their own locality of Blyth. The children explored local history surrounding the Bebside Colliery and made links to our school logo.

One of the highlights of the half term was Key Stage 1's Christmas performance of The Nativity. The children sang their hearts out, showed off their best dance moves and

perfected the art of bell ringing! Year 1 and 2 impressed everyone by learning Mrs Kennedy's poetic rendition of The Christmas Story off by heart using Talk 4 Writing. There were few dry eyes in the room, a whole load of beaming smiles and a true feeling of Christmas.



Year 3

Year 3 have had another fantastic half term. They have thoroughly enjoyed their Tribal Tales topic and have been intrigued travelling back in time to the Stone Age. They have discovered hidden secrets and incredible facts about this time in history



and have impressed us with their research skills. They have also been investigating rocks and have carried out several experiments; developing their understanding of fair tests and have worked well in science teams with some children taking their role of Science Team Captain very seriously. Staff have been very impressed with the homework this half term, especially the Stone Age tools that have been made. 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 loved learning about the Roman invasion of Britain. They have studied Julius Caesar and why he is famous, as well as the impact the Roman Empire has had on our lives today. A real high-point of the term was the visit to Vindolanda. The children travelled

along Hadrian's Wall before exploring the ruins of an ancient fort. It was the "best trip ever!" according to McKenzie. The children also

enjoyed exploring Lemony Snickett's *The Dark*; a beautifully illustrated tale of a boy facing his fears. They used this as a basis for writing diary entries and stories from the point of view of the dark.



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 became explorers of both Blyth and further afield. In their Town is by the Sea topic the children have used different historical sources to research important events in their local area and then discussed

how these events have shaped Blyth today. The children have identified key dates and plotted them on a time line enhancing their chronological understanding. In Geography, the children have improved

their map reading skills by plotting the journey of the Antarctic explorer William Shackleton on the *Endurance*. Then in Science, the children took part in a new experience of a workshop linked to the upcoming launch of

the Sir David Attenborough ship's expedition to the Antarctic. They used their scientific enquiry skills to identify the appropriate material and shapes for the design of the ship and compared this to the *Endurance*.



Year 6



It has been an action-packed half term for Year 6 and they have thoroughly enjoyed learning about 20th century warfare and its impact on Blyth. The children's poetry and artwork was displayed at St. Cuthbert's Church as part of their commemoration of the end of World War 1 and Rev. Tooby told me that visitors were very impressed by the work they had produced. Year 6 also participated in a national live lesson with the BBC studying the First World War and the work of the poets from that time. In English, the children have been listening to a radio broadcast of *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall which is set locally and went on to write their own historical fiction. In role as journalists, they produced newspaper reports after taking

notes at a session led by Sgt. Lunn, who shared information about how Blyth was bombed during the Second World War. The children were amazed to learn that Blyth had a railway station which was bombed, as well as experiencing much damage to local farms and even Cowpen Road!



Visiting Blyth Battery was a highlight of the term with the children learning so much about their home town's coastal defences which have existed, in various forms, since the Napoleonic Wars in the late eighteenth century. They were fascinated to learn that the rangefinder building, which was used to set up the large gun to target any attacking ships, is the only one left of its kind in the world! The children did themselves proud with their many questions about the Blyth submarine base, the ships which were built here (including the very first aircraft carrier, Ark Royal!) and the American soldiers who were billeted in wooden huts along the beach during World War II.



The Place

As the seasons move on we made the most of the final Autumn leaves, making patterns and pictures and creating 3D flowers. The children looked at carefully crafted cobwebs and created their own web designs. They have spoken about Winter weather and the need to wrap up warm. As the temperature dropped staff talked to the children about looking after birds during Winter and made different types of bird feeders – you might spot some apple seed feeders hanging in the trees! A Snowman has been made using different materials, we weaved a scarf and made unique handprint snowflakes to fall from the sky. Every snowflake that falls is unique and this was used to help children understand about their own, unique, special qualities.



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	The children will go on a walk to investigate Winter and the changing season. They will learn about arctic animals that live in cold places. The children will also find out different ways to keep warm in the cold weather and go on a frozen adventure!	The topic book will be One Snowy Night by Nick Butterworth
Reception	Animals will be the focus for next half term's learning. The children will find out about their favourite animals, make homes for them and make fact books to share their knowledge with their friends.	The class text will be The Great Pet Sale by Mick Inkpen
Year 1	The topic will be Ice Magic . Using the text Stick Man by Julia Donaldson , children will use Talk for Writing to re-tell and create their own stories. They will be finding out about hot and cold places in the world and labelling a map of the UK. They will be finding out about plants and learning more about the weather during winter.	Stick Man by Julia Donaldson

Year 2	Year 2 will become Maasai warriors and will explore the great African continent with their new topic Amazing Africa . They will be comparing a day in the life of a child from Nairobi with their own typical daily routine. The children will get crafty and creative when making traditional African necklaces, drums and masks. They can't wait to get started!	The children will study a range of texts to inspire their writing including: The Day the Rains Fell by Anne Faundez and One Plastic Bag by Isatou Ceesay.
Year 3	Year 3 will be learning all about volcanoes in their Tremors topic. They will be traveling around the world and deep into the Earth's core to understand how they work. They will be continuing their investigation of rocks and will be exploring how soils and fossils are formed.	Year 3 will continue to read Iron Man by Ted Hughes and will be using this as inspiration for their own writing.
Year 4	Year 4 will become global explorers. They will learn about exploration and build on their learning about seas and oceans by learning about the water cycle. The children will be basing their literacy around Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy, a tale of adventure and skyships.	Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy, a tale of adventure and skyships.
Year 5	Year 5 will become immersed in South American culture during their Carnival topic, which focuses on Brazil. The children will learn about the geography of Brazil and compare it to the physical and human aspects of their local area. Furthermore, Year 5 will investigate the environmental issues surrounding the Amazon Rainforest and learn how the rainforest plays an essential role for both humans and animals throughout the continent. In Literacy, Year 5 will explore the culture of Brazil by reading and discussing traditional Brazilian folktales from a variety of authors and then they will write their own versions based on what they have learned about Brazil.	Year 5 will be reading and discussing a range of traditional folk tales. Brazilian Folktales edited by Margaret Read MacDonald.
Year 6	Year 6 shall be re-visiting basic geography of the world (hemispheres, continents and oceans) but focussing on the polar regions and investigating the impact humans are having on the planet, as well as how we should be taking more care of it. In Science, they will be looking at the work of Charles Darwin and animal adaptation, then studying the work of Mary Anning (Fossil Collector) and fossils to look further into evolution. The class text will also be the inspiration for artwork when the children will be experimenting with different media to improve their mastery of painting.	Year 6 class text next term will be Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone, a fantasy adventure novel set in a polar-type environment where the Northern Lights play a major role.

Spring 1 term clubs

KS1 clubs (Year 1 & 2)	Y3&4 clubs	Y5&6 clubs
Dance club – Thursday lunchtime	Choir – Tuesday after school	Choir – Tuesday after school
STEM club – Thursday lunchtime	Art club – Tuesday lunchtime	Football – Wednesday after school
		Homework club
		Book club – Monday lunchtime

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 to 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. This year Safer Internet **Day 2019** is on the 5 February and is themed *Together for a better internet*. More information can be found at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019>

In the past we have run parent workshops on this matter but they have not been well attended. If you would like any support regarding online safety and putting secure settings in place, please contact Mrs Hewes in the first instance.

Come Dine and Read

We will be holding our popular Come Dine and Read sessions again this half term from week beginning 28 January – dates for each year group can be found in the key dates section of the Newsletter. This is a popular annual event where you get the chance to eat lunch with the children then share a book in one of our reading areas.

Two Year Old Provision

Children aged 2 may be entitled to 15 hours in our two year old provision, starting in the term after they turn 2. If you think you may be eligible please contact school and ask to speak to Mrs McGuire. More information on eligibility can also be found on the childcare choices website.

Goodbye and Welcome back

We said goodbye to Miss Nightingale on the last day of term, she has been with us for some time now, while Mrs Cornwall and Mrs Carr have been off on maternity leave. She has been an excellent member of our staff team and we wish her success in the future. Mrs Cornwall and Mrs Carr have both now returned to Horton Grange and we would like to welcome them back once again.

Finally, thank you again for your on-going support. We are always looking at how we do things in school and often have people into school to check how we are doing. However, if there are things we can do better then please let us know via the Parent Drop-In sessions, Parent 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

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.

10/1/19	Fire Service Visit to Years 5 and 6
16/1/19	Year 2 SATs meeting 2.30pm
17/1/19	Year 1 Multi-Activity Festival
23/1/19	Year 6 SATs meeting 3.30pm
28/1/19	Trial SATs week Year 1 Come Dine & Read
29/1/19	Year 2 Come Dine & Read
30/1/19	Year 3 Come Dine & Read Parent Forum Meeting
31/1/19	Year 4 Come Dine & Read Year 6 Netball Competition (pm)
1/2/19	Year 5 Come Dine & Read
4/2/19	Year 6 Come Dine & Read
5/2/19	Safer Internet Day
6/2/19	Key Stage 2 Choir Competition (am)
7/2/19	Polar Explorer Workshop visit – Year 5
11/2/19	Fire Service visit to Years 3 and 4 (pm)
14/2/19	Polar Explorer Workshop visit – Year 5
15/2/19	School closes at normal finish time for half-term
25/2/19	School re-opens