

# NEWSLETTER

## June 2019

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome back to the start of the last half term of the year – it is hard to believe another year has nearly passed. The second half of the summer term is always a busy one and we look forward to all that it brings. In our drive to look after the environment, we will be trialling a paper free Newsletter this term. The newsletter will now only be available on the school's website. Whilst trialling this, paper copies will be available on request from the main reception.



### MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION



The mini police have been out and about in the community helping make Blyth a safer place, working with the police to stop motorists who exceed the speed limit. They gathered some very interesting data on the cars they pulled over



which other classes will use to make graphs and draw conclusions.

### AMAZING CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT AND HOOKS FOR LEARNING

#### Visits

At Horton Grange we continued to enrich the children's learning with a range of visits and residentials last term. Year 4 had an amazing time at Dukeshouse Wood, learning many new skills - both physical and mental. From the terrifying heights of the climbing wall, to the exhilarating speed of the zip line, the children conquered fears and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones. The children showed resilience in archery, and problem solving skills when building buggies – all of which has strengthened the children's sense of self-worth and belief in themselves. Well done to all of the children who came. I'd like say a big thank



you to all the staff who attended the visit, giving up time with their own families on a voluntary basis. Without the goodwill of staff the trip could not have gone ahead. I'm sure parents appreciate staff doing this.

## Attendance Update

As you know attendance at school is a key indicator in ensuring children make progress academically but also to ensure friendships thrive and positive attitudes develop. With the onset of summer and the lovely warmer weather everyone is hoping the bugs of winter will lessen and children can come to school every day! It is worth remembering that to have 95% attendance, which is classed as good attendance; a child can only miss 10 days in any school year. Should your child need to be absent due to ill health, parents must notify school by telephone before 9 am on that day. Holidays will not be authorised in school time, except in exceptional circumstances, and a holiday request form must be completed and handed in to the office. As attendance is one of our school priorities and Ofsted have told us we must improve this; we appreciate your support in this.

## Rewards

The ever popular Asda prize draw will take place towards the end of the summer term and those children with 100% attendance will have a special treat! Well done to all those children and families whose attendance remains above 95%.

## SHARING OUR LEARNING

### Two Year Olds

Two Year Olds welcomed lots of new children last half term and they are settling in beautifully! They have had lots of new toys, books and activities to explore and are getting to know their new friends. Our older children have been practising being kind and thinking about others by showing our new children our classroom and helping each other, for example bringing a new friend their comforter when they've needed it. We are very proud of them all! It has been lovely to have some warmer weather and Two Year Olds have been out exploring, blowing bubbles, running on the field and having a picnic. The children sat beautifully as they ate their snack and watched the birds.

### Nursery

This term the children have been gripped by the minibeast topic!

The story of Snail Trail was brought to life, as the children learnt new words and actions to help them re-tell the story of a snail slithering around the garden to find a place to sleep! The children were fascinated to watch real snails, brought in from Mrs Rose's garden, making slimy trails across a tank!



The children have been naming and tasting the different foods that the Hungry Caterpillar ate, as well as counting and adding the fruits to find the total amount. Continuing the learning through Talk for Writing, the

children have made the most amazing story maps and used them to re-tell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar!



The fun didn't stop there, as the children became minibeast detectives both at home and in Nursery, discovering and learning the names of different creatures, underground, on the ground and in the air! They had to understand and follow some positional language to look in, on and under logs, plant pots and stones and were amazed to find woodlice, millipedes, ladybirds and worms!

As well as learning new songs and rhymes, the children have been moving in a range of ways during physical activities in the hall. Slithering like a snail, wriggling like a worm as well as fluttering like a butterfly!

Staff would like to say another big thank you to the Nursery parents, as their contributions on Tapestry continues to enhance and support the children's learning in Nursery!

## Reception

Reception have been demonstrating their green fingers as they delved into the undergrowth and learned about the world of plants. The children wrote instructions on how to plant a bean and grew some plants of their own in the classroom. The painting area was "blooming marvellous" as the children used pictures and real-life plants as subjects to create some fantastic floral artwork. As their writing has progressed the children are now using wordmats to support them with writing their own exciting and imaginative stories. With their brand new weather station, the Reception meteorologists took advantage of the changeable spring weather to make lots of observations.



## Year 1

This half term Year 1 have had a great time learning all about toys from the past and comparing them to the toys that we have today! They travelled back in time on an exciting trip to Beamish where they got to experience what school was like for children long ago. "The teachers were very strict in the olden days!" "They didn't have pencils; they had to use chalks and slates".



In maths, they have been using lots of equipment to explore multiplication and division and making arrays with different objects. They used sweets, paint and even themselves to

understand the concept of division. Ask your child to show you how to make an array!

In PE the children had lots of fun using the apparatus to develop their gymnastic skills and have learnt how to set out and tidy up the equipment safely and sensibly.



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## Year 2

What a busy half term it has been in Year 2 before the break. The children have worked incredibly hard preparing for their Key Stage 1 SATs. They have been reading detectives, reading longer texts and answering questions about character, setting and plot. In maths, they have practised their arithmetic daily, including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and they have perfected strategies to help them solve problems. All of the hard work they have put into learning times tables throughout the year paid off as they quickly



recalled facts to answer test questions. They shone! The children have shown real resilience and determination this half term and we are all so proud of their efforts. All of the staff would like to say a big WELL DONE to the children and thank you to parents and carers for all of your support. In science the children have observed changes by watching caterpillars merge into butterflies. They loved setting the butterflies free and they will be watching out for them in their gardens.

### Year 3

Last half term Year 3 have been looking at plants and studying them in detail. They have researched how various plants grow and stay healthy, and how seeds germinate in different conditions. During the topic the children investigated which plants are edible and all of the different parts of the plant that humans can eat including leaves, shoots, flowers, fruits, roots and seeds. Year 3 also did an investigation into the conditions a plant needs to stay healthy, comparing various conditions with a control plant. They did lots of art within the topic including sketches, watercolour paintings and clay imprints of leaves.



During literacy lessons they spent time unpicking the story of Kate and the Beanstalk looking at different features and lots of grammar rules. The children worked hard to produce their own version of the story, along with painted illustrations, that they are incredibly proud of. In maths Year 3 spent time looking at fractions and money, using their fundamental maths skills to help them to problem solve. They enjoyed using lots of resources and partner work to help them learn, with activities in their maths areas to provide extra challenge and opportunity to practice their new



learning. The Times Tables Rockstar competitions the classes did against each other provided lots of extra motivation to increase their times tables speeds.

Within RE Year 3 learnt about Islam, focusing on the Qur'an, Mosques and the Five Pillars of Islam using ICT to further their learning with independent research and producing information posters. For French they learnt basic phrases to greet others, ask others their name, and count to 10. The children learnt a greetings song to help them to remember the new phrases. In PE they have been increasing their gymnastic skills and learning new movements, this has helped them

improve their agility, balance and co-ordination.

### Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed their Little People, Big Dreams topic this half term where they have learned about the lives of influential people such as Marie Curie, Ella Fitzgerald and Muhammad Ali.

In geography, the children learnt about Amelia Earhart's final flight across the world and used an atlas to locate the countries and continents she passed on her journey. In science, they worked collaboratively to find out about Alexander Graham Bell and the impact of his inventions.

During Equalities Week, Year 4 learned about Rosa Parks and discussed how they felt about her story and the impact that she had.

The children have enjoyed creating their own art work in the style of Georgia O’Keeffe. They sketched their designs then added colour using a range of materials.



## **Year 5**

This half term, Year 5 were transported back to the Anglo Saxon period in their history topic. The children have learned about famous Anglo Saxons and how England became united into one kingdom. 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 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 balanced arguments, examining the morality of killing the evil beast Grendel.

In science, the children have learnt all about the earth and space. They learned about the order of the planets and how big they are using fruit, and became human representations of how the earth and moon move.



## **Year 6**

The first thing that must be said about Year 6 during the last half term is how impressed all the staff have been with their incredible hard work on the run-up to SATs. Many children took part in extra afternoon booster sessions to help them improve in targeted areas and there was a terrific turn-out for the revision clubs - in fact some children came to every single session – very well done to all of you! Thank you also to parents for your continuing support.



### **Working hard at SATs club!**



### **Chilling at Y6 SATs breakfast club**

Mexico and the Aztecs has been a popular Year 6 topic: the children have located Mexico on a map and found out about Mexican food and culture. Comparing the country to the UK, the children found many differences. The children have loved researching the Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) festival and have designed intricately patterned model skulls as part of their art lessons this half term.

## TOPICS FOR SUMMER TERM

The topic overviews for this half term will be available on the school website. These topic overviews / knowledge organisers will explain key learning through each subject area for the topic. Below is a brief summary of the topic title for Summer 2.

Year	Class text	Topic – Summer 2
Nursery	<b>Lulu's Holiday by Caroline Uff</b>	Nursery's topic this term will be <b>Where are you going, where have you been?</b> The children will be developing language skills through talking about places they have visited – parents could support this by talking with their children about their favourite places to visit. With the summer ahead (nice weather hopefully!) Nursery will be considering how to keep safe in the sun and what they would pack if they went on holiday. They will sing songs about transport vehicles and whilst thinking about seaside holidays they will learn about sea creatures and name them.
Reception	<b>Superworm by Julia Donaldson</b>	This half-term the children will be living a bug's life as they become insect experts in their new topic, <b>Underground, Overground, Minibeasts All Around.</b> With lots of foraging in the school grounds they are sure to turn up some creepy-crawlies to look at in closer detail. The children will learn about a variety of minibeasts, how they live and what they need to survive. By looking at their role in the environment, Reception will see why minibeasts are so important. The children will also take advantage of the (hopefully) fine weather to practice for Sports Day.
Year 1	<b>This is the Bear by Sarah Hayes</b>	This half term the children will be learning all about the human body; the different parts it has and their senses. They will be using their senses to explore different foods and they will start to understand why their senses are so important. The children will also use a variety of media to draw mirror images of their faces. The children will also take part in Sports Day and have lots of fun in the sun.
Year 2	<b>Man on The Moon by Simon Bartram</b> <b>My Hidden Chimp by Prof. Steve Peters</b>	This half term we will be continuing our topic called Moon Landing. In English, they will be reading the text <b>Man on The Moon</b> by Simon Bartram. They will also be reading a selection of non-fiction texts about space and about famous astronauts Helen Sharman and Neil Armstrong. The class text will be <b>My Hidden Chimp</b> by Prof. Steve Peters, an amazing text which supports children dealing with their emotions and thinking. In maths, children will begin to learn their 3 times tables in preparation for Year 3. They will also develop their addition and subtraction skills through time, money and multi-step problems. In history the focus is the moon landing and the impact that famous astronauts had. In science, children will be outdoors for much of the half term, studying trees and plants, looking closely at the plant structure and investigating the impact that air, water, nutrients and light have on healthy growth and survival.
Year 3	<b>The Great Rocket Robbery by Frank Cottrell-Boyce</b>	This half term Year 3 are continuing the Bees and Trees topic, looking closely at how the plants become food people eat and what other natural things they can also eat. The class text will be <b>The Great Rocket Robbery</b> by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. They are also looking forward to Forest School Week.
Year 4	<b>The Demon Dentist by David Walliams</b>	This half term Year 4 will be learning about leisure through time. They will be revisiting some of the previous history topics and learning about how leisure has changed over the years, from the Stone Age, through to the Ancient Egyptians and Greeks and then to the modern day. They will be looking at Buddhist beliefs and festivals in RE, and taking part in a DT project, The Great

		Bread Bake Off, where the children will look at the history of bread making, investigate and evaluate existing bread products and design and make their own bread.
Year 5	<b>The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes</b>	This half term, the children will continue their learning about space and the Anglo Saxons through exciting activities during space camp and by exploring the Anglo Saxon's many conflicts with the Viking invaders in Northumberland. In literacy, the children will study the text <b>The Highwayman</b> by Alfred Noyes. The children will have the opportunity to explore the rich language of the poem and write an alternative ending to the story.
Year 6	<b>Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah</b>	Building on the work during Equalities Week, Year 6 will focus on a topic about Human Rights next term. They will learn about the Slave Trade and those who sought to abolish it, then they will move onto looking at the Rights of all, focussing on Women's Rights and Children's Rights. Next term's class novel will be <b>Refugee Boy</b> by Benjamin Zephaniah. In science, Year 6 will be learning about the Human Circulatory System: the heart, lungs, veins and arteries. Year 6 are very excited about the enterprise project where they will work in teams to raise money to help fund their end of year days out and about – yet to be decided! They are also looking forward to their Prom and the Leavers' Assembly on Thursday 18 July.

### UNIFORM

I appreciate it is getting towards the end of the year, but a polite reminder that trainers should not be worn, except for PE or outdoor play. We are purchasing a set of new black plimsoles for school. Children who do not wear appropriate footwear will be provided with these to wear indoors on that day. Can I also please remind you that long hair must be tied up and that leggings should not be worn. We will be focussing on this over the summer term and if children are not wearing the correct uniform we will be contacting parents.

### LIBRARY BOOK AMNESTY

We have worked hard over the years to build and improve our school libraries, however they appear to be depleted at the moment. Many of these books have been borrowed and not returned. If your child has a school library book at home please could it be returned to school asap.

### TRAFFIC ON SCHOOL SITE

**SAFETY COMES FIRST** and therefore we must restrict traffic access to school site. Parents of children who attend breakfast club are permitted to bring cars on site before 8.40 am. However a parent code of conduct must be signed to agree that you will:

- Drive no faster than 5MPH
- Reverse into the designated parking bays
- Follow the marked guidelines for walking your child into breakfast club and use the designated crossings.

**Cars are NOT permitted on site at any other time, including collecting from clubs, collecting for or returning from appointments, unless you are in possession of a disabled badge.**

Thank you for your support with this matter.

I shall look forward to seeing you in school over the final half term at Sports Day, Celebration Assemblies and Year 6 Leavers Assembly.

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.*

Wednesday 5 June (2.00pm)	Parent Forum Meeting
Thursday 6 June	Year 3 Glendale Country Show
Thursday 6 June (All day and night)	Year 5 Space Camp
Friday 7 June	Year 2 Hoopstars (1 Class)
Friday 7 June	Year 5/6 Athletics (Winners of heats)
Monday-Friday 10-14 June (All week)	Forest School Week
Monday-Friday 10-14 June (All week)	Phonics Screening Week
Tuesday 11 June (4.00pm)	Reception New Starters Meeting
Tuesday 11 June	Year 3 Forest School, Plessey Woods 3RR
Wednesday 12 June	Year 3 Forest School, Plessey Woods 3RK
Wednesday 12 June	Year 5 Green Car Project
Thursday 13 June	Year 5 Green Car Project
Thursday 13 June (4.00pm)	Nursery New Starters Meeting
Friday 14 June	Forest School Sharing Learning Event
Thursday 20 June	Toy and Book Fair
Friday 21 June (2.00pm)	EYFS Sports Day
Monday 24-28 June (All week)	Health Week
Monday 24 June	Sports Day
Tuesday 25 June	Reserve Sports Day
Thursday 4 July	Year 5/6 Swimming/Indoor Athletics
Tuesday 9 July	Reception – Rising Sun Visit
Wednesday 10 July (3.40pm -7.00pm)	Transition Day/Parent Consultations
Friday 12 July	Year 6 – Mental Health Workshop (Prov)
Tuesday 16 July (11.00am and 2.45pm)	Nursery Celebration
Tuesday 16 July (Y1 9.15am) (Y2 2.45pm)	KS1 Celebration
Wednesday 17 July (1.45pm)	EYFS Graduation
Wednesday 17 July (Y3 9.30am) (Y4 11.00am) (Y5 2.00pm)	Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 Celebrations
Thursday 18 July	Nursery Summer Party
Thursday 18 July (2.00pm)	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Thursday 18 July (6.00pm - 8.30pm)	Year 6 Prom
<b>Friday 19 July</b>	<b>School Closes for Summer</b>