

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2022

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the **Spring 2 newsletter**, where we will share some highlights from last half term and intended learning for this half term as well as some general updates.



The return after Christmas was a challenging time as we appeared to reflect the national trend with higher numbers of Covid cases among children and staff. At times this made daily logistics of ensuring we had to staff to teach children a challenge. As usual the staff pulled together in true Team Horton style to make sure, despite this, we were able to ensure your children were given the best education possible. Thankfully, we appear to be through the worst of it and cases have dropped significantly in recent weeks. Like you, we are hoping we can now finally see a return to normality.

We really miss having parents into school for our parent events. Last half term, we did hold some face to face information sharing sessions regarding reading and phonics. One parent commented “Great to be back in school - informative session...”. Going forward, we hope to have more of these types of events; we know by home and school working together regarding learning the children can achieve even more.

### **LEARNING TO READ AND READING TO LEARN**

You will have been informed via previous newsletters and events in school that reading is of high priority at Horton Grange.

The school has just invested in new reading books for Key Stage 2 which prefects have helped organise and display. They were very keen to begin reading these books which now provide a levelled book all the way up to greater depth standard in Year 6. Some of the comments include:

“I couldn’t wait to read my book as the cover made it look so exciting.”

“I’m really enjoying this book and have learnt some new words.”

“I think the new books are great. It’s nice to have a new selection of books to choose from.”

“It’s nice to have new books to read. I’m really enjoying one of the ‘Chuckles’ short stories. It makes me laugh.”

“I like the books because they tell you lots more information in the non-fiction books and there’s lots more stories to choose from too.”

“I am enjoying the longer chapter books because they’re more detailed.”

“My book has colourful illustrations and it helped me learn new vocabulary words that I didn’t know.”

All teachers read a story to the children at some point in the day and the children have also told us how much they enjoy this part of school. They have told us:

“It’s really nice to just sit down and listen to a story for a little bit. It’s nice to relax and just focus on the book to take your mind off things.”

“When you’ve been working so hard all day and maybe doing lots of writing, it’s relaxing to switch off and enjoy a story.”

“After the stress of working during the day, a story takes your mind off it; it transports you to another world and it’s a fantastic way to calm down or unwind.”

We will continue to celebrate enjoy books this half term as we participate in World Book Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. This year marks World Book Day's 25th anniversary and the message for all children is “**you are a reader!**”! It promises fun and celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure all year round.

## NSPCC Number Day

A big thank you to everyone who helped make our NSPCC Number Day such a success. The children enjoyed their non-uniform day with a mathematical twist! Each class focused on their year group number and completed lots of related arithmetic and problem solving tasks. By the end of the day, each class had produced an oversized poster of their day. These will be displayed around school. We raised over £300.00 in voluntary contributions for the NSPCC which is a brilliant charity that supports children. Thank you all for your generosity and support.



## Internet Safety Day 2022

As part of safer internet day, classes looked at **responsible and respectful online behaviour** with a focus on gaming. Many of the children game regularly and use the internet for a wide range of social interactions. Whilst this can be brilliant, allowing us to keep in touch with people and share news and common interests there is undoubtedly a downside, which the children shared with us. As adults we have a responsibility to ensure children are educated, advised and supported to make their online life as safe and healthy as possible. This may mean limiting their time online and ensuring they have a cut off time before bed, ensuring you have parental controls so you have an element of control over what they see and play on, ensuring they are not playing on games that have an adult age limit and most importantly, talking to them about their online life and regularly checking in on them. As adults, we may (or may not) know less than the children about online gaming and if you need help or advice please contact school and we can try to help and advise you, or at least point you in the right direction!

Alternatively, here are some websites to help

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-top-tips-for-parents/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

## Sports Update

This half term, the Year 6 Sports Leaders have been completing their training in preparation for supporting active break and lunchtimes. The children began delivering sessions at break times to Year 3 in the final week of Spring 1. Their confidence has grown each day and they are relishing the new responsibilities. The Sports Leaders will begin to deliver sessions to more year groups across school next half term.

Earlier this half term, Year 3SC/DC, Year 4AR and Year 5ER all took part in the county multi skills finals for their respective age groups. The children demonstrated all of the Horton values throughout each competition and ended with smiles on their faces.

The Year 5 / 6 boys football league will be starting again soon. More information to follow from Mr Ridley.

## Attendance

The challenges of winter, coupled with ongoing COVID cases certainly impacted on attendance last half term. It can be frustrating and worrying when children are ill and we understand parents wanting to be cautious. However, like you, we also know how important it is for children to be in school both for the academic benefits but also for the social interactions and the routine it gives them. We know when children are absent from school, they miss so much more than the learning. This is something you can really support your child with by only keeping them off school when they are ill and absolutely cannot attend. Below you can see how attendance is judged. We also know the children are passionate about winning the class attendance trophy each week. So far 5ER have been in the top 3 more than any other class. However, Year 3 are hot on their heels, and much like some of the positions in the premier league - it's still all to play for!

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Sessions Each day has 2, a.m. and p.m.	Approx. weeks lost per year
100 - 99%	Exceptional	0 to 3	0-8	Less than 1
96-98.9%	Good	4 to 9	10-18	1 to 2
95.9-90.1%	At Risk	10 to 18	20-37	2 to 4
<b>90% and less</b>	Persistent Absence	19 or more	38 and more	4 or more

Jemma Brown, our school attendance officer, can be contacted on the following number 07971791810 should you wish to discuss attendance.

### Always Club

Always club ran throughout the last half term and will continue every Friday. It's a chance to reward the children who come to school and ALWAYS follow the rules and demonstrate the Horton Values. It's a lovely way to end the week and the children love it.

### Clubs

As you know we re-started our clubs programme last half term with year group clubs to reduce mixing. One club that was a success was sign language club run by Mrs Carr. So much so, the children have asked for it to continue this half term. The children have learned finger signing, greetings, numbers 1-100, feelings and emotions and colours. Additionally, they have looked at the most important part, which is understanding the role of BSL (British Sign Language) and how we can communicate with others in a hearing world.



The budding artists in Year 1 have loved participating in Arts and Crafts club this half term with Mrs Kennedy. The children drew their own Gruffalo in the style of illustrator Axel Scheffler, made a collage fish, created an underwater scene with watercolour paints and showed resilience when trying origami for the first time! Well done to everyone who attended!

There was another Art club running in Year 5. They have explored different media such as watercolours, and oil and chalk pastels. They have made their own spinning colour wheels and handmade books as well as producing some expressive artworks to take home.



We intend to continue this year group format for clubs during Spring 2 and look to reverting to our original format during the Summer term. Mrs Heslop, our staff member who leads in clubs has been gathering children's suggestions for clubs to run in the future.

## Visits

At Horton Grange we have always prided ourselves on providing a range of experiences for children including our residential visits. In the Autumn term, the Year 6 residential visit went ahead and we are pleased to say that in March our Year 5 children will visit London. This is an incredible residential experience and I know the children will gain so much from the opportunity. Mrs Brownrigg and the Year 5 staff are working hard to ensure everything is ready and I look forward to sharing the updates from this experience in the Summer newsletter.

## **SHARING OUR LEARNING**

### Two Year Olds

Last half term, the two year olds enjoyed lots of sensory and creative activities and got to take home lots of their lovely artwork. There were numerous opportunities to take part in cooking activities to develop control and use of utensils.

They enjoyed exploring the dressing up accessories, whether it was putting on a full outfit, or simply a hat. The children made clear links to their own experiences, acting out with others and extending their play using their imagination.

They again made the most of the changing weather and enjoyed exploring the leaves and talking about their colour, their properties and they watched them fall from the trees.

The two year olds had more opportunities to develop their pre-writing skills by taking part in fine motor activities, using pegs and snipping with scissors.

Books remain a key focus and staff ensure they are shared with the children as a group and on a one to one basis. This is fundamental in developing their language. The children thoroughly enjoyed spending time looking at our books within the environment, making reference to the story, recalling parts of it and naming familiar characters.

New starters were also welcomed into two year olds and have settled very well.



This half term, the two year olds will be given lots of opportunities to extend their imaginary play in the small world area. They will be encouraged to use resources purposefully and to take an interest in others' play.

The two year olds will be accessing the large nursery outdoor area once a week where they can use the bikes. This will develop their gross motor skills and their spatial awareness.

The lending library will continue each week and there will be a book to choose and keep for each child after every five posts on Tapestry to show them enjoying sharing their lending library books at home.

Children will also get to choose an activity bag to take home. These will differ each week and contain small activities to enjoy, there are some ideas of how to use these resources and some key vocabulary that goes with them. Again, it would be great to see the children using these at home so any photos of the children can be shared on Tapestry.

The following texts are used continuously in two year olds. They inform a lot of the planning with links across the whole EYFS, and most importantly, repeating these texts impacts hugely on language development.

Pip and Posy series (6 titles) - Axel Scheffler  
The Tiger Who Came to Tea - Judith Kerr  
Whatever Next - Jill Murphy  
Peace at Last - Jill Murphy  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle

Just as a reminder, could parents please ensure that your child has spare clothing each day in case they need to be changed for any reason and that they have nappies/wipes etc for that day.

### Nursery

As we all welcomed the new year, the children in Nursery welcomed some new friends to their setting. It has been fantastic to see how well the new children have settled and how welcoming our existing Horton Grange pupils have been. Well done Nursery! The children in Nursery began their topic Winter. They continued their exploration of the ever-changing seasons and made comparisons of the natural environment from Autumn to Winter. When discussing how best to stay safe in the changing weather, the children learned how to dress appropriately for Winter and practised doing so independently. The children in Nursery discovered that as the weather grew colder they saw ice appear but wondered how it got there and what they could do to keep safe. To investigate this further, they conducted an ice experiment and concluded that the rock salt that Mr Fletcher uses on the Nursery yard was definitely the best option!



This half term, as Spring brings new life, the children in Nursery will begin caring for their own living objects within their topic of How Does Your Garden Grow? The children will be learning about what plants require to grow and embedding this learning by planting their own flowers in the Nursery garden. It would be wonderful to see any growing done at home posted on Tapestry for the children to share with their peers at carpet time. They will also be exploring the seasonal changes into Spring and discussing the upcoming Easter celebrations.

### Reception

Last half term, Reception dived into the past through the topic of A look back in time. The children learned all about themselves and how they have changed over time as well as how toys, clothes, music and other familiar objects have progressed through the years.

They have continued to learn about different authors, becoming familiar with their books and style of writing and discussing which are their favourite. This half-term they read the works of Janet and Allan Ahlberg, Eric Carle and Judith Kerr. Alongside this, to continue to develop their love of reading, they have been independently reading words, captions and sentences, which is very exciting!

The children studied the art of Piet Mondrian last half-term and created works in his style using collage, pencils and paint. They were able to discuss the work of Mondrian and the characteristics that they included in their own creations.

The children continued to develop their knowledge of number by delving deeper into numerals 6 to 10, learning about their composition and sequence and then applying this in their play.

This half-term, Reception will be getting up early and putting on their wellies as they go "Down On the Farm". As Spring provides welcome warmth, the children will be looking for signs of new life, both plant and animal and talking about the changes in the weather and the environment. They will explore the life cycle of animals in greater depth and learn all the names for farm animals and their offspring.



In literacy the focus will be storytelling and Reception will be learning how to tell stories in words, actions and through role-play, even making models of traditional tales in the block area. The authors to be explored in greater depth will be Mick Inkpen, Sue Hendra and Oliver Jeffers. The children will also look at instructions, both writing their own and following a set of instructions to make their own bread, delicious!

The children will continue to develop their knowledge of staying healthy, focusing on brushing teeth and maintaining healthy sleep routines. Reception will also learn about their responsibilities to the wider world, such as not littering or wasting food.

The class text is Little Red Hen. This book will help us learn about farming, the making of bread and be used with a Talk 4 Writing approach to help children learn the story.

## Year 1

Last half term in Literacy, the children read a range of adventure stories. They found out all about Penguin Blue's trip to the jungle in the story of Blown Away (Rob Biddulph) – especially the mischievous monkey! They flew in a spaceship to join the Toys in Space (Mini Grey). Ask the children to tell you all about Wonder Doll's Sci-Fi story! The children have been working on using "and" to join their ideas together and adjectives to describe.

In Maths, Year 1 have investigated the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They have used Dienes to make numbers up to 20. They used what they knew to add and subtract teen numbers using counters and number lines. One highlight was Number Day. Year 1 found out all about the number 1. They used lots of different maths equipment to represent the number and made links with the world around them – 1 o'clock, circles with 1 side, 1p and even our year group. They explored how many jumps they could do in 1 minute and found out how many 1p coins they would need to buy from our class toy shop.

In Science Year 1 have found out all about reptiles and amphibians and compared their features. They investigated what they eat and discovered if they were a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore!

In History Year 1 were transported back in time. The children loved exploring a range of artefacts – toys from the past and toys we have now. They used what they knew about materials to compare what they were made from. They even made their own peg dolls!



In Art the children have explored printing. They enjoyed printing with different objects to create patterns using primary colours. Then they used work by the artists Kandinsky and Paul Klee to inspire them to create their own relief printing designs using string.



This half term in Literacy the children will read and retell the stories Katie in London and Jack and the Beanstalk. These books will link with their Geography and Science learning.

In Maths the children will be applying what they know about place value to explore numbers to 50.

In Science they will be learning about common garden and wild plants. Have a look at what you can spot when you are out and about. In Geography Year 1 will be finding out about our capital city – London.

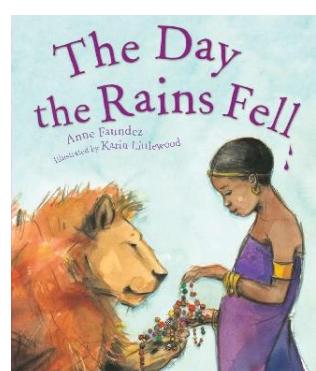
The children will be reading a range of picture books that they have chosen to read at 3 o'clock story time.

## Year 2

Last half term, Year 2 really had a wonderful half term. The children have loved the Amazing Africa topic which has been a roaring success! In Literacy the children enjoyed reading The Day the Rains Fell, a beautiful story set far away in Africa. They made simple changes to the story and re-wrote their own version set in Northumberland. They also became African animal experts and wrote some fantastic animal information texts about crocodiles and elephants. The children enjoyed writing animal acrostic poems using some lovely vocabulary.



In Maths children continued developing their basic skills securing their understanding of number bonds to 10 and 20. They practised their 2, 5 and 10 times tables to build confidence and improve the speed at which they can recall facts. They completed their first stage of learning about addition and subtraction and solved a range of word problems.



All of the children enjoyed taking part in NSPCC Number Day. They found out lots of exciting things about the number 2 including work on 2d shapes and doubling.

In Geography they have studied their home town of Blyth and have compared this to a town in Africa called Nairobi. They have compared climate, transport, homes, food, jobs and animals and were able to identify similarities and differences. They have also investigated the human and physical features of both locations. In Art, children have studied 2 famous artists, Pablo Picasso and Gustav Klimt. They have focused on the artists use of shape, line and colour and have created their own art pieces inspired by African prints.

In Science, children have studied Animals and their habitats. Using the text Above and Below by Hanako Clulow, they have investigated a range of different habitats and found out about the plants and animals that live there. They looked closely at different food chains within each habitat. The children have begun to develop their understanding of micro-habitats, smaller habitats within a habitat. The work on animals and their habitats will continue in spring 2.



This half term, in Literacy children will be reading the text Man on the Moon by Simon Bartram. They will be designing and describing their own aliens and writing a new space adventure story. In Maths children will continue their work on multiplication and division and begin to learn about fractions. In History, the children will begin their topic Planes, Trains and Automobiles. They will look at the history of the wheel and its importance. They will also study two famous historical figures linked to transport, George Stephenson and Amelia Earhart. In Design Technology, they will research, design and make their own moving vehicle.

### Year 3

Year 3 have been working incredibly hard since the Christmas break and have particularly enjoyed their learning on adventure stories. They used the beautifully illustrated text Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx by Joe Todd Stanton to create an action scene where Marcy races through perilous tunnels and mazes to save her father. They included prepositions, uplevelled verbs and exciting adverbs to create a suspense filled climax to the story.

In Maths, Year 3 have focused on the formal methods of addition and subtraction, which has involved lots of work on number facts and using our understanding of place value to be able to exchange and cross over the 10 and 100 boundaries. The children have also begun their multiplication and division unit, focusing on times tables - the 3x, 4x and 8x table in particular.

Delving back 3,100 years in history to the time of the Egyptians, Year 3 have learned all about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation and how they lived. This has been a real favourite of a lot of children and they were particularly interested yet horrified to hear about the mummification process - just ask them how they removed their brains after death! From the mysterious death rituals, multiple gods, legendary pyramids, and unique way of life the children have worked hard to absorb as much knowledge as possible about the intriguing Ancient Egyptian way of life. The children enjoyed learning about "the boy king" - Tutankhamun; his life and his mysterious death - did you know...? Some people believe he was killed by a hippo! The children also loved using their knowledge of the hieroglyphs to make their own cartouche in art using printing techniques. Year 3 are looking forward to extending and embedding their Ancient Egyptian learning on their trip to the Great North Museum this half term- more information to follow.



Last half term's Science topic was light and the children were fascinated to see how their shadows changed throughout the day as the sun moved across the sky. The children completed lots of practical investigations into how light travels, how it can be blocked and how shadows are created.



Year 3 also learnt how to play tag rugby in PE lessons, spending time building their passing and catching skills with the unusual ball shape, before putting this into practice in a competitive game.

This term, Year 3 are focusing on natural disasters that occur across the world- always a favourite with the children! In particular, we will look at Earthquakes and volcanoes within their Geography unit; looking at how they are formed; where they can be found in the world; different types of volcanoes; and the devastating effects that they could have. This links into the focus text in Literacy this half term, which is Escape From Pompeii. The children will also be using a brilliant video clip, showing a time-lapse of the day of the Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD. This will be used as a stimulus for a diary entry.

In Maths the children are continuing to learn about multiplication and division and applying their times table knowledge to a range of word problems. They will then move on to length and perimeter and beginning fractions, first looking at halves, quarters and thirds, so any work you can do on these at home would be great! It would be really beneficial to the children if they could spend time on TTRS and practise their times tables at home too.

Within Science the children are investigating forces and magnets, learning the physics behind how they work and testing these effects practically.

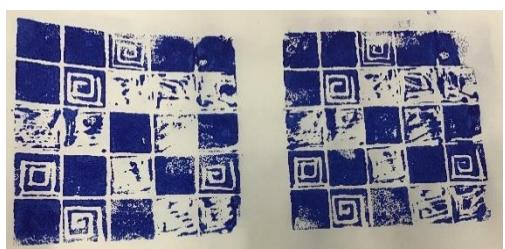
Year 3's class text this half term is Escape from Pompeii By Christina Balit, which links to their geographical unit of volcanoes. This tells the first-hand account of two fictional children who find themselves caught up in a terrible natural disaster, which will live on in infamy.

#### Year 4

Last half term, Year 4 enjoyed learning about the Romans in their topic work. The children used timelines to order and explore key events during the Roman period in Britain, such as the building of Hadrian's Wall. Furthermore, the children explored a variety of sources which showed different views of Boudicca's rebellion and went on to produce a discussion text based on their views about the rebellion as part of their work in Literacy.

Year 4 enjoyed their Maths learning last half term as they used a range of practical equipment and pictorial resources to develop their knowledge of multiplication. During the NSPCC Number Day, the children also had a great time learning all about the number four. They took part in a range of activities to find out facts about the number, which included investigating shapes, researching using the Chromebooks and some outdoor learning tasks.

In Science, Year 4 have learned about how sound travels to the ear. The children have been able to identify how sound travels as well as investigating how the pitch of a sound varies. Year 4 used their scientific enquiry skills to explore how distance can affect the volume of a sound.



Last half term in Art, the children have studied the work of M.C. Escher known for tessellation print patterns. After creating a pattern design based on Roman mosaics, the children then carved their designs into a poly block tile before using rollers to apply paint in preparation for printing. Year 4 enjoyed transferring their tile design to paper and the results were fantastic.

In PE, the children created their own dance routine with a superhero theme. By working individually, in pairs and in groups, the children created motifs that tied together scenes including a battle and rescue sequence.

This half term, Year 4 will study the exciting topic of electricity in Science. They will investigate which materials conduct electricity and create simple circuits to test their predictions. This will also link with the children's learning in Design Technology, where they will make a buzzer game which includes an electrical circuit. In Geography, the children will explore human and physical features of the UK and compare these to what life is like in Greece. This will help the children to revise their learning on the Ancient Greeks from earlier in the year. In Literacy, the children will read a range of texts across the adventure and science fiction genres and will write an instructional non-fiction text to explain how to create an electric circuit. In Maths, Year 4 will continue to enhance their learning on multiplication and division by beginning to apply their knowledge to formal written methods. The children will then begin their topic on fractions.



The class text will explore the text Brightstorm by Vashti Hardy. The children will also explore the text further in Literacy lessons when studying the adventure genre.

## Year 5

In Literacy last half term, the children enjoyed discussing the features of traditional fairy tales and particularly enjoyed reading the text The Elves and the Shoemaker. This inspired them to write their own fairy tale which included many magical elements and great character descriptions. After this, the children looked at a range of contemporary fiction texts to build their reading skills through comprehension and reciprocal reading activities. They focused on extracts from Wonder by R.L. Palacio to help to plan and write their own contemporary fiction piece which included a dilemma/problem to overcome. The children have also learned about the genre of persuasive writing, creating a persuasive leaflet to convince others to visit an activity centre.

In Maths, the children have continued their work on Multiplication and Division. They have learned about multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers, cube numbers and have also focused on multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000.

Last half term, Year 5 put their historian hats on as they travelled back in time to find out about life in the Victorian era. The children studied Queen Victoria and found that when Victoria became Queen she became head of the British Empire – she did not just rule one country, she ruled several. She was crowned Empress of all of Britain's colonies. Later, the children learned that there were many changes during the Victorian era and enjoyed finding out about the Industrial Revolution and even had a class debate about whether they would have liked to have lived during this time. They have also enjoyed learning about two prominent Victorian women, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, and their roles in the Crimean War.

In Science, Year 5 continued their Chemistry unit on the properties of materials and worked scientifically by recording data and results using scientific diagrams. The children focused on reversible and irreversible reactions. Through investigations, they discovered that some changes result in the formation of new materials and that this kind of change is not usually reversible. Also, the children demonstrated that dissolving and mixing are reversible changes by experimenting with sieving and filtering.

In Art, the children have learned about printing and patterns and looked at the work of William Morris. They have developed skills in printing techniques and created their own repeating pattern design using images inspired by nature.

This half term, many Year 5 children will be enjoying their exciting residential trip to London! This links with their Geography comparison study: How does Blyth compare to London? The children will name and locate landmarks and places of interest, using digital mapping to explore key features of the two places.

This half term in Literacy, the children will visit the genre of Dilemma stories using the text London Eye Mystery. Reading skills will continue to develop through reciprocal reading sessions and use of Reading Plus. The children are very proud of how far they have come on Reading Plus so far and hope to keep it up this term. Please continue to encourage your child to read as much as possible at home to ensure they continue to make progress. We have brand new reading books in school and we know the children are thoroughly enjoying reading these!

In Science, the children will learn all about different types of forces. They will identify gravity, friction, air and water resistance as well as carrying out engaging and inspiring investigations to explore how these forces work in the real world.

The Year 5 class text will be The London Eye Mystery. This is a children's mystery novel by English author Siobhan Dowd. It tells the story of how Ted, a boy with Asperger syndrome, and his sister Kat, solve the mystery of how their cousin, Salim, seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye.

## Year 6

Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard this half term as the SATs edge closer and recently took part in a Mock SATs to prepare them for the real thing in May (week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May (third week back after Easter holidays). Quest stories have been an inspiration for Year 6 writers who have produced some very entertaining and imaginative work. Non-chronological reports have also been written about our science topic of Light, the children found out some fascinating facts such about human sacrifices and presented these using well organised paragraphs, bullet points, diagrams and fact boxes.

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone has proved to be a popular text and below are listed other books by this author should your child wish to read more widely from her:

- The Dream Snatcher
- The Night Spinner
- Ever Dark

The children have been learning about Aztec culture and society and, as part of this topic, investigated the history of chocolate. After creating a timeline of the chocolate journey, children looked at what was going on in Europe at this time in history to compare events. Whilst the Aztecs were sipping hot chocolate in Mesoamerica, the printing press was being invented in Europe, two events which continue to hold influence today.

Taking part in discussions and group work, the children have looked at the topic of light in Science and thoroughly enjoyed making periscopes to help understand the laws of reflection.

Aztec pattern, designing and making stencils and creating barrier resist work have been the focus of Art lessons this term and the children have enjoyed creating their own stencils, also learning how to use craft knives carefully and appropriately.

Next term, Year 6 shall be re-visiting electricity as their Science topic investigating circuits and their components. Linked to the History learning about the Aztecs last term, our Geography focus will be a comparison of Central and North America. Continuing our work on printing in art, the children will study the work of Dan Mather and create designs to print onto fabric.



#### Parents Open Evening

We will be holding a **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 6th April**. The format of this will be decided soon with further information to follow.

#### 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 earings 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
- Girls hair should be kept off the face and if nesscessary tied back using clips / bands. Please note large jojo bows are not recommended as part of school uniform.

#### BIKES AND SCOOTERS ON SITE

Can I please ask parents to remind children that once they enter through the school gates, they are on school site and should at that point walk with their bike or scooter until it is placed in the bike or scooter park. We will also remind children in school. Thank you for your support with this.

Best wishes

*Mrs Nichola Irving*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Advance Notice: School will be closed on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June for the Jubilee Day extra bank holiday. As the actual bank holiday falls within half-term, schools nationally have to close on an alternative day.**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day – dress down and get comfy with a book
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 trip to Great North Museum Y6 Crime Prevention Workshops
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 SATs meeting
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Y2 SATs meeting
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Y5/Y6 Kielder Observatory Workshop (Y5 am / Y6 pm)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y5 Residential trip to London
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 return from London
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for Easter Holidays
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens