

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Dear Parents and Friends

Well here we are at the end of the Spring term and about to embark on the start of the long Summer term. I am sure you agree, it is lovely, at last, to be experiencing longer days once again. Despite being a short half term, it has been action packed. This newsletter will give you a flavour of what has been happening at Horton Granger over the past half term as well what is to come in the summer term.



As you know at Horton Grange, we believe the curriculum is more than just what happens in the classroom. We have a well-planned and structured visit and residential programme which runs throughout school. One of the highlights of the programme for children and staff is the London visit. Year 5 have just returned from this 3 day residential; a brilliant time was had by all.

More about this in the Year 5 section of the newsletter.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

2 Year Olds

This half term, the 2 year olds were given lots of opportunities to extend their imaginary play in the small world area. They were encouraged to use resources purposefully and to take an interest in others' play. The children also enjoyed accessing the large nursery outdoor area where they used the bikes. This was good for developing their gross motor skills and their spatial awareness. They made the most of the brief snow we had and were encouraged to develop their independence by putting on their own wellies. There were lots of sensory and messy experiences which the children really enjoyed.



The children really enjoyed World Book Day where we focussed on Pip and Posy The Scary Monster. They made their own monster masks and had fun dressing up. They also made some yummy cakes. The children enjoyed lots of Easter activities too. We are saying goodbye to two of our 2 year olds as they make the transition to nursery, we wish them lots of luck.

Next half term, the 2 year olds will be making the most of the finer weather with lots more outdoor opportunities, walks on the field and exploring the natural environment

There will be more cooking/food activities to support making choices based on preferences and to encourage making links with home.

There will be lots of mark making opportunities to encourage pre-writing skills and to develop their fine motor movements.

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.

The following texts are used continuously in 2 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 Scheffter

The Tiger Who Came to Tea - Judith Kerr

Whatever Next - Jill Murphy

Peace at Last - Jill Murphy

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle

Nursery

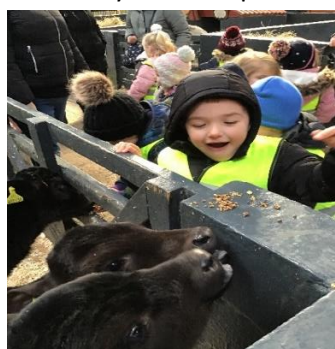
In Nursery this half term, the children channelled their attention towards important occupations in their topic People Who Help Us. The children learned about the emergency services and who we call for help in different scenarios. Led by the children's interest, Nursery then looked at different occupations and the roles they play in the wider world. From dentists to hairdressers, Nursery have taken on every role imaginable! They finished their exploration of occupations with a space theme and began exploring the roles of astronauts. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the important job the scientists do and stepped into their shoes using their own rocket.



Having explored the wonder of space, next half term Nursery will turn their attention to the world beneath a magnifying glass as they begin their topic of Down in the Garden. The children will be learning about growing and the creatures which call the outdoors their home.

Reception

This half term, the children have loved the topic Down On the Farm, the highlights have been visiting Tweddle farm and watching the ducklings hatch and develop. When they visited the farm the children took part in some amazing activities such as a tractor tour of the farm, a barrel ride and the opportunity to handle and feed the farm animals including: goats, calves, sheep, lambs, mice and a ferret! Over the last couple of weeks, everyone has learned about the life cycle of ducks while watching the eggs hatch and the ducklings emerge. Everyone has grown very attached to the ducklings and they were sad to say goodbye! Reception also had a visit from a local police officer who told them all about what they do to help and even let them have a go of their equipment.



Next half-term, Reception will be putting down roots and spreading their leaves as they blossom into little gardeners with the topic From Tiny Seeds To Plants With Leaves. Every child will get the chance to plant a seed and watch it grow. They will refresh their outdoor area by planting and getting the chance to watch their handiwork develop, as the days lengthen and become warmer. The authors to be explored in greater depth are Mick Inkpen and Oliver Jeffers. The children will learn more about their responsibilities towards the world as they learn about recycling. They will also begin practising their physical skills as we begin to get ready for sports day!

Reception class text will be Jack and the Beanstalk - Mara Alperin. After reading the story, the children will plant their own beans to observe over the following few weeks!

Year 1

This half term Year 1 have been working hard on their writing. The children have been expanding their knowledge of adjectives and they have also tried writing interesting questions. They have explored lots of stories relating to plants and looked at a non-fiction book. These stories have also helped us with their Science topic where they have been learning all about wild and garden plants. The Year 1 teachers are so impressed at how independent the children are becoming with the jobs they do in class.



In Maths the children have moved on to place value of numbers to 50. They found it really hard at first but were resilient and overcame the challenges. The children have continued to practise their number bonds to 10 and 20 as well practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. The children love playing 'Hit the Button' to



practise these skills. Thank you for keeping up with logging on to Numbots, this is really helping with their fluency.

The children have also been working hard exploring more about the UK in geography and can tell us the capital cities of the four countries in the United Kingdom. They have also been looking at their local city and can name some of the landmarks such as the Tyne Bridge and the Angel of the North.

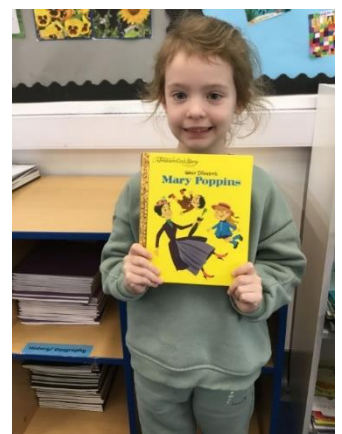
In RE, the children have been learning about Judaism and they can tell us lots of facts about Jewish people. Mrs McGuire and I spoke to the children about their learning and we were blown away by the information the children could recall about Jewish people, the children could also explain what some really tricky words mean. The children loved hearing the story about David and Goliath and Channukah.

In DT, the children have expressed their creativity by researching, designing and making their own puppets. The children were so excited to see how their designs would turn out. They tried so hard and were so proud of the final product.

The children loved World Book Day and looking at new books and authors. They found it really exciting exploring their class text and enjoyed all the activities. The children are really enthusiastic about reading and are so eager to share stories with their friends and their grown-ups.

Next half term, the children will be continuing to explore lots of different stories, poems and non-fiction texts to help them to improve their writing even further. They will also be developing their knowledge of plants and they are excited to watch their class sunflowers grow. They will also be learning more about plants on our educational visit to the Rising Sun Country Park.

In Maths, the children will be exploring numbers to 100 and they will be starting to look at measuring using standard and non-standard units of measurements.



The children are really enjoying our 3 O'clock stories, they love participating in the book reviews and rating the stories out of 5. They are excited to continue this next half term and explore more stories.

In Art, the children will be learning about the artist Andy Goldsworthy and the statues he has created. They will also be learning about weaving and eventually making their own statues and weaving using natural resources.

Year 2

Spring is in the air and what a wonderful half term it has been. Throughout, Year 2 have focused on developing basic skills in literacy and numeracy. The children have practised spellings and number facts each day and the impact of this was evident in our most recent assessments. Well done to everyone who has practised at home.

Part way through spring term Year 2 had a try at their first practise SATS papers. The children took everything in their stride and really did try their best. This year, Year 2 SATS will take place during May 2023. Attendance in year 2 is particularly important during April and May 2023.

In Literacy, the children have read the text *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram. They have designed and described their own awesome aliens. They read a selection of postcards and then wrote their own postcard about a visit to the moon. The children really enjoyed writing postcards and had some fantastic ideas.



In Maths, children have worked hard to secure their knowledge of number bonds and facts to 20.

Recent assessments showed that scores and times have improved. Again, well done if you have been practising at home. Hit The Button is a brilliant website to practise number bonds and facts at home (<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Maths-games/hit-the-button>) Children have developed their understanding of multiplication and division and are getting more confident being able to problem solve. It has been wonderful to see the amount of children across key stage one using NUMBOTS both in school and at home. Well done to all of the children who received NUMBOTS certificates in Spring term.

In Geography, the children have been exploring their own local city through photographs and map work. They have named some local landmarks and found out some interesting facts about them. They also worked as a team to make a map of their school.



In Science children continued to develop their understanding of habitats. The children thoroughly enjoyed their Science visit to Plessey Woods. There they explored the woodland habitat, investigated how birds built nests and saw how bats, squirrels and woodpeckers lived in the wild.



They went on to look at a range of wider world contrasting habitats such as the polar habitat and rainforest. They identified the plants and animals that live there and depend upon each other. They also looked closely at food chains within each habitat and identified microhabitats.

In Design Technology the children researched, designed, made and then evaluated a moving moon buggy, inspired by our text *Bob, Man on the Moon*. The buggies had to be sturdy, able to move and be alien proof!

In PE Year 2 have had the opportunity to work with the Newcastle United Foundation practising football drills and building up to playing matches. They also attended The Blyth Academy for the Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival where they built balance, agility, co-ordination and stamina. It was lovely to see so many Year 10 past pupils co-ordinating this event. Go Team Horton!

Next half term, Year 2 children will sit their national Year 2 SATS assessments early in summer term. It is very important that children be in school each day and they arrive punctually, having had a super brain boosting breakfast. This will set them up for a successful day. Previous Year 2 SATS papers can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials#key-stage-1-past-](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials#key-stage-1-past)

In Literacy, children will be revising all of the spelling, punctuation and grammar taught so far and will be applying this to new pieces of writing. In Maths, children will develop their understanding of fractions and will develop their understanding of shape and time. They will also revise arithmetic strategies taught so far. Children should continue to use the following websites to develop fluency in basic Maths skills.

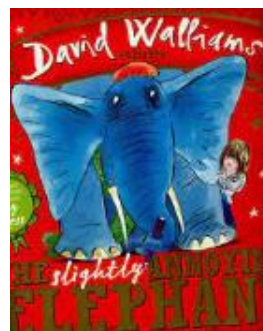
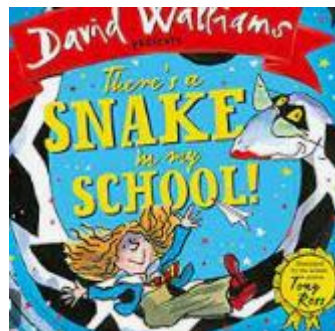
NUMBOTS (Children have password) <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro>

HIT THE BUTTON (No password needed) <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Maths-games/hit-the-button>

Year 2 will also begin to look at the history of transport. They will study local famous engineer George Stephenson and will learn about the impact he had on rail travel.

In Science, children will begin their topic on Plants. They will plant their own bulbs and seeds. They will observe the process of germination, documenting changes as the seeds grow into mature plants. They will investigate what plants need to grow and stay healthy.

Next half term Year 2 will be reading a selection of David Walliams texts *There's a Snake In My School* and *The Slightly Annoying Elephant*.

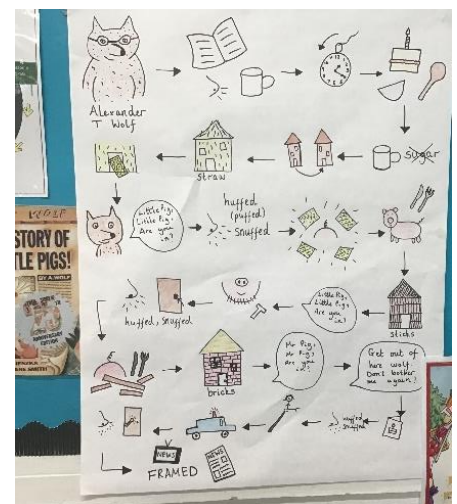


Year 3

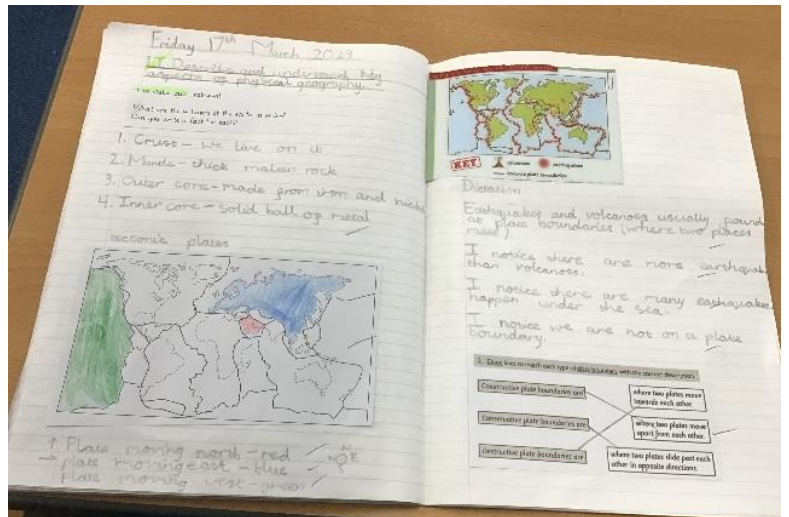
This half term in Literacy, Year 3 had a brilliant time completing a non-chronological report based on a unicorn or dragon of their own creation. So if you have ever wondered what a rainbow unicorn or an ice dragon eats - just ask Year 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their learning on fairy tales. They used the hilarious twisted fairy tale *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka to create an alternative version of the original. They included exciting sentence openers, uplevelled vocabulary and inverted commas to show speech.

In Maths, children have completed their learning on multiplication and division. Year 3 were introduced to the formal method of short multiplication and looked at the difference between grouping and sharing in division. The children then moved on to learning about length and perimeter, measuring lots of everyday items and converting between cm and mm.



Year 3 have loved learning about volcanoes and earthquakes in Geography. They learned about the different layers of the Earth, how volcanoes and earthquakes occur and the various types of volcanoes around the world. The children identified the tectonic plates on a world map and discovered that there is an overlap with these and where volcanoes and earthquakes happen.



In Science, Year 3 learned about forces and magnets. They have identified push and pull forces on different objects and labelled the north and south pole of a magnet. The children have carried out numerous investigations, including how different surfaces create different levels of friction and tested various materials to see which were magnetic.

In PE the children have been fortunate enough to have the

Newcastle Falcons teaching them Tag Rugby which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Some children even had the chance to participate in a Tag Rugby festival to show off their new skills.



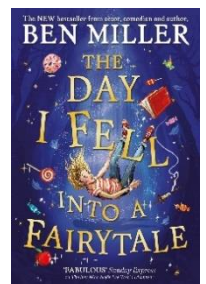
Next half term, in literacy, we will be focussing on myths and legends, adapting the myth of How Birds Got Bright Feathers and then moving on to study the legend of Chang and the Magic Brush by Pie Corbett.

In Maths, Year 3 will be learning all about fractions. Starting with halves, quarters and thirds, before moving on to finding fractions of amounts; equivalent fractions and finally adding and subtracting fractions.

In topic, next half term, Year 3 will be exploring how buildings have changed throughout history, focussing again on the Victorian house at Cragside and the impact William Armstrong had on our local area.

In Science, Year 3 will be learning all about plants. They will be labelling the parts of a plant and will use the story The Tiny Seed to produce some writing on the journey of how a seed develops into a plant. The children will undertake experiments dissecting plants to find its components.

For the end of the day texts, Year 3 will continue the The Day I Fell into a Fairy Tale by Ben Miller. The story is about a young girl, Lana who loves stories, especially the ones she and her brother, Harrison, share in their make-believe games. But when Harrison decides he's too grown-up to play with Lana she finds herself feeling lonely. Until something magical happens . . . hidden in the strange new supermarket in town, Lana discovers a portal to a fairy tale world! But these aren't the happy-ever-after fairy tales that Lana knows, they are darker and more dangerous, and the characters need Lana's help to defeat an evil witch. Then Year 3 will move on to Planet Omar by Zanib Mian which links to our PSHE unit we will do later in the year on tolerance and acceptance of all.



Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have really enjoyed learning about electricity in Science. The children gained knowledge about how to make simple circuits using bulbs and switches and they participated in an enquiry to investigate which materials make the best electrical conductors.

After this, the children applied their learning about electrical circuits in their DT lessons, where they made a buzz wire game. The children learned how to use junior hacksaws to cut wood, which they also had to measure themselves, to make a frame for the game. Next, the children fitted their circuit around the frame and included a metal wire. The children enjoyed thinking about their design for the wire shape and carried out the woodwork element of the unit safely and sensibly. However, the most enjoyable part of the project was definitely evaluating the games!



In English, the children linked their DT learning to their writing when they created a set of instructions for making a buzz wire game. Additionally, the children also wrote some fantastic stories with a mystery setting. The children included lots of the features such as expanded noun phrases and mysterious vocabulary that helped to conceal what the mystery was

Next half term, Year 4 will learn about how sports and leisure activities have changed over time as part of their History unit. They will also learn about living things and their habitats in Science.

In English, Year 4 will read *Cliffhanger* by Jacqueline Wilson to link with their upcoming residential visit in Summer 2. They will also read *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown, which links to the children's learning in Science.

Year 5

This half term in Literacy, the children enjoyed delving into *The London Eye Mystery* as they followed Ted and Kat around the capital city trying to solve the mystery of their missing cousin. They wrote their own mystery stories based on the novel and included some exciting plot twists! During the last part of the term, the children wrote a report about London, focusing on the human features and including some amazing facts and interesting information. They also worked on their speaking and listening skills as they delivered this as a presentation to the rest of the class.

In Maths, the children have continued their work on multiplication and division. They have learned about long multiplication and short division. Practising times tables as much as possible is still very important as the children rely on these facts to be able to concentrate on the written methods.

In Science, the children have learned all about forces including gravity, air and water resistance and friction. They have completed investigations to consider which material would be best to create a dance floor with, what type of design would be most effective for a parachute and which liquids provide the most water resistance. Later in the term, they combined their Science and design technology learning when they designed a pulley system to be used in the mining industry.



In Geography, children have been learning about London and how it compares to Blyth, developing their map reading and research skills.

Some of the Year 5 children enjoyed a residential trip to London, where they visited the Imperial War Museum, the Natural History Museum, the London Eye, the Lyceum Theatre for a



showing of The Lion King and enjoyed several walks around the capital city to take in the sights there. They also visited Warner Bros. Studios to experience the wizarding world of Harry Potter.



Next half term, Year 5 children will continue to read and write in a range of genres in Literacy including focusing on historical fiction based around the text Cogheart and exploring play scripts and film narratives. In Maths the children will continue their learning of fractions looking at multiplying fractions and calculating a fraction of a quantity. They will revisit past eras of History as they learn about the theme of Crime and Punishment in History lessons. In Science, they will learn all about the life cycles of different animal groups and how plants and animals reproduce. Excitingly, the children will be able to observe changes in the life cycle of a butterfly as we examine metamorphosis in detail from caterpillar to butterfly in the classroom, before releasing them into the wild on our school field!

This half term Year 5 also enjoyed A Biscuit and a Book session where you had the opportunity to visit our KS2 library, read with your child and also see how the children use Reading Plus on our computers.

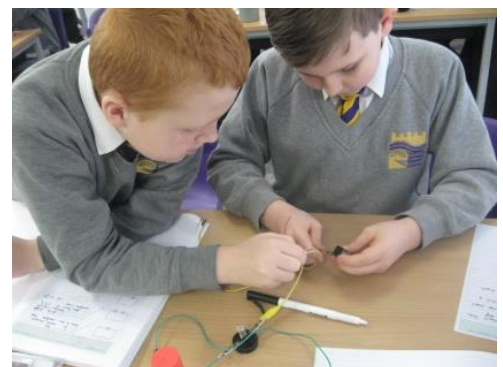
This half term, year 5 will be reading Cogheart by Peter Bunzl. Mayhem and mystery meet in this gripping Victorian adventure.

Year 6

It has been another very enjoyable and busy half term for Year 6 and those SATs are almost here! Revision clubs will begin after the Easter holidays and we hope that the children will sign up to come along and take advantage of this highly valuable time. Year 6 staff will be available to offer help and guidance. More information has been sent out already in a separate letter.

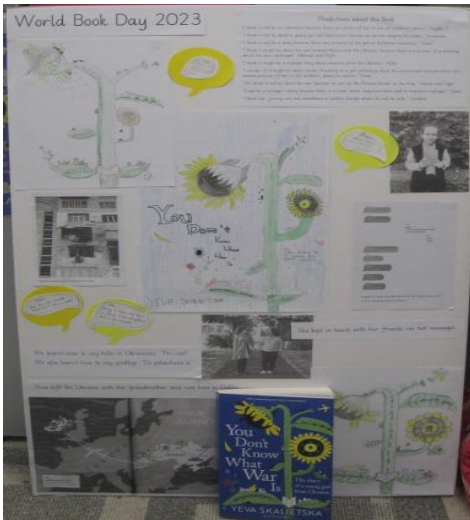
As well as working incredibly hard for their upcoming tests, Year 6 have enjoyed learning about the geography of North America. They produced some fantastic work finding facts about Canada and the Caribbean then comparing these two places. In Science, they have been investigating and making a range of electric circuits and learning the appropriate scientific symbols for each component.

In Literacy, the children really enjoyed writing some twisted traditional tales taking well-known stories and re-writing them with some changes to plot or characters – it was fun for the teachers to read about an evil Hansel and Gretel and Cinderella at the beach!



World Book Day

This is always an enjoyable day and this year was no exception. We were able to dress down and get comfy with a book and were also excited to receive our new class books. 6CW looked at the diary of a Ukrainian refugee called, You Don't Know What War Is by Yeva Skalietska who is now happily settled and living in Ireland while 6LW worked on a book related to emotional wellbeing called, Small Things by Mel Tregonning.



Next half term, Year 6 will be studying the history of human rights and changes over time; we will be looking specifically at the life of Emily Wilding Davison (a suffragette who is buried nearby in Morpeth) and the civil rights movement in the USA. We will also look at the work of William Wilberforce and the abolition of slavery. In Science, the children will learn about the classification of all living things and the characteristics of animals, plants and micro-organisms. Sculpture will be the focus in Art with students learning about the work of Max Ernst and the Dadaism movement.

Our class text will be Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah which will link to our topic on human rights.

KS2 Maths

There is certainly a buzz around TT Rockstars in school at the moment- keep going on at home and earning those certificates as it is brilliant to see so many of you standing up in our Thursday assemblies. Keep going as fluency in your times tables is so important to help you in many other areas of Maths.



Clubs

This half term, the children have enjoyed participating in a large range of extra-curricular clubs. In reception, the children have participated in story club, junk modelling club and also yoga club. Key stage 1 children have attended design club, art club and dough club. The children in Key stage 2, have enjoyed football, french, dodgeball, sign language, top trumps, feathers and movie club. What a fantastic range on offer and such a wonderful way to develop your child's learning and interests outside of the national curriculum subjects!



Sign language club has once again been a huge success with children from across the key stage attending (some even continuing from last year!). What a great skill to have as it opens the doors of communication with people you may not have been able to previously. Well done to everyone who attended as you have all earned a new skill and had fun doing it! Due to the success of the club, Mrs Carr will continue it in to the Summer term.

Children in Key Stage 2 have enjoyed French Club this half term learning a well-known story in French: Boucle D’Or et les Trois Ours (Goldilocks and the Three Bears). They also found out about how going to school in France is different to the UK and had lots of fun playing French Boules. In the last session, children will be tasting some French food – something they are all looking forward to!

Next half term, there will be the following clubs available:

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Key Stage 1</u>	<u>Key Stage 2</u>
Sports club	Sports Club	Football club (y5/6 only)
Engineering Club	STEM Club	Gardening Club
Science Club	Dough club	Dance Club
		Baking Club

Top trumps club and sign language club have been so successful this half term that Mrs Carr and Mrs Stevens have agreed to continue running them into the first half of the summer term. If your child already attends these clubs, there is no need to sign them up again.

If you would like to sign your child up to one of the clubs available, please fill in the form, which will be sent out shortly.

Attendance Update

You should all have received your child’s attendance as part of their termly progress report. This is either given out at parents’ evening or sent home with your child if you were unable to attend. The sessions missed section refers to how many sessions they have been absent. 2 sessions = 1 day. Days missed can mount up over the year and so we hope it is useful for you to see what constitutes good attendance. At school we see the importance and impact of attendance every day through the children’s confidence, their friendships and their learning. We know when children are absent it can be unsettling for them so please support them and us by ensuring your child attends every day, unless they are really poorly.

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
90% and less	Persistent Absence	19 or more	38 and more	4 or more

Punctuality

We have noticed an increase in the number of children who are late for school and are entering via the main entrance regularly. After Easter senior staff will be monitoring this and contacting parents of children who are consistently late or talking to them when they arrive. Being on time for school sets the tone for the day and ensures routines are established. Please support your child to be on time for school.

OPAL play

This half term the beaches have been in full swing with the children loving the creative, imaginative play that happens there. In addition to this we have planted 85 saplings on the field to start developing the wild areas and section off where the mud kitchen will be. The welly storage had begun to be installed around the school. This will be essential as we work towards the goal of having the whole site open all year round for all children. Look out for our welly appeal next half



term. In KS2 the tyres have been a huge hit and have brought some of the much needed physical aspects of play to the yard. More tyres will be introduced over time.

Rewards

Well done to all those who have attended Always Club on a Friday with Mrs Brownrigg. Every week 1 person is chosen from each class to come for a special treat. It is so important that we acknowledge the children who always make the right choices.

School Council

School Council are now focusing on access to the outdoor spaces and how we maximise our outdoor space and time. They have surveyed their class and next term we will formulate actions from these results. During the summer term we will be utilising the field which we are blessed to have and looking at ways to make the most of the space.

Sports Update

This half term, the Year 6 football team returned to playing games. Narrowly losing in a close game that ended 4-3. Preparations for active week are well underway with special visitors and coaches already booked to come in. Year 2 took part in a multi-skills festival at The Blyth Academy where they tried out different physical challenges linked to health and fitness.

Thank you once again for your on going support.

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.

Thursday 20 th April	Re-scheduled Nursery parent consultation evening
Thursday 27 th April	Reception visits to Blyth Library
Monday 8 th May	School Closed – Coronation bank holiday
Tuesday 9 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 15 th May	Year 1 Trip to Rising Sun Country Park (1)
Thursday 18 th May	Year 1 Trip to Rising Sun Country Park (2)
Monday 22 nd May	Walk to School Week
Wednesday 24 th May	Year 3 Cragside Trip
Friday 26 th May	School closes for half-term