

NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Dear Parents and Friends

I can't quite believe we are approaching the end of the academic year and this is the final newsletter. It has been such a busy final term with themed weeks - such as Equalities Week and Active Week, two residential visits, curriculum visits and of course we had our Ofsted inspection. We were visited by a team of 4 inspectors who spent two full days in school speaking to leaders, staff and children. They also visited lessons and looked at books. Following the inspection, the findings go through a quality assurance process so we are not yet able to share the outcomes. As soon as I can do so I will. I will say the children did you all proud and were amazing!



Communication

Thank you to those of you who completed our school questionnaire, which went out via a google form. We had 149 responses – which was brilliant; I have looked carefully at the outcomes. There are lots of positives but also things we can work on – which of course we will. Mrs Hewes and Mrs Brownrigg have already held a parent forum, which looked at improving communication between home and school. The discussion and points raised were both insightful and invaluable and we look forward to reviewing and implementing some of the suggestions moving forward. There will be more forums in the new year, along with a chance to visit our excellent Thrive provision.

SATs results

We are very pleased once again with the standard our pupils achieve by the end of Year 6. Outcomes at Horton Grange are above the national average outcome in reading, writing and maths. This is something we are proud of as we know we have prepared children to access the Year 7 curriculum in high school. Well done to all Year 6 pupils.

Uniform

No doubt, you will be starting to think about uniform for next year. Just a reminder about our pre loved uniform.

Pre-loved uniform is available at the school reception. We have a range of uniform items in all sizes including coats and shoes.

Donations of unused uniform are kindly welcomed so we can continue to provide this service to families.

Peak Pioneers

In the last newsletter I informed you of the new wrap around care which will be available from September.

From September PEAK will be providing an after-school provision for Horton Grange students. The provision will run until 5.45pm every school day.

PEAK has created a unique page for parents of children at the school:

www.peak-sport.co.uk/horton-grange

A letter from the provider will be sent to all parents with further details.

Equalities

This half term the school took part in Equalities week, focussing on the equalities act. The children were able to deepen their knowledge of the protected characteristics while learning about jobs connected with the law and politics.

Clubs

Over the last half term, the children have had the opportunity to participate in a host of clubs, including many sporting activities. Children in both KS1 and KS2 have developed their skills and interests in football and gymnastics. There has also been cricket and running clubs on offer for the children in KS2. It has been wonderful to see the children exploring their abilities in these clubs and developing in confidence as the weeks have progressed. In early years the children have had great fun in gardening club, planting a range of different flowers and herbs. They also created their own mini bug hotels! Extra-curricular activities are so important for young people. They help in developing self-esteem, social skills and have also been linked to improved academic performance! There will be many more opportunities, in the next academic year, for your child to take part in an extra-curricular club, so please do sign them up!

Sports Update

This half term, Horton Grange successfully managed to retain the Gold School Games Mark that recognises the continued commitment to sport and healthy lifestyles for children. The award also validates that the provision for sport is both inclusive and helps to contribute to a child's 60 minutes per day of physical activity.

In addition to that, all year groups took part in sports day that was a fantastic success due to the support given from those in attendance and the brilliant attitude of the children. The Year 6 sports leaders had the opportunity to run activities at sports day for all year groups from Nursery to Year 4 as well as running a sports festival for Year 1. This will provide them with an excellent platform for leadership in sport. Year 6 took part in a sporting transition day at The Blyth Academy earlier in the half term. During this, former pupils and sports leaders from Year 10 worked alongside members of Northumberland School Games to deliver fun and innovative sessions for children.

Throughout Active Week, children in KS2 took part in basketball sessions delivered by Newcastle Eagles coaches as well as learning how to make games more inclusive during a disability and inclusion session with staff from Northumberland School Games.

During summer 2, 20 children from KS2 took part in an active memories festival at Alnwick Gardens. The children completed a treasure hunt in the maze, learned how to ride a broomstick and competed in a variety of inclusive games.

Attendance Update

A huge well done to 1FC who won the attendance class prize this year, winning the weekly trophy more times than any other class. Also well done to 2KA who were a very close 2nd! They will get a special treat for their class. They are really proud to be the winners and have done a brilliant job avoiding some really nasty bugs this year. As we end the year there are attendance certificates to look forward to as well as the end of year Asda prize draw, including a voucher for the most improved attendance.

School Council

It is almost time for this year's School Council to hang up their badges for this year. They have been instrumental in looking at improving lunchtime provision both inside and out and have represented their class brilliantly. Well done to all of them!

SHARING OUR LEARNING

2 Year Olds

The 2 Year Olds have had another busy half term.

They have enjoyed lots of mark-making activities, encouraging both their fine and gross motor skills. There were lots of meaningful marks made, children telling us what they had drawn and who their pictures were for. This then

extended their thinking to their experiences outside of 2 Year Olds, people who are special to them, places they enjoy going together.

The children have enjoyed being part of their learning and have spent time looking through their learning journeys. They made links, recalling their experiences with others.

The 2 Year Olds have spent more time outdoors enjoying the sunshine. They have demonstrated their physical skills, climbing on the play equipment and kicking/throwing the balls.

The children have also spent a lot of time in the sand pit and in the water tray. They used these opportunities for filling and emptying containers and using language of capacity.

Staff say our goodbyes to 7 of the 2 Year Olds who are ready for the next step to nursery. They are more than ready for this and are confident they will embrace the new challenges ahead.



Nursery

As the children in Nursery embarked on their last half term of the academic year, they began their topic On a Journey. Expanding on their knowledge of the world around them, the children in Nursery learned about different destinations and the modes of transport they can use to get there. They embedded this knowledge by using their Tales Toolkit resources to create stories with extra exciting settings!



This half term the children invited their grown-ups in to school for a Traditional Tales workshop. This saw the children explore their learning of these familiar stories by sharing tasks with their grown-ups. It was fantastic to see so many in attendance! Testing their sporting skills, the Nursery children also enjoyed their Sports Day in the sunshine. The staff were particularly proud of their can-do attitudes and encouragement for each other. Well done Nursery!



For lots of our Nursery children, they are coming to the end of their first step of their learning journey at Horton Grange and the children used their

understanding of past and present to recall their favourite memories as well as discuss what exciting things they are looking forward to experiencing in Reception!

Reception

This half-term, Reception became entomologists, studying mini (and sometimes mega) beasts with the topic "On the ground, underground and overground, minibeasts are all around". The children have investigated many different mini-beasts including bees, spiders and butterflies. They have written their own fact files for each minibeast studied and even hunted for mini beasts in the outdoor environment. They were very good at finding worms and worked together to create a wormery. The children also enjoyed a visit from the Bug Man, Guy Tansley. He brought some mega beasts such as a scorpion, giant stick insect and even a tarantula. The children were very brave and enjoyed handling and observing the different creatures.



The authors that were explored in greater depth were Eric Carle and Valerie Thomas. The children particularly enjoyed hearing about the different adventures of Winnie the witch!

The children really enjoyed their parents and carers coming into class for a craft workshop focusing on minibeasts where they learned to use different media and materials for different effects.

The focus book this half term was Superworm by Julia Donaldson. The children enjoyed using this as a hook to learning about different minibeasts from the story. We then used The Big Book of Bugs by Yuzal Zommer to learn information about them.

Year 1

Year 1 have loved reading the story Funnybones in literacy this half term. They used lots of exciting adjectives to help them to write a recount all about the skeletons' adventures. The children were also fantastic at retelling and innovating The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children had some fantastic ideas such as a magnificent monster as their villain and 3 slimy snakes as their main characters.

In maths the children have been applying their knowledge of place value to numbers up to 100. They have used lots of equipment to help them build and partition numbers. They have also learned all about money and enjoyed setting up a class shop and using coins to pay for their toys.

This half term Year 1 have become chefs! They tasted lots of new food and used this to help them design and make a pitta pizza. They had great fun learning to chop and spread the ingredients in the new school kitchen. The best part was tasting their product.

In geography the children have been consolidating their knowledge of their local area. They were fantastic at sharing stories of their personal experiences at the beach. The children were able to spot lots of natural features at Blyth Beach. Using their knowledge, they were then able to compare Blyth Beach to Horton Grange Primary School.



Year 1 have loved practising the song If I Were a Butterfly and did a brilliant performance in the whole school Big Sing Assembly.

Year 1 had a lot of fun taking part in Active Week, particularly Sports Day. They enjoyed taking part in the events and enjoyed having their grown-ups there to watch them. The children have a great understanding about how they can stay healthy.

The children loved sharing stories with their grown-ups at Book and a Biscuit, they look forward to welcoming them into school again next year.



Year 2

In English this half term, Year 2 have travelled all the way to Africa! They became animal experts and produced some fantastic fact files all about cunning crocodiles and elegant elephants. They have also enjoyed reading *The Day the Rains Fell* a beautiful story set far away in a vast African savannah. They made simple changes to the story and re-wrote their own version set in Northumberland.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their understanding of number through a range of problem solving and mathematical areas. Fractions are always an exciting part of the Year 2 maths curriculum and the children have really loved this challenge. The children enjoyed learning how to find one half, one quarter and one third of shapes and amounts. They were brilliant at this and can now find $\frac{3}{4}$ of shapes and amounts. More recently, children have loved learning to tell the time. They can now read the time to o'clock, half past the hour, quarter past and quarter to the hour. At home, please start to ask your child the time!



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. They were able to identify similarities and differences and looked at the importance of looking after the rainforests.



In science, the children have looked at the importance of being and staying healthy. They looked at creating a balanced diet and went on to design and make a healthy wrap in their design technology lessons. They have also investigated the importance of exercise and loved taking part in their sports day.



Year 3

This half term has been Year 3's favourite half term but sadly our last! Year 3 visited the Glendale show on 8th June and had a wonderful time. They learned a lot about where our food comes from and how it is produced, even tasting venison steak and pheasant. They saw a live falconry show, learned about how bees help us and got to learn more about our emergency services- even trying out the little cell in the back of the police van!



The highlight of the half term was going to Berwick where the children embraced the new experience of a residential – for some the brand new experience of sleeping away from home! The children learned all about the history of Berwick at the Berwick museum, explored the river and sea on a boat trip where they saw some wildlife, went to the cinema to see The Little Mermaid and had a beach day with glorious weather. The children learned so many new skills... making their beds was one of them and had a brilliant time with their friends. The staff were very proud of everyone and they received many lovely comments from members of the public.



In Literacy the children have been learning about how to write persuasive texts, using features such as subordinating conjunctions and rhetorical questions as they try to tempt people to protect bees.

In maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge around money: learning how to add and subtract and find change - a great life skill.

In Geography Year 3 have learned about the coastal regions of the UK including our own beautiful coast. The children learned where coastal regions are, the different types of coastal landforms and how erosion plays a part in shaping these.

The children have learned about the importance of a balanced diet and the different food groups in Science. This knowledge then helped them in their DT project, which was to create a healthy sandwich. The children made their own bread and filled it with delicious fillings and salad. We hope they enjoyed eating it as much as they did making it.



Year 4

In English, the children wrote fantastic newspaper articles, reporting on the events that took place during Sports Day earlier in the half term. Year 4 were required to obtain quotes from different people and convey their opinions in a fair and honest way in their writing. In maths, the children have been learning about decimals, converting and understanding money, interpreting statistical graphs/tables and the properties of different shapes. The children also completed their Year 4 Multiplication Check earlier in the half term and their hard work and determination certainly paid off.

This half term in science, Year 4 learned about different types of teeth and the role that each tooth plays in the digestive system. During this, the children conducted a scientific enquiry into what would happen to an eggshell after being submerged in different liquids (coke, diet coke, water or vinegar) for 24 hours. In addition to this, the children looked at the human digestion system and developed a strong understanding of the roles of each internal organ during the digestion process.



In geography, Year 4 learned about trading goods through import and export operations. The children understood the importance of this and how it is pivotal for a country to engage in these activities to make money. After that, the children looked at land use and compared how the Port of Blyth has changed and expanded over the past 100 years. In DT, Year 4 have been learning about sewing and using techniques linked to that to create their own national flag. The children began by researching national flags and understanding how they are designed with cultural significance in mind. After that, the children used this information to plan and design their own flag that they will create during the last week of Summer 2.

Year 4 also enjoyed their and music lessons.



PE

Year 5

In literacy, Year 5 enjoyed discussing the features of fables and particularly enjoyed reading *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* and *The Creature of Fire*. Reading these inspired them to write their own fable which included SPaG features such as connectives to show cause and effect and time connectives. After this, the children looked at the genre of discussion (balanced argument). They read an interesting text called 'Should zoos be banned?' and recognised that you need to support views with reasons and evidence.

The children have enjoyed reading our class text *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson which makes links to their geography learning about South America.

In maths, the children have focused on calculating the area and perimeter of shapes and statistics where the children were able to read and interpret line graphs and timetables. The children have also been learning about coordinates. During this unit they were able to read and plot coordinates and solve problems linked to coordinates and translation. As well as this, the children have covered units such as decimals and negative numbers, where they have focused on adding and subtracting decimals with the same/different number of decimal places and have compared and ordered negative numbers. The children have continued to build on times table skills and speed in all maths lessons by using Times Table Rockstars.

In geography, children travelled back to South America, this time focussing on the people of the continent and how they use the land. They learned about an endangered tribe called the Awa and how the Brazilian government have tried to protect them. In RE, children have learned about Humanism and how it relates to Christian values. In PE, children in Year 5 enjoyed Active Week, as well as learning some new tennis and football skills. In PSHE, they thought about the world of work and how to decide what career they'd like to choose in the future.

To support their learning in science and DT, the children visited the Port of Blyth over two days. They worked together to build a Greenpower kit car, using a range of tools such as wrenches and spanners. They also took part in an electricity workshop where they powered their own toy car around a racetrack. After that, they learned about how cogs work by using k-nex to construct their own windmills. While at the port, the children had a tour of the site, learning about the industries that use the port's facilities and the range of career options available there. They also hopped aboard a light ship and found out how sailors risked their lives for months at a time to keep other vessels safe at sea.



Year 6

Year 6 finally reached their final half term at Horton Grange and what a half term it has been! Learning continued apace with projects on statistics, shape and angles in maths and discussion texts in English. The maths work involved using a range of equipment and collecting and presenting our own data. In English, the key question of whether children's access to the internet should be limited to one hour each day provoked some fairly heated responses but after some very in-depth and thoughtful discussion, it resulted in a range of very well thought-through opinions presented in writing with sound and well-reasoned evidence. The children also learnt about Fair Trade in geography particularly in relation to cocoa farming and also researched their own topic and presented these to the rest of the class using Google Slides. In science, year 6 looked at the circulatory system and took part in experiments to see how exercise affects their pulse rate.

Year 6 also thoroughly enjoyed a day out at Beamish Museum where they took part in an Evacuees Workshop, explored the 1900s town and had the chance to ride on a tram or vintage bus.

As evacuees on the 1940s Home Farm, children were rather shocked and dismayed to find out they would have to do so much work helping out with the animals including some rather messy jobs while no-one had brought a shovel! Children learnt about how evacuees would have been kept busy in the countryside and wrote postcards home to their parents. They also learnt how to recognise both Allied and German aircraft and took part in a quiz on aircraft reconnaissance. Finally, after meeting the ducks, hens, pigs and Pete, the lovely Shire Horse, they were given broom handles as rifles and were trained in drill and how to salute.



The children were also fascinated by the Victorian school and the 1900s town where they saw what a dentist's surgery, solicitor's office, Co-op and home would have looked like during this time. Riding on the trams and vintage buses was definitely a highlight and the children were delighted to see Votes for Women signs dotted around the town which reminded them of their learning from Summer 1 on Human Rights.

The children are now eagerly awaiting their SATs results and looking forward to their Leavers' Assembly and their very well-deserved Leavers' Disco.

Goodbyes and hello's

We say goodbye to Mrs Wallace at the end of term, who leaves us for ventures new. I would like to thank Mrs Wallace for her hard work and wish her good luck.

We also say goodbye to Mr Hogg, who has worked at Horton Grange since 2009. In his time here Mr Hogg has supported many children in so many different ways. He will be dearly missed but we wish him well in his retirement.

We will welcome Miss Weatheritt in September who will be teaching in Year 5. Miss Weatheritt will be in school on transition day to meet her class.

New year group meetings

Parents will be invited to new year group meetings in September to meet your child's class teacher and be provided with information about curriculum and organisation matters for the year to come. In order to give you as much notice as possible these meetings are set out below. Please try to attend.

Date	Year group	Where	When
Monday 11 th September	Year 5	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Tuesday 12 th September	Reception	KS1 hall	2:45pm
	Year 2	KS1 hall	3:45pm
Wednesday 13 th September	Year 1	KS1 hall	3:45pm
Thursday 14 th September	Year 6	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Monday 18 th September	Year 3	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Tuesday 19 th September	Year 4	KS2 hall	3:45pm

That just leaves me to say thank you for all your support and have a lovely summer.

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 September 6 th	School re-opens to all pupils
Monday 11 th September through to Tuesday 19 th September	New Year group meeting as detailed above