

NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the October Newsletter. What a busy start to the new school year! The academic year started with our 'new year group' parent meetings. Thank you to all who attended. I hope you found the information useful. We know that your children make the most progress when both parents and school work together.



Please take time to read this newsletter as it will give you **a flavour of what your child has been learning about since their return in September and what they will be learning about after half term.** This will allow you to discuss your child's learning with them. It will also tell you which class text your child will be reading in case they want to read other similar texts at home. In addition, it will share wider school approaches and upcoming events.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is essential for children to make the most of their education and achieve their full potential. Each day at school is packed with learning, social development, and activities that help build important life skills. When children miss school, they can fall behind and find it harder to catch up. School has an attendance policy in place and you may receive a letter about attendance. Escalation through the policy and series of letters can be minimised if parents communicate with school, giving reasons for absence and where possible, provide medical evidence for illness or appointments.

We'd like to remind parents that holidays taken during term time will generally be marked as *unauthorised*, and if a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) or more, this could result in a fine. We appreciate your support in helping your child attend school every day, on time.

Let's all work together to continue to improve attendance. Please remember if there is something we can do to help you with your child's attendance you can contact Mrs Hewes our parent liaison officer who will be happy to support.

Introducing our new character development passports!

We're excited to launch a brand new project this year: the Character Development Passport! This special passport helps children track and celebrate the wonderful values they are developing—such as kindness, honesty, resilience, and teamwork. As pupils demonstrate these positive character traits in school, they'll earn stamps in their passport to show their growth. It's a fun and meaningful way to highlight the amazing qualities that make each child unique and to keep parents involved in their character journey too!

One of the things we are continuing to work on this year is making a positive contribution to the community. Our Macmillan Coffee Fundraising event was once again a real success raising £687.50 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your support with this. Look out for further community events in the future.



Wider Development

At Horton Grange we pride ourselves on not only ensuring our children achieve academically but also personally. We have a clear structured programme of residentials, visits and opportunities to develop the children's wider development. Already this year (in just on half term) our visits have included:

Year 1: St Pauls Church and St Marys lighthouse

Year 2: Whitehouse Farm
Year 4: Northumberland Zoo
Year 5: Clip 'n' climb bowling
Year 6: Safety works and Hawse End residential
Other opportunities have included:
Reception/Nursery: Biscuit and Book
Year 5/6: Bikeability
Year 6: Football team



All of these visits and opportunities help children develop their resilience, communication and teamwork skills, the foundations of our Horton Values. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings. Well-done Team Horton.

Residential Visit to Hawse End

Last week, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to Hawse End in the beautiful Lake District. The children took part in a range of exciting outdoor activities, including Ghyll Scrambling, Rock Climbing, a challenging walk up Catbells and Canoeing on the lake. Every activity tested their resilience and determination, but they rose to every challenge with smiles and enthusiasm. Whether clambering over



slippery rocks, paddling in unison, or reaching the summit of a fell, they supported and encouraged one another every step of the way.

It was wonderful to see their confidence grow and friendships strengthen as they embraced new experiences. The staff were incredibly proud of how everyone represented our school; it truly was a trip to remember!

I would also like to thank our staff who attended and ensured the children had the best experience.



School council

Each class has voted and chosen a school council member through using our British value of democracy. They have had a busy start to the year, delivering an assembly introducing themselves and by helping support the Macmillan coffee morning which raised a fantastic amount raised for such an important charity. Thank you to all those who attended and donated cakes.

Future projects include litter picking, helping to spend the ASDA cashpot money raised last year and to make real changes driven by the children themselves.

Clubs

The variety of clubs offered this half term has been great and the children have had opportunities to develop their skills and interests in areas such as music, art and design and dance.

If you would like your child to attend a club in Autumn term 2, then please respond to the message that is sent out or pop into the office. The following is available and will begin in week 2:

Reception

Team Building Club – Wednesday lunchtime

Christmas Craft Club – Friday lunchtime

KS1

Art Club – Tuesday 3.20 – 4.15pm

Christmas Craft Club – Monday 3.20 – 4.15pm

Dance Club – Monday 3.20 – 4.15pm

STEM Club - Monday 3.20 – 4.15pm

KS2

Calligraphy Club – Thursday 3.20-4.20pm

Dance Club – Tuesday 3.20-4.20pm

Gymnastics Club – Monday 3.20-4.20pm

Christmas Choir – Thursday 3.20-4.20pm

Biscuit Club – Tuesday 3.20-4.20pm

Sporting updates

The Year 6 football team have kicked off their season in great spirits, playing an impressive seven matches so far. With plenty of determination and teamwork on display, the players have shown real progress and passion for the game. Their efforts have earned them a solid mid-table position as they reach the halfway point of the season. With renewed focus and energy, the team are ready to push on after Christmas and aim for an even stronger finish in the second half of the campaign.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) at Horton Grange

In September we welcomed out new SEND lead, Miss Middleton. She will be providing regular updates as part of this newsletter.

SEN Passports – Now Shared with All Families

All parents and carers of children on the SEND register have now received a copy of their child's up-to-date **SEN Passport**. These documents outline the personalised provision and support strategies in place to help your child thrive in school.

Opportunities to Meet the SENCO

This term, school has offered the chance to meet with Miss Middleton to discuss your child's SEN Passport in more detail. These meetings have provided a valuable opportunity to share insights, answer any questions, and ensure the provision is right for your child's individual needs.

SEND Parent Coffee Morning

After half term there will be a SEND 'meeting up' session for parents. This will be to update parents on some of the developments in SEND within school and share information and further support which parents may wish to access. Parents and carers of SEND children will receive a letter within the first two weeks of term to invite them to attend.

Sensory Needs

We now have a clear school policy on the purpose and use of appropriate fidget toys within school. If you would like a copy of this please ask the class teacher or Miss Middleton, the SEND lead, for further information.

Support for families

Our Family Support Worker, June Hewes, has been really busy organising meaningful workshops to support parents and carers around a number of topics. I am pleased to advise that the latest event hosted by Primary Mental Health around Emotional Regulation was a great success.

Looking ahead, Mrs Hewes would like to share that the next parent event is scheduled for Friday 21st November 2025 at 9.00am - Coffee Morning hosted by the Toby Henderson Trust. Followed by the next Primary Mental Health workshop on Resilience on Thursday 27th November 2025 at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome!

Mrs Hewes works very closely with Citizens advice who can also help with lots of different issues around money and debt, energy, benefits, health, immigration, employment and family. If you wish to know more about this, please contact Mrs Hewes directly or you can email or telephone Citizens advice.

Email: community@citizensadvice.northumberland.org.uk or by telephone on 01670 618029. Please include your name, postcode, contact number and details of what you would like help with. Citizens' advice aim to respond within 5 working days.

Celebrating learning from Autumn 1 and what your child will be learning about in Autumn 2

Two Year Olds

The children have had a great start to the term, the new starters have all settled well. There has been lots of child initiated play to encourage the new starters to explore the environment independently, choosing the resources they need for their play. They have also joined others in their play in the small world area where they have extended their play with peers. In whole group activities the children have been encouraged to take part in an adult directed task for a short period of time. They demonstrated good listening skills and turn taking.



The children have taken a particular interest in moving to music, and have been requesting this. They have had lots of fun dancing and using musical instruments alongside music. They also copied actions modelled by an adult.

They have enjoyed cooking, practicing controlling and using utensils and making choices.

Access to the outdoors happens on a daily basis, where children have been practising their fine and gross motor movements. They particularly liked using the water spray bottles and working together to make obstacle courses with the wooden planks and crates.

The lending library has been re-introduced this half term. It has been lovely hearing the feedback from parents about their children enjoying these books at home.

Tapestry is used by us to share your child's experiences in 2YOs. If you have anything to share, we would love to hear about what your children have been doing at home.

Next half term the children will be encouraged to match things that are the same, for example, pairing wellies, matching animal cards to their corresponding picture. This will support their development of numerical pattern in maths and will encourage their use of number names.

The children have shown a keen interest in role play and acting out with others. They will continue to focus on this and extend their thinking to their own experiences and the role of family members. They will also be encouraged to think about who lives in their house. Not only will this support their understanding of the world but it will be an opportunity to use different types of words and simple sentences in discussions.

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.

It would also be great to see what your children are enjoying doing at home when they are not in two year olds, any photos of the children can be shared on Tapestry and we can talk about this with your children.

The following 10 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

As the weather is getting colder, could you please make sure your child has suitable warm outdoor clothing as we still access outdoors in all weathers.

Nursery

What a fantastic start to the year it has been in Nursery! The children have settled in brilliantly and are already becoming confident with their daily routines. Nursery's topic this half term has been *All About Me*. The children have enjoyed learning the names of their body parts and had lots of fun exploring the world through their five senses. One of the highlights was a smell investigation—garlic was a clear favourite among the class!



Nursery children have also been busy developing their listening and attention skills through a range of fun activities. The children are becoming excellent at recalling our listening rules and are starting to show great focus during adult-led group times.

It's been lovely to see so many children growing in independence too—lots of them can already put on their own coats and shoes. Well-done, Nursery!



Next half term, Nursery will be diving into the new topic: *Bears*! The children will continue to explore using their senses as they investigate different smells, sounds, sights, and textures in 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. They will be comparing sizes as they read the story of '*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*' and will even go on a teddy bears' picnic!

As we head towards the festive season, Nursery will be learning about the Christmas story and enjoying a special treat—a pantomime performance right here in school. Lots of fun and learning ahead!

Reception

This half term was an incredible start to the year; the children quickly settled into the new routines and made the most of opportunities within the environment.

In phonics, the children learnt their first 25 sounds and practised their oral blending skills (Fred talk). They've worked hard on recognising and writing each sound, and we're so proud of the amazing progress they've made. In maths, the children began by exploring sorting and matching, before moving on to repeating patterns. The children especially enjoyed using the maths challenge area to create their own repeating patterns. There has also been plenty of opportunity for creativity! The children have painted self-portraits and made salt dough faces which will feature in our environment. Following our topic of 'our place in the world', children have loved learning about the solar system and creating their own rockets!



Following recipes to bake a variety of different goods for the Macmillan bake sale was a highlight for many children! They loved visiting the kitchen to do some baking. The reception stall was a sell out! Thank you for your support!

It was fantastic to have parents in twice this half-term for our phonics workshop and 'biscuit and a book'. These events gave adults the chance to take part in pre-reading activities alongside children to help develop vital literacy skills such as visual discrimination.



Next term's learning has a festive theme under the title 'Let's Celebrate'. The children will be exploring a range of festivals, from Diwali to Bonfire Night, and of course we will be looking at the story behind Christmas as we build up to the big day. In phonics they will continue to build their knowledge of sounds and begin to read green words. Maths will see the children explore the composition of numbers to five and recognise numerals to match to these quantities. The children will also have the opportunity to visit Blyth library where they can become a member and borrow up to 20 books at a time. There will be a maths workshop for parents/carers to attend on Wednesday 19th November at 2pm.

The class text will be 'Little Glow' by Katie Sahota. This book focuses on many celebrations that people around the world take part in.

Year 1

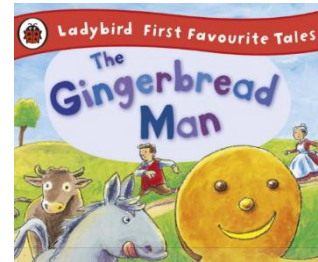
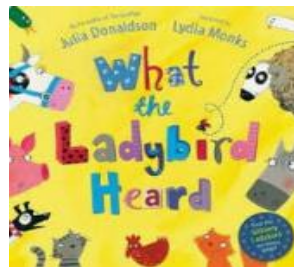
The Year 1 children have had a super start to the year. They are settling into their new routines and have begun to build relationships with the key stage 1 staff.

In maths, the children have been learning all about the place value of numbers to 10. They have been ordering numbers, finding one more and less, comparing numbers, calculating within 10 and problem solving. The children have enjoyed using concrete resources to support their learning. Each day begins with a Mastering Number session and all children are now able to access NUMBOTS in school and at home. This app helps to build fluency in maths.



In English, the children have enjoyed listening to the traditional tale The Gingerbread Man. They also enjoyed listening to a text by our favourite author, Julia Donaldson.

The children loved 'What The Ladybird Heard' and they wrote some super sentences about characters and plot. have explored non-fiction texts, looking at titles, bullet point lists and captions. The children loved writing their own animal fact files.



In Art, the children have studied famous artist, Julian Opie and have created their own art in his famous pop art style. Their artwork was amazing! Throughout, they developed their understanding of primary and secondary colours and developed their skills in sketching, brush tools and using oil pastels.

The year 1 children love science! They have learned some fascinating facts about animals. They have investigated different animal classifications and can identify birds, mammals and fish. They have also explored the outdoor area and talked about the changes that happen outdoors during autumn.



In history, the children have learned all about the famous heroine of the past, Grace Darling. They found out about her early life and how she rescued people from the sea off the coast of Northumberland. The children were fascinated by her bravery, going out to sea in such a terrible storm. To enhance learning further, the children visited St Mary's Lighthouse in Whitley Bay to see inside a real lighthouse, similar to the one that Grace Darling lived in. The children showed bravery and resilience by climbing the 137 steps to the very top of the lighthouse. The

views were magnificent!

In RE, the children went on a visit to St. Paul's Church in Whitley Bay. Here they were able to see key features of the church and they learned about how Christians welcome babies into the church through a Baptism service.

Next half term in maths, children will continue to develop their understanding of number and the number system. They will build confidence adding and subtracting within 10 to help them to solve word problems. They will learn all about 2d and 3d shapes and their properties.



In English Year 1 will be reading more texts by Julia Donaldson, for example 'The Snail and the Whale'. They will also be reading and writing poetry.

In science, the children will identify, name and describe materials. They will also compare and group materials on their physical properties. The children will become scientists when investigating the best material to make an umbrella.

In geography, the children will be learning about our local area and will be designing and making a boat in DT. The children will be testing our boats to see if they float or sink. During the holidays can you please collect any empty boxes or plastic bottles for our model making. Please could bottles be rinsed out first.

Year 1 homework continues to be weekly reading and NUMBOTS. Children should read at home four times weekly and they will be rewarded with a custard cream on Friday. Book bags should be in school every day. Thank you for your support with this. We encourage children to use NUMBOTS at home 3 x weekly for sessions of 15 minutes.

Year 2

What a great start year 2 have had. In English, the children have worked on their letter formation, sitting letters correctly on the line, using appropriate finger spaces and the continuous improvement to presentation and handwriting. There is already some gorgeous handwriting in year 2! The children have read Little Red Riding Hood and have made simple changes to the original story. The focus in the first half term has been securing the children's understanding of basic punctuation. They have enjoyed using adjectives and verbs when writing autumn poems. They have also used time ordering words to write a recount of their visit to Whitehouse Farm.

In maths, children have worked hard to secure their quick mental recall of number bonds and facts to 10. They have counted in 2's, 5's or 10's, which are the stepping-stones to them beginning to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. The children have explored place value, using their toolkit, concrete equipment and picture representations to support their learning. They have used number lines, 100 squares, whole part models and have enjoyed reasoning and problem solving. The children have also started their addition and



subtraction unit of maths which they will continue in autumn 2.



In history, the children have developed their understanding of chronology through their study of The Great Fire of London and The Gunpowder Plot. They looked at a range of sources and created a timeline of events. The children were particularly interested to find out about Samuel Pepys through the diaries that he wrote. They explored the similarities and differences between life in 1666 and present day. Please ask the children to talk to you about the differences. They were amazed to find out that there was actually a Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead. We have some very knowledgeable historians in year 2.

In science, the children have investigated animals and humans. They began with some revision from Year 1 of animal classification (mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird or fish) and animal diet (carnivore, herbivore or omnivore). They then



found out what animals need to survive and looked closely at animal offspring. They explored different life cycles in the animal world. The children had a fantastic time at Whitehouse Farm where they found out all about different animals and got the chance to hold and feed them. They all represented Horton Grange wonderfully! Well-done year 2!



During Autumn 2, in English, the children will read the text *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson. They will continue to improve their descriptions using adjectives. They are also going to be writing their own instructions on how to make a witch's potion. The children will be writing acrostic poems inspired by Christmas too.

In maths, the focus on basic skills will continue. All children should be able to count in 2's, 5's, and 10's. They should be confident with number bonds and facts to 10 and 20. They will continue the unit on addition and subtraction.

They will also complete the shape topic. To support learning at home children should be using the following websites:

NumBots

<https://play.numbots.com/#/intro>

Hit the Button

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

In science, children will be exploring materials. They will go on a material hunt around their own classroom to identify objects and materials. Then, they will investigate the properties of materials. They will carry out different scientific enquiries to explore a variety of materials. They will then gather and present their findings.

In geography, children will be exploring their own local area, Blyth. They will be looking at and making their own simple maps using keys. They will use aerial view maps to locate local landmarks and identify human and physical features. They will also use atlases and globes to locate the seven continents and five oceans.

Year 2 end of day stories will be a range of fantastic books by author Julia Donaldson.



Year 3

Year 3 staff would like to start by saying how incredibly proud they are of the children in Year 3. They have all adapted to moving from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 seamlessly and they have taken it all in their stride!

This half term, in English, Year 3 learned about fables and stories, each with a moral teaching. Of course, the children read the classic 'The Mouse and the Lion' learning about how important it is to help each other, a lesson everyone is learning now they are back at school. They focussed on the basics of getting each sentence structured correctly then moved on to adding noun phrases including adjectives. The children applied their knowledge, retelling the fable 'The Mouse and the Lion' with the message 'Kindness is more powerful than strength.' The children then moved on to instructions and had great fun instructing everyone on how to make a fruit smoothie. This involved focussing on adverbs and prepositions and they got to choose their own ingredients.

Place value has been the hot topic in maths. The children have enjoyed using practical resources to make different numbers and partition them in different ways. This has included understanding how many hundreds, tens and ones are in a number and really developing their understanding of the number system up to 1000. The children also looked at addition and subtraction where they practised the fundamentals of number facts before moving on to adding and subtraction, beginning using the formal column method. This included numbers which go over a boundary so the children needed to know when to carry and when to exchange.



In science this half term they have learned all about their brilliant bodies focussing on the skeleton. The children have all loved learning about the purpose of a skeleton and can name a range of bones in the human body. They also

investigated how the skeleton moves, using their biggest resource- their own bodies! The children answered the enquiry question - do children with larger feet jump further? They had great fun finding out!

Travelling back 2.6million years ago to the earliest humans, Year 3 really enjoyed learning about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age this half term. After addressing the misconception that the Dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, (spoiler alert- they didn't) the children enjoyed discovering how people throughout the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age lived including; changes in diet, what homes they lived in and their daily life, comparing these between the time periods and to their life today. It's safe to say there have been a fair few changes however perhaps not as many as you would think! The highlight was definitely seeing the artefacts and holding a real mammoth bone from 10,000 years ago.

Next half term, in English, Year 3 will be reading a favourite classic story 'The Iron Man'. Focusing on the introduction, the children will learn how to create suspense and give just the right amount of description to hook in the reader. As always to help your child please read with them every night- the more they read, the better writers they become!

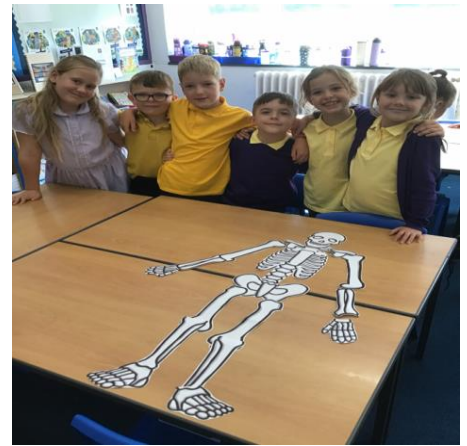
As well as looking at the introduction of this wonderful classic in Literacy lessons, classes will be reading the full story at the end of the day. Melding science fiction with mystery, The **Iron Man** tells the story of a gigantic metal robot who appears out of nowhere, crashing onto the beach and shattering into many parts. He is discovered by Hogarth, a young boy. The **Iron Man** proceeds to devour farm machinery, until the farmers rise up against him. But Hogarth soon realises this Iron giant is not here to destroy the Earth and they may need him to save them from a new, more deadly danger.

Multiplication and division will be the focus of Year 3 maths, beginning to use more formal methods to multiply and divide 2 and 3 digit numbers. To aid with this the children need to be confident with their times tables facts- especially the 2,5,10,3,4 and 8 x tables and understanding the inverse. For example, I know $5 \times 3 = 15$ so I also know $3 \times 5 = 15$, $15 \div 3 = 5$ and $15 \div 5 = 3$. All children have access to TTRS, which is a great computer programme to support you at home (same login details as Numbots)

In science the children will be learning about rocks and fossils. They will be investigating how fossils are formed and delving deep into the different types of rocks which are on our Earth.

In geography, Year 3 will be learning about settlements and land use in the UK. The children will look at early settlements and why people settled where they did to current settlements, including trade links (a very current topic at the moment). The children will get to do some fieldwork in their own settlement of Blyth.

In Design and Technology, Year 3 will be creating their very own bookmarks using some newly acquired sewing skills. In PE, they will be focussing on Gymnastics- please ensure your child has the correct PE kit with them on a Monday / Tuesday.



Year 4



This half term, Year 4 have had a fantastic time learning about their Science topic on food chains. They explored how animals interact in different habitats and confidently used key vocabulary like producer, consumer, predator, and prey to label their own food chains. A standout moment was their exciting visit to Northumberland Zoo, where the children came face-to-face with a variety of fascinating animals. The children took part in an interactive Predators and Prey

workshop, which brought their classroom learning to life in a memorable way. It was a real pleasure to see them applying their knowledge in such a hands-on setting, and representing the school with such enthusiasm and maturity.



In history, Year 4 explored the wonders of Ancient Greece. Using their maths skills, they confidently plotted events on a timeline and uncovered what made the Ancient Greeks so memorable. The children were captivated when studying artefacts and other historical sources, which they used to explore the first Olympic games. They were especially fascinated by what life was like for children in Ancient Greece, and many were surprised to discover just how different life was for boys and girls back then!

This half term in PE, Year 4 participated in tag rugby, where they developed their ball control and mastered the basics of attack and defence. They worked hard to apply their new skills in team games, showing fantastic improvement in teamwork and communication. They also took on the challenge of orienteering, which encouraged collaboration and problem-solving—two skills they demonstrated brilliantly throughout the sessions.

Next half term, Year 4 will learn about the water cycle and rivers in geography. This unit will also link to the children's science topic – states of matter. In English, the children will read and write some famous Greek myths in English to link back to their previous learning on Ancient Greece. In maths, the children will develop their knowledge of area and learn the 6, 7 and 8 times tables.

Year 4 will read 'A River' by Marc Martin. This poetry book is about the water cycle and how humans can impact upon rivers. The text links to the children's learning in geography and science.

Year 5

For Year 5, Autumn 1 was an exhilarating dive into the world of the Anglo-Saxons! Through their history lessons, the children were transported back in time, immersing themselves in the thrill of life in an Anglo-Saxon. They delved into the fascinating world of ancient laws and justice, uncovering the often gruesome punishments dealt out in the past. They also explored artefacts that had been borrowed from the library to understand what daily life would have been like for British people over one thousand years ago.

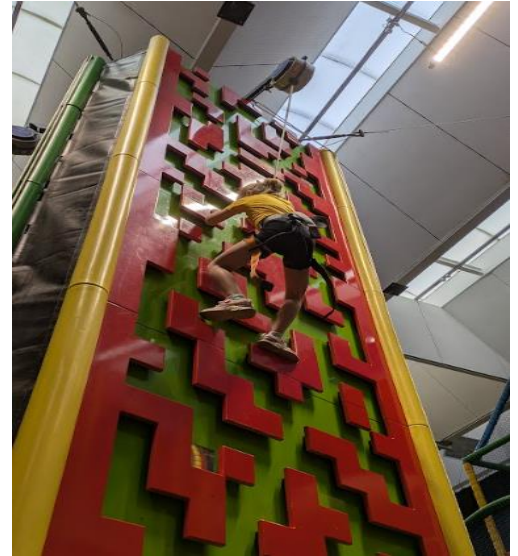
In Literacy, the children journeyed even deeper into the Anglo-Saxon myths, crafting their own thrilling versions of Beowulf. They also linked their writing to their learning about space by writing fascinating reports on our solar system.

In maths, the children took on the challenge of mastering place value with numbers up to a staggering 1 million! They sharpened their skills, rounding numbers with precision and tackling complex multi-step problems involving addition and subtraction up to 100,000. With determination, they also used inverse operations to confidently check their answers.

Science ignited the children's imaginations as they explored the vast mysteries of Earth and Space. The children were captivated by the wonders of our solar system, amazed to learn about Jupiter and Saturn's many moons, and how the Earth and Moon orbit the Sun. Their scientific vocabulary expanded, and their curiosity about the universe reached new heights!

In art, the children were inspired by the works of Piero della Francesca, experimenting with texture and tone through detailed pen drawings. They then unleashed their creativity with acrylic paints, producing stunning landscapes inspired by the iconic beach huts at Blyth, all while mastering the use of perspective.

PE was packed with action as the children jumped into swimming lessons and honed their netball skills. They thrived on improving their passing, shooting, and defending techniques, and loved competing in mini netball tournaments against each other! Y5 enjoyed an exciting trip to Concordia Leisure Centre in Cramlington. The children had the opportunity to take part in a range of fun fitness activities- some challenged themselves on the Clip 'n Climb walls, testing their strength, coordination, and resilience, while others developed their teamwork and focus through a lively session of bowling. Everyone showed fantastic determination, encouragement, and enthusiasm throughout the day, really demonstrating a range of our Horton Values.



In music, they rocked out to the sounds of classic 20th and 21st century rock music. They not only learned to sing a dynamic rock song but also used glockenspiels to improvise, compose, and perform their own musical accompaniments.

Next half term will provide pupils with a rich and varied programme of learning designed to extend their knowledge, skills, and understanding across the curriculum! In geography, the children will continue their exploration of the world as they dive into the fascinating continent of South America, learning about its diverse climates, biomes, and vegetation belts. They'll uncover how these features shape life across the region's vibrant countries and bustling cities. In DT, the children will be getting hands-on in the kitchen for the first time this year, developing their cooking and food preparation skills as they design and make their own homemade pizzas using fresh, seasonal ingredients. In science, our young investigators will explore the Properties of Materials, conducting exciting experiments to compare, test, and classify different substances based on their characteristics. In maths, the children will be stretching their skills with work on multiples, factors, and rapid recall of multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 , building confidence and fluency through practice both in class and at home. In PE, pupils will begin a new unit focused on dance, where they will develop their rhythm, coordination, and spatial awareness. This unit will encourage creativity, teamwork, and confidence in performance while promoting physical fitness and self-expression through movement.

You can help prepare your child for next term's learning by exploring the knowledge organisers available on our school website. These provide key facts, vocabulary, and concepts that will be covered in class and are a great way to support your child's understanding at home. Regular practice of times tables is also strongly encouraged, as quick recall of multiplication and division facts will be particularly important for our upcoming mathematics unit.

During the first half of the autumn term, pupils immersed themselves in the historical novel 'She Wolf', which complemented their history learning on life in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain. **In Autumn 2**, they will turn their attention to 'Stormbreaker' from the Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz – a fast-paced, action-packed novel that will support their English learning through work on narrative structure, character development, and creating suspense in writing. Pupils will analyse the author's use of language and explore how tension and excitement are built throughout the story. The text also provides valuable opportunities for cross-curricular links to Computing and PSHE, as pupils consider themes of problem-solving, resilience, and the responsible use of technology.

Year 6

It was fantastic to welcome the children back in September and they have got off to a flying start in Year 6. They have become accustomed to the increased pace of learning and staff have noticed some superb role models for the rest of the school with exemplary behaviour.

The children have enjoyed reading snippets from our text in English, 'Letters From The Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll and have also written their own historical fiction based on both this book and their learning in history lessons which have focused on the impact of war on Blyth.

Year 6 children have also learnt how to use formal persuasive language in a letter to Mrs Irving in order to apply for a Year 6 job which will involve the increased level of responsibility that we expect to see them developing as they get closer to moving on to secondary school.

Reading is always a huge focus and, in school, children have a reading book, a library book and a range of books from which to choose within the classroom. Year 6 have a reward system in which children reading at home can be awarded stickers and badges. Well-done to those who have already read 25 times at home and achieved their bronze sticker! Children are also accessing Reading Plus in class which helps to build fluency and speed with reading. They can access this on computers at home – well done again to all who are already doing this! Please encourage your child to use this programme at home as we have seen fabulous progress achieved by those who go that extra mile! This also goes for Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars.

In maths, the children have been learning about place value working with numbers up to 1,000,000 and have now moved on to extending their learning in addition and subtraction.

In science, year 6 studied the digestive systems of humans and animals, discovering that cows have four stomachs and regurgitate their food! They also recapped learning by identifying that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition from what they eat. The children thoroughly enjoyed carrying out an investigation 'How can we make healthy choices by using nutritional information?' by reading food labels and using the knowledge of the eat well plate to choose and find the healthiest snack choice.

In art, the focus was on drawing and the use of colour. The children looked at some of Van Gogh's art work including his most famous works e.g. The Potato Eaters, Sunflowers, Starry Night. They enjoyed discussing questions such as: Why has Van Gogh used these colours in the painting? How do the colours used make you feel? What do you think the artist was trying to communicate? During the unit, year 6 experimented with different textures of a surface using a pencil/pen, practising techniques such as contouring, cross contouring, stippling, squiggling and the use of patterns to create texture. After this, the children got to explore the use of colour for different purposes to convey emotions and to create atmosphere. By the end, they all created a fantastic final piece of art work which showcased their learning throughout the unit.



In history, the children have been learning about two major historical events — World War I and World War II — and how these shaped both Britain and the local area of Blyth.

They began by exploring how World War I started, learning about the complex alliances between countries and how the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 triggered a chain of events that led to war across Europe. The children also investigated how WWI impacted Blyth, discovering how the town played a vital role in supporting the war effort through shipbuilding and the work of local people. Moving on to World War II, the children identified significant people such as Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler and about their influence and contributions during the war. They also studied key events of WWII, including the outbreak of war in 1939, the Blitz, evacuation, D-Day and the eventual end of the war in 1945. Throughout the topic, the children have developed their historical thinking skills by discussing how historical interpretations can be affected by misinformation, opinion and propaganda, and why it's important to consider different viewpoints when learning about the past. The children enjoyed comparing life for children during WWII with their own experiences today, looking at how evacuation, schooling and daily life were very different. The children also explored rationing, understanding how food shortages changed people's diets and lifestyles, and comparing this with how we live now.

Year 6 children took part in several safety workshops and had a great morning out at SafetyWorks. SafetyWorks is a multi-agency interactive safety centre (operated and managed by Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service) serving the community of Tyne & Wear. It provides an innovative, enjoyable learning



experience enabling visitors to participate safely in realistic situations illustrating everyday hazards and how to prevent them. The children were involved in workshops discussing water safety, fire safety, road safety, personal safety/choices and keeping safe handling dogs. The children were all a credit to our school and showed many of our Horton Grange values while there.



Next half term, Year 6 will be consolidating the learning that the children acquired during the residential visit to Hawse End in the Lake District and extending it further. They will learn about the features of mountainous areas and economic activity in the Lake District and also study Ordnance

Survey maps, learning about six figure grid references and contour lines.

In English, the children will be working on contemporary fiction and newspaper reports, revising some of their learning on the impact of war from Autumn 1 by studying the Christmas Truce of 1914.

In science, they will be learning about evolution, the findings of Charles Darwin and fossils. In RE, we will be studying the Hindu faith and will visit a Hindu Temple in Newcastle. The children will also be learning about programming in computing using 'Scratch'.

Next half term, year 6 will be reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, linked to the newspaper reports we are writing in English. We will also be taking a look at 'Amazing Evolution - The Journey of Life' to support our science topic of Charles Darwin and evolution.

Information around key dates

Parents Evening

There will be a parent's consultation evening on **Wednesday 26th November**. Further information to follow

Statutory Assessment – Key dates

- **Week commencing 8th June: Year 1 phonic check**

- Week commencing 1ST June for 2 weeks: Y4 Multiplication check
- Week commencing 11th May: Year 6 SATs

These dates are set by the Government and school does not have flexibility to change the dates. Therefore, it is vital that children attend school.

Anti-Bullying Week 2025:

Anti-bullying week will take place from the 10th – 14th November 2025. The themes is 'Power of Good'. The aim is to encourage children to use the power of good to speak out, support other and ensure school is a place where kindness wins.

THANK YOU TO PARENTS FOR ONGOING SUPPORT

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your on-going support and please remember if you do have any concerns, contact school – we are always willing to listen. We will be setting up some parent forums this year on various themes such as attendance and SEND with aim that we can continue to work together to ensure Horton Grange provides the very best for your children.

Best wishes
Nichola Irving
Headteacher

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.

Monday 3 rd November	Parent Drop in
Tuesday 4 th November	New to Reception 2026 'Open Evening' – 3.30pm
Tuesday 11 th November	Y1 Phonics Parent Workshop – 2pm Y6 Biscuit & Book – 2.45pm
Wednesday 12 th November	School Photographs
Thursday 13 th November	Y3 Skipping Festival
Tuesday 18 th November	Reception Blyth Library Visit 4AR Biscuit & Book 2.45pm
Wednesday 19 th November	Reception Maths Parent Workshop – 2pm 4KTE & 4KTH Biscuit & Book – 2.45pm
Thursday 20 th November	Y3 Biscuit & Book – 2.45pm
Tuesday 25 th November	Y3 Blyth Town & Beach visit
Wednesday 26 th November	Y6 Hindu Temple Visit Y5 Biscuit & Book – 2.45pm Parents Evening
Monday 1 st December	Parent Drop in
Tuesday 2 nd December	Y1 Blyth Library Visit Nursery Parent Workshop – 10.30am & 2.15pm
Wednesday 3 rd December	Rocksteady Performance (KS2 Hall) – 2.30pm
Thursday 4 th December	Y4 River Walk
Friday 5 th December	Y5 Newcastle Central Mosque Visit
Tuesday 9 th December	Nursery Christmas Performance 9.30am & 2.15pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Reception Christmas Performance 9.30am & 2.15pm
Thursday 11 th December	Y1 Christmas Performance 9.30am & 2.15pm
Friday 12 th December	Y2 Christmas Performance 9.30am & 2.15pm
Monday 15 th December	Y3 Christmas Celebration 9.30am Y6 Christmas Celebration 2.30pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Y5 Christmas Celebration 9.30am & 2.30pm

Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch Day Y4 Christmas Celebration 9.30am & 2.30pm 2 year olds Stay & Play Nursery Christmas Party Reception Christmas Party
Thursday 18 th December	KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties
Friday 19 th December	School Panto – Aladdin Christmas Jumper Day School closes 2pm