

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Dear Parents and Friends

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I would like to thank our pupils, families, staff, and governors for their continued support, commitment and enthusiasm. Once more, this year has been filled with many achievements and exciting learning opportunities both within the formal curriculum and wider offer here at Horton Grange. There have been moments that have made us immensely proud of our school. Our pupils have shown many of the Horton values throughout the year. As we celebrate their successes and reflect on how far they have come, we also look ahead with excitement to the opportunities that the new academic year will bring. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from this term and wish all of our families a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break.

SATs results

Unfortunately, due to matters beyond our control SATs results were delayed until Thursday 17th July so I will communicate with you more on this in the Autumn term. Year 6 children and parents will be informed before we finish for the summer break.

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 continue to provide the service to families.

Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs have once again been a fantastic success this year, providing our children with a wealth of exciting opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents and build lasting friendships. From art and craft, singing, LEGO and golf to many more engaging activities, there has truly been something for everyone to enjoy.

Taking part in extra-curricular clubs plays an important role in children's development. These experiences help to build confidence, encourage creativity, develop teamwork and communication skills, and inspire children to try something new beyond the classroom. It has been wonderful to see so many children embracing these opportunities with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination.

A huge thank you must go to the staff, who have generously given up their own time to plan and lead these clubs throughout the year. Their commitment and willingness to provide such enriching experiences have made a real difference to the children across school, and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We hope all of the children have enjoyed taking part in the wide variety of clubs on offer and have made many happy memories along the way. We can't wait to introduce even more exciting opportunities, so keep an eye out for our new extra-curricular clubs launching in the Autumn Term!



Sports Update

It has been another fantastic half term for sport across the school, with pupils enjoying a wide range of exciting opportunities both in and out of school. Our Year 6 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the PE Transition Festival at Blyth Academy before taking part in a fun-filled sports festival at Blyth Beach. All Key Stage 2 children also benefited from expert coaching delivered by the Newcastle Eagles, developing their basketball skills and teamwork.

Sports Day was a huge success, with every child taking part and demonstrating excellent determination, resilience and sportsmanship. A special thank you goes to our Sports Leaders, who completed leadership training with Mrs Lee-Turner and did an outstanding job supporting the Lower Key Stage 2, Key Stage 1 and EYFS Sports Days.

As part of Active Week, Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed archery sessions led by Mrs Lee-Turner, while Key Stage 1 children took part in exciting team games delivered by Mr Plunkett. To round off a busy term, twenty Key Stage 2 pupils attended the Make Active Memories Festival at Alnwick Castle with Mr Ridley, creating lasting memories through a variety of fun and inclusive sporting activities.

Attendance Update



This half term our Attendance Ambassadors have continued to work closely with Mrs Cornwall and Mrs Carr to promote good attendance across school. They have been sharing with each class their attendance for the week and continue to award Friday Freddo's to classes with fantastic Friday attendance.

An online consultation around attendance has taken place. Thank-you everyone who took the time to share their opinions. The attendance team we will look at these together and share feedback in September.

Always Club

This half term, Mrs Carr has continued to run Always Club, celebrating children who follow our Horton Values consistently. Over the year, it has been fantastic to see children from all over school who demonstrate our values, both inside and outside of school. Well- done everyone!

School council

This half term the School Council have again put their voices to great use. They are currently working with their classes to discuss attendance. They are asking their classes what happens when we miss school. They will be creating a short video at the end of the year to promote all the areas of school we miss when we miss school. Look out for this on our Facebook page!

SHARING OUR LEARNING

2- year- olds

The two-year-olds have had a great time this 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 two-year-olds, people who are special to them, places they enjoy going together.

The children have spent more time outdoors enjoying the sunshine. They demonstrated their physical skills, climbing on the crates and beams and kicking/throwing the balls. They have had lots of fun exploring the new nursery equipment, using their bodies in a range of ways. The children also spent a lot of time in the sand pit and in the water tray. These opportunities were used for filling and emptying containers and using language of capacity.



There have been more child-initiated activities where the children were encouraged to follow their interests. They added cars to paint and enjoyed making marks.



Requests for music and dancing have been popular! This was great for their gross motor movements and also promoted their listening skills as they played 'stop and go' to the music.

This term staff say goodbye to some of children who are moving on to nursery; they are more than ready for the next step and we will miss them.

Nursery

This half term, Nursery has been 'on a journey' as they explored a range of exciting topics linked to travel and adventure. The children enjoyed learning about different modes of transport, including aeroplanes, trains, cars and buses. They compared what these forms of transport look like today with how they looked in the past, helping the children to understand how things have changed over time.



As part of their learning about the world around us, the children discovered that they live in the country of England and that their town is called Blyth. They enjoyed talking about where they live and making connections between their own experiences and the wider world.

The train role-play area was a huge hit this half term! The children loved taking on different roles as passengers, ticket inspectors and train drivers, setting off on lots of imaginative journeys together. They also had great fun transforming into pirates, sailing the seven seas in search of hidden treasure and creating exciting adventures through imaginative play. To finish their journey, the

children explored the beach and the sea, where the children enjoyed discovering a variety of fascinating sea creatures. They loved investigating different animals, sharing what they already knew and asking thoughtful questions as their curiosity grew.

The children also amazed staff during Sports Day, taking part enthusiastically in a wide range of activities. They demonstrated fantastic determination, resilience and teamwork, cheering one another on and celebrating each other's successes. Staff are incredibly proud of the confidence and perseverance they showed throughout the day.



The new outdoor area has been another highlight this half term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the exciting new equipment, particularly the monkey bars, where they have been developing impressive core strength, coordination, balance and upper-body strength. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they challenge themselves, persevere and celebrate their achievements.

It has been a wonderful half term full of exploration, imagination, learning and active play, and we are so proud of everything the children have achieved. Nursery staff wish all of our Nursery families a happy, safe and restful summer break.

Reception

This half-term, Reception have been engrossed in the topic of “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 that they studied and even hunted for mini beasts in the outdoor environment. The transformation of our outdoor space was incredibly exciting and the children have loved exploring all of the new areas over the last few weeks.



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 focus book this half term was ‘The Big Book of Bugs’ by Yuzal Zommer. The children loved learning lots of interesting information about different minibeasts.



Year 1

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed reading a wide range of books this half term. They explored a story from another culture through *Handa’s Hen*, used the non-fiction text *A Sweetcorn Salad* to write their own set of instructions, and learnt about suffixes while reading the fable *The Hare and the Tortoise*, using their new knowledge to write their own sentences.

They also loved listening to *The Enormous Crocodile* as their end-of-day class story and are excited to discover more of Roald Dahl’s chapter books in Year 2. The children have especially enjoyed recommending their favourite books to their classmates and sharing their love of reading.

Staff are incredibly proud of Year 1 for their fantastic effort during the Phonics Screening Check. Every child tried their very best and did a wonderful job of showing off their growing phonic knowledge and reading skills.

In maths, the children have developed their understanding of multiplication, division and fractions. They can now confidently identify one whole, one half and one quarter of both shapes and quantities. More





recently, they have extended their understanding of place value to numbers up to 100, successfully partitioning, ordering and comparing numbers with increasing confidence.

In geography, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of the local area. They used Google Earth to explore Blyth Beach and made comparisons between the beach and the town centre. They also enjoyed learning about the four compass directions and using directional language to describe locations.

In DT, the children became chefs! Their challenge was

to create a healthy fruit muffin. They began by researching and tasting a variety of fruits, which helped them decide which ingredients to include in their own muffin designs. They then baked their delicious creations, achieving some fantastic results! Finally, they evaluated their finished products, considering what had gone well and what they might improve next time. We all agreed – the fruit muffins were absolutely delicious!

In music, the children thoroughly enjoyed preparing for **The Big Sing**, which followed the theme of *On a Journey*. They learnt and practised a

range of new songs about adventures around the world. We

were incredibly proud of their fantastic performance at **The Glasshouse**, where they sang alongside professional musicians, singers and children from other schools. Well-done to all of the wonderful young singers for representing our school so brilliantly!

Thank you to everyone who attended Sports Day to support the children during Active Week. It was wonderful to see so many families cheering them on. The children demonstrated fantastic teamwork, determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the day, giving every event their very best effort. We are incredibly proud of them all. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Year 2



It has been another busy and exciting term in Year 2, with the children showing enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience across all areas of the curriculum. In English, children have developed our non-fiction writing skills by creating informative fact files about crocodiles and elephants, using interesting facts. They also enjoyed putting a creative twist on the traditional tale of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, rewriting the story with imaginative characters, settings and endings.

In mathematics, Year 2 have explored time, learning how to tell the time and solve problems involving hours and minutes. We have also interpreted and created statistics using a range of charts and graphs, as well as developing our understanding of position and direction through practical activities. They have loved going outside and directing our friends using positional language – with their eyes closed it was tricky to make sure we didn't bump into each other!

Our geography lessons have taken us further afield as children compared Blyth with a town in Africa called Nairobi. The children enjoyed exploring similarities

and differences in the environment, climate, homes and daily life, helping them to develop a broader understanding of the world around them.

In science, the children have been learning about *Animals, Including Humans*. They have explored the life cycles of different animals and discussed how living things grow and change. Children have also learned about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle, including eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly and maintaining good hygiene. Year 2 particularly enjoyed going outside and trying a range of exercises. They loved checking their heart rate before and after and were shocked by how fast it got!

In DT, the children thoroughly enjoyed becoming chefs as they planned, prepared and made their own smoothies and quiches. They explored a variety of ingredients, taste-tested different ingredients and decided which ones they liked best before creating their final products. Throughout the project, the children developed their food preparation skills while learning about healthy eating and making thoughtful choices about the ingredients they used. Children had a great time eating and drinking our healthy lunch with our friends.



In PE, the children have enjoyed developing their tennis skills through a range of fun and engaging activities. It was trickier than they thought to hit the ball with rackets! The children practised hard and had a rally in pairs. They also had a fantastic time taking part in our Sports Day on the field, where the children demonstrated excellent teamwork and determination in true Horton Grange style. It was wonderful to see everyone trying their best, encouraging one another and celebrating each other's achievements.

Staff are so proud of everything the children have achieved this year. They really are ready for Year 3!

Year 3

Year 3's summer term has been action packed, with a trip to the Glendale Show and lots of exciting learning. The children loved their time at the Glendale Show, where they learned all about where their food comes from and had lots of new experiences.

In English, the children have continued to learn a variety of new grammar and vocabulary and apply it within a range of genres. Immersing themselves in the book *Those Shoes*, the children wrote part of a contemporary fiction story in which the characters' lives were similar to their own. They then wrote a recount of their trip to Cragside where they used subordinate conjunctions to add detail.

In maths, Year 3 have returned to their study of fractions, which has involved lots of work on understanding what makes a whole and a part. They have applied their learning on division to understand how to find fractions of amounts. This half-term they were watching the clock and counting the pennies as they investigated money and time. The children have also started to focus on the 8 times tables – including the matching division facts.



This half-term's Science topic was nutrition, the children have been investigating all the food groups that go into a balanced diet. This tied in with their project in DT in which the children designed and created sandwiches. These had to be inexpensive, tasty, healthy and easy to make. The children got the chance to bake their own bread and make (and eat) their sandwiches!



Year 3's last geography topic of the year was coasts, this allowed the children to revisit the learning from the geography field visit to Blyth in Autumn and expand it as we learned about the process of erosion and the effects on the coastal landscape.

In PE, Year 3 have had an introduction to athletics, which let them practise for their Sports Day, and also rounders which gave them the chance to improve their throwing and catching skills and learn the fundamentals of this exciting team game. Year 3 were also delighted to welcome a specialist coach from the Newcastle Eagles, who delivered an exciting and engaging basketball session.



In RE, the children were consolidating their learning from the year about Christianity, Islam and Judaism. They had lots of interesting discussions about how we could make the world a better place.

This half term, Year 3 took part in a litter pick around the school grounds. The children showed fantastic teamwork and responsibility as they worked together to help keep our environment clean and tidy. All money that was raised will be given to The Blyth Wildlife Rescue.

Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed another busy and successful half term, packed with exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum.

In English, the children wrote their own contemporary fiction texts based on the book 'Cliffhanger' by Jacqueline Wilson. The children explored ways to make their writing show the character's personality and ensured that they included informal language when writing dialogue. In maths, Year 4 explored decimals, developed their understanding of money through converting amounts and solving problems, and investigated the properties of different shapes. Earlier in the half term, the children also completed their Multiplication Tables Check and we are incredibly proud of the determination and resilience they showed. Their hard work certainly paid off!

In science, Year 4 investigated different types of teeth and discovered the important role each one plays. They also carried out an exciting scientific enquiry, predicting and observing what would happen to an eggshell when submerged in different liquids for a week. The children were fascinated by the results and it highlighted the importance of brushing our teeth regularly and having a healthy diet. The children also learned about the human digestive system, gaining a strong understanding of how each organ works together during the digestion process.

Geography lessons focused on trade, where the children learned about imports and exports and why they are so important to countries around the world. They then explored land use by comparing how the Port of Blyth has developed and expanded over time, identifying the many changes that have taken place.

In DT, the children developed their sewing skills while designing their own flags. They began by researching flags from around the world and exploring the meaning and cultural significance behind their designs. Using this knowledge, they carefully planned their own unique flags and used different stitching techniques to create their final products.

The highlight of the half term was undoubtedly Year 4's residential visit to Robinwood. The children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, taking part in activities such as canoeing, climbing, the giant swing and a range of team-building challenges. It was wonderful to see so many of the Horton values on display, particularly resilience, teamwork and open-mindedness. The children supported one another brilliantly, tackled new experiences with confidence and represented the school exceptionally well through their respectful behaviour and excellent manners. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves!



Year 5

In English during summer term, Year 5 enjoyed discussing the features of playscripts, reading a range of scripts and creating their own based on the story of Matilda. They have also explored fables, reading some classics by Aesop. They wrote their own fable based on 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse'. They have also enjoyed reading lots of

different stories, from 'Cogheart' to 'Hetty Feather' and in reading lessons they have listened to the lyrics of songs from musicals.

In maths, the children have focused on decimals, this time exploring decimal arithmetic. They have also studied shape, including measuring and calculating angles, translation of shapes and reflection. In the final few weeks, they have studied negative numbers and have learned how to convert between units of measure.

The children really enjoyed their science topic of living things. They learned all about the life cycles of humans, exploring changes from fertilisation to old age, focussing specifically on the adolescent stage of life. They enjoyed an investigation of how our reaction times change as we grow old, trying to see if the children could catch the ruler more quickly than the adults!

In geography, they revisited South America, this time with a focus on how humans use the land. They have learned about an isolated tribe called the Awa, and how they are endangered by illegal logging and other deforestation. For their environmental focus, they learned more about climate change and some of the things they could do to limit the effects of it.

In Art the children enjoyed experimenting with clay and created their own dragon's eye using joining techniques and adding texture with clay tools and by using paint. All of the sculptures ended up looking very unique!



In computing, the children have studied ebook creation. They have made their own ebooks, based on learning from Year 5 and have created some very thoughtful and interesting pieces of work.

Children in Year 5 have enjoyed spending time outside this half term, from Sports Day to OPAL events with parents and teachers. They are looking forward to developments in OPAL playtimes in Year 6, with some children trying out roles as OPAL helpers in Kay Stage 1.



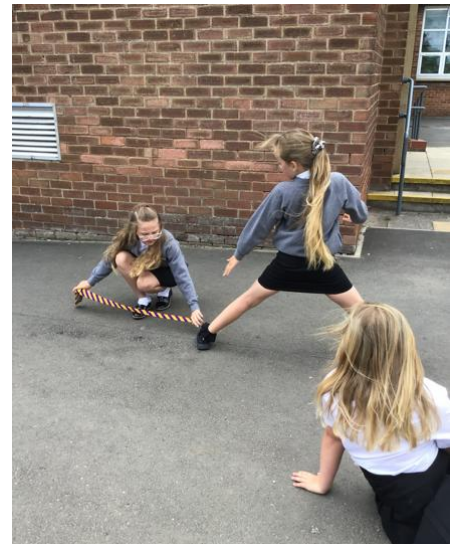
Year 6

This half term was a very busy term for Year 6. In science, the children have been learning all about the circulatory system and the vital role it plays in keeping our bodies healthy. They explored how the heart pumps blood around the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients to our organs and muscles, and discovered why maintaining a healthy lifestyle is so important. As part of their learning, the children carried out a practical scientific enquiry to investigate the effect of exercise on heart rate. They measured and recorded their pulse before and after physical activity, analysed their results, and drew conclusions using the evidence they had collected. This hands-on investigation helped the children develop their scientific enquiry skills while gaining a deeper understanding of how exercise affects the body.

In maths, the children have been putting their mathematical thinking and teamwork skills to the test by taking part in a series of exciting Taskmaster-style challenges. These practical activities encouraged them to think creatively, communicate effectively, and apply their mathematical knowledge in fun and engaging ways.



One challenge required the children to create a shape with a perimeter of exactly 10 metres, but they were only allowed to use a non-standard unit of measurement. Another saw them designing and building a junk model robot that had to weigh precisely 123g, encouraging careful measuring, estimating, and problem-solving.



Year 6 had an amazing time working with Primary Enterprise World learning the complex skills of running a successful business. They took on various roles to make and sell a product, carefully balancing staff demands and dynamics, negotiating prices, manufacturing quality control, accountancy and vital communication skills. They did a fantastic job and there were some clear business people of the future!

The children also had a fantastic time taking part in the Beach Sports Festival at Blyth Beach. Throughout the morning, they enjoyed a range of exciting beach-based activities, including water safety sessions, lifeguard skills, beach games, and RNLI-supported workshops. The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to develop their teamwork, stay active, build confidence around water, and learn valuable skills to help them stay safe when visiting the coast. It was fantastic to see everyone taking part with such enthusiasm.



The children visited Blyth Academy, where they took part in a variety of exciting sports that they may have the opportunity to continue in secondary school. They enjoyed trying new activities such as Tchoukball, Kin-Ball, bowls, soft archery, and a range of teamwork and problem-solving challenges. The event was a great way to introduce the children to new sports, encourage them to work together, develop new skills, and build confidence ahead of their transition to secondary school.



This half term, the children particularly enjoyed taking part in their fundraising project. They worked together to organise and sell ice pops to children across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, showing excellent teamwork, responsibility, and enthusiasm throughout.



The project gave the children the opportunity to develop valuable skills such as communication, organisation, handling money, and working collaboratively towards a shared goal. The money raised will contribute towards the continued development of our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision, helping to create even more exciting play opportunities for all of our children.

OPAL

The weather this half term has been glorious for OPAL playtimes and children have made the most of the dry and sunny days. In Early Years, children have really enjoyed their new outdoor area and equipment. In Key Stage 1 a real highlight has been den building and hide and seek around the trees, and children have loved the new additions to the play house too. In Key Stage 2, a new game '4 square' was introduced and children have enthusiastically taken part, learned team skills and cooperation while having lots of fun! It was lovely to see so many of you attend for our OPAL parent play event - it's a real highlight of the year for our children. Thank you for any donations you've been able to make for OPAL this year. Please look out for our donation requests on Facebook - we are always on the lookout for toy cars and other small world toys such as dolls and animals.

Goodbyes, hellos and other changes

Nothing ever stays the same at Horton Grange and once again we say goodbye to some staff in July.

We say goodbye to Mrs Madden in Year 2 and Miss Rollingson who supports in Reception. Mrs Grey will become a Reception teacher, after working for many years as a support member of staff. Miss Robinson leaves her role as a teacher but we are pleased to welcome her in a new capacity as higher-level teaching assistant. Mrs Kerr, our lead Thrive practitioner, will take on a different role as a teacher in the Learning Hub. She will however continue to oversee and work in The Place alongside this.

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 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 7 September	Year 1	KS1 hall	3:45pm

Tuesday 8 September	Year 2	KS1 hall	3:45pm
Thursday 10 September	Year 3	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Monday 14 September	Year 4	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Tuesday 15 September	Year 5	KS2 hall	3.45pm
Thursday 17 September	Year 6	KS2 hall	3:45pm
Monday 21 September	Reception	KS1 hall	3.45pm

That just leaves me to say I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved, restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new academic year, refreshed and ready for another exciting chapter. The first day of term for children is **Thursday 3 September 2026**.

On behalf of everyone at school, thank you once again. Have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer

Best wishes

Mrs Nichola Irving