NEWSLETTER

October 2024

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. We have noted feedback given through the comment cards and will use these when planning these events for next year.

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 a real success raising £559.09 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your support with this. Look out for further community events in the future.

Sporting updates

The Year 6 football team kicked off their season in spectacular fashion with four thrilling victories! They secured a 3-1 win against Meadowdale and followed it up with a 2-0 victory over St Bede's. The following week, the team lost narrowly to St Aiden's (3-2) before beating Grace Darling 4-0. With more exciting fixtures on the horizon, including the highly anticipated County Cup, the team's season is shaping up to be an unforgettable one. We can't wait to see what they achieve next!

Celebrating learning from Autumn 1

Two Year Olds

The children have had a great start to the term. Staff welcomed the new starters who have all settled well into Two Year Olds. 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. Children have had opportunities to join others in their play in the small world area where they have extended their play with peers. The 2YOs accessed dressing up clothes where they could take on a role and act out with others. This also promoted independence when attempting to put on and take off their own shoes, jumpers etc. The children have enjoyed cooking, practicing controlling and using utensils and encouraging making choices based on preferences. The lending library has also been re-introduced and staff have enjoyed hearing the feedback from parents about how their children are enjoying the stories.

Staff are using Tapestry to share your child's experiences at nursery. 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 staff can talk about this with your children.

Next half term there will be more adult led activities. This is to encourage the children to settle at an activity for longer and also to promote their listening skills whilst following simple instructions. There will be sensory activities for the children to explore. This will be an opportunity for the children to engage in new experiences and be willing to have a go. They will be encouraged to use all of their senses and introduced to language of texture. There will be lots of opportunities for mark making too, both on a small and large skill to develop both fine motor and gross motor movements.

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

The following 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

Starting Nursery can be an exciting but worrying time for both children and their parents. However, Miss Igo is excited to share that the Nursery children have had an incredible start to their Nursery journey. The children settled quickly into their new environment and it has been wonderful to watch them form new friendships, adapt to their new routines and make the most of the learning opportunities.

Nursery's first topic of the academic year was 'This is Me'. The children started off by creating self-portraits. They used a mirror to look closely at their individual features and then used a range of materials to replicate what we saw. They then moved onto learning about their body. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the names and function of our body parts and were excited to take part in a smell test, taste test and a learning walk where they were able to channel in on how we use our eyes, nose, mouth and ears.

As Autumn arrives the children in Nursery will build upon their previous learning and will use their senses to explore autumnal changes. They will take part in Autumn walks where they will explore the natural environment around them. Children will collect leaves, conkers and pinecones to observe and use in a variety of ways back in the classroom.

Reception

It has been an incredible start to the year; the children quickly settled into the new routines and made the most of opportunities within the environment. They learned about different occupations within our community. This included a visit from West Hartford Fire Station where they learned about fire safety.

Reception began their reading journey and have been taught their first 25 sounds. They practised recognising them and writing them and made fantastic progress! In maths they learned about sorting and matching before moving on to learning about repeating patterns. They had lots of fun making new patterns in the maths challenge area. The children were also able to get creative last half-term. They painted self-portraits and made saltdough faces which will feature in our environment.

Following recipes to bake a variety of different goods for the Macmillan bake sale was a highlight for many children! The reception stall was a sell out! Thank you for your support!

It was fantastic to have parents in twice for our reading workshop and 'biscuit and a book'. These events gave adults the chance to take part in pre-reading activities alongside children to help develop areas such as phonological awareness and auditory discrimination.

Next half term's learning will have 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 continue to develop their love of reading with a festive workshop from Seven Stories. They 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 adults on Thursday 14th November at 2pm.

Year 1

The Year 1 children have had an amazing start to key stage 1. 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. Year 1 have some super mathematicians in Year 1! The children love using the maths resources to support their learning. They have begun to complete their Mastering Number lessons each day and all children are now using NUMBOTS to build fluency with basic facts.

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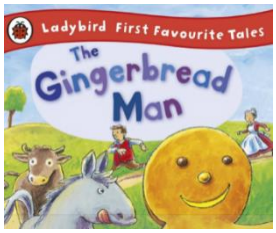
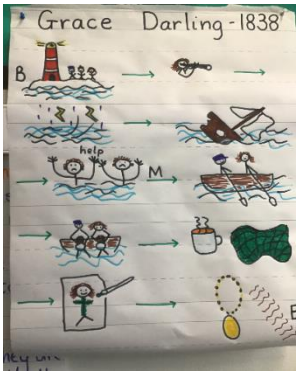
In English, the children have enjoyed stories by one of their favourite authors, Julia Donaldson. They have also read some traditional tales such as The Gingerbread Man and The Enormous Turnip, read non-fiction texts and have written their own bullet point lists. The children are great at retelling all of the stories and have worked hard to write some super sentences.



In Art, the children became artists and sketched portraits in the style of Julian Opie. Their artwork was amazing! Throughout they developed their understanding of primary and secondary colours and different lines.

In science, the children have learned some fascinating facts about animals. They have investigated different animal classifications and can identify birds, mammals and fish and say why they are similar or different. They have also explored the outdoor area and considered the changes that happen outdoors during autumn.



In history, the children have learned all about a famous heroine of the past, Grace Darling. They found out about how she rescued people from the sea off the coast of Northumberland. They practised retelling and acting out the story. The children also visited Blyth Library and took part in a Grace Darling workshop.

Next half term in Maths, children will continue to develop their understanding of numbers 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 Science, the children will identify, name and describe materials. They will also compare and group materials on their physical properties. They 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. They will be testing our boats to see if they float or sink. Please donate any empty boxes, plastic bottles, pots etc. for model making.

Year 1 homework continues to be reading. Children should read at home four times weekly. Book bags should be in school every day. Thank you for your support with this.

Children will also begin to receive weekly spelling homework. These will be issued on a Monday and children will be tested each Friday.

In English next half term Year 1 will be reading The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch and will also be reading and writing poetry.

Year 2

In English this half term, the children were transported to the deep, dark woods to discover the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Using adjectives, they described both Little Red and the big, bad wolf. As a class, they made simple changes to the original story. They have also been on two fantastic visits to Blyth library and Whitehouse Farm which inspired them to write brilliant recounts using a range of features such as time ordering words. The children have worked hard to improve their basic skills, in particular their handwriting. They took great pride in their presentation when writing some seasonal autumn poems.

In maths, the children have explored place value, using their toolkit, concrete equipment (such as number lines, 100 squares, part-whole models) and pictorial representations to support their learning. Year 2 used their knowledge to answer reasoning problems with maths talk. They have continued to develop their knowledge of addition and subtraction and are now solving more complex problems. The children have enjoyed improving their scores on Hit the Button to secure their number bonds to 10 and 20. Please encourage your child to continue practising this at home: https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

In history, the children travelled back in time to learn about two explosive events: The Gunpowder Plot and The Great Fire of London. They showed their curiosity by asking historical questions and then looked at a range of sources to help them to find out the answers. They sequenced their knowledge by creating timelines of the events which they will add to throughout the year. The children compared how life has changed between 1666 and present day. They were also amazed to find out that there was a Great Fire of Newcastle.

In science, the children have investigated what animals need to survive. The children were fascinated to discover how animals change over their lifecycle. The children enjoyed their visit to the farm where they observed a range of animals in their habitats and had the opportunity to hold and feed them. The children asked some amazing questions to deepen their knowledge of habitats, diet and offspring.

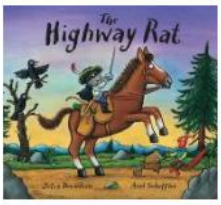
Next half term, in English, the children will read the traditional tale 'Hansel and Gretel'. They will use this as inspiration to write some instructions for spooky witch's potions. After that, the children will read 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson and create an alternative version of the story called The Cat Who Was Afraid of the Dark. Also, they will use their historical knowledge to write a non-chronological report about The Great Fire of London.

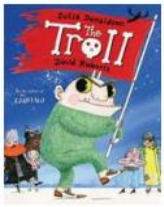
In maths, the children will continue to develop their understanding of addition and subtraction. They will then move onto exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shape. To support learning at home children should be completing Story Mode weekly on NUMBOTS https://play.numbots.com/#/intro

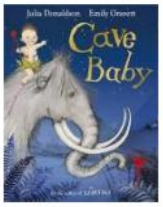
In science, children will be exploring materials by investigating their properties and will gather and present their findings.

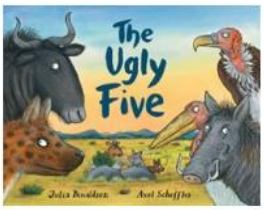
In geography, children will be exploring Blyth and creating their own simple maps using keys. They will locate local landmarks using aerial maps and identify human and physical features. Atlases and globes will also be used to locate the seven continents and five oceans.

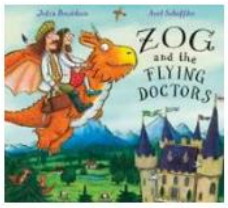
Next half term Year 2 will read a collection of Julia Donaldson stories at the end of the day.



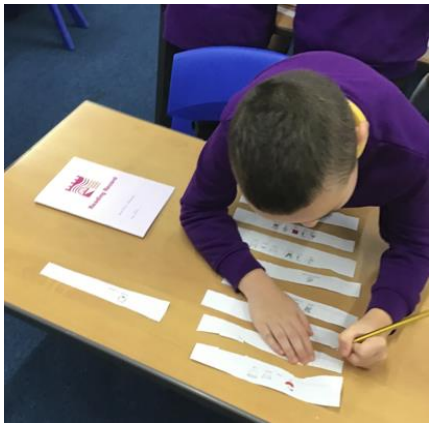








Year 3



This half term, in Literacy, 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.' They then moved on to instructions and had great fun instructing everyone on how to wash a woolly mammoth. This involved focussing on adverbs and prepositions and they got to choose their own Stone Age animal.

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 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.

The thigh bone's connected to the...what was it again? Well Year 3 will be able to tell you! This half term they have learned all about their brilliant bodies focussing on the Skeleton. Learning about the different types of skeletons animals and humans have, the children can tell you the difference between an endoskeleton, exoskeleton and a hydrostatic skeleton! 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 Literacy, 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!

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 x 3 = 15 so I also know 3 x 5 = 15, 15 ÷ 3 = 5 and 15 ÷ 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 next half term, 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.

Next half term, 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 of their own settlement of Blyth.

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

The class text for next half term is 'The Iron Man' by Ted Huges. 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.

<u>Year 4</u>

This half term, Year 4 really enjoyed their science learning about food chains. The children researched food chains from different animal habitats and were able to use key vocabulary such as consumer, producer, predator and prey to label the food chains. The highlight of this unit was Year 4's visit to Northumberland Zoo. The children encountered many different animals and had the chance to participate in a workshop about predators and prey. It was lovely to see the children putting their learning from science into a real life context and they all represented the school brilliantly during this new experience.

In History, the children learned about Ancient Greece. The children used their maths skills to order dates on a timeline and found out what the Ancient Greeks did for us. In order to find out about the past, the children used the museum artefact box to explore different sources of evidence from the time period. They interpreted the artefacts by discussing what they were, who might have used them and why they were important to life in Ancient Greece.

In PE, the children enjoyed learning tag rugby where they developed their ball control, attacking and defending skills. The children were successful in applying these skills to small game situations and they were also able to demonstrate improved teamwork and communication.

Next half term, Year 4 will be learning about the water cycle and rivers in geography. This unit also links to the children's science topic – states of matter. In English, the children will read and write historical fiction in English to link back to their previous learning on Ancient Greece. In maths, the children will be developing their knowledge of addition and subtraction and learning the 6, 7 and 8 times tables.

The class text for Autumn 2 is '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 4 will also read 'Song of the Dolphin Boy' by Elizabeth Laird.

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 village. A highlight of the trip was their exciting visit to Jarrow Hall, where they truly stepped back in time. They delved into the fascinating world of ancient laws and justice, uncovering the often gruesome punishments dealt out in the past. The students also learned about the fierce battles that shaped history, gaining a deeper understanding of how warriors fought to protect their land and way of life. It was an immersive experience, bringing the drama and intensity of the era to life in a way they'll never forget!

In Literacy, they journeyed even deeper into the Anglo-Saxon myths, crafting their own thrilling versions of *Beowulf* and writing fascinating reports on the different levels of society during that time.

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. They 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!

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.

Year 5 had an exciting visit to Blyth Library, where they enjoyed a live performance of *The Spirit Dog* by the authors. Afterwards, they took part in a lively musical session, playing instruments from across Africa and creating their own vibrant rhythms.

What an incredible half term of learning, discovery, and creativity!

Next half term is set to be an exciting adventure of discovery and hands-on learning! In Geography, the children will embark on a thrilling journey through the vibrant countries and bustling cities of South America. They'll dive deep into the wonders of physical geography, exploring Climate Zones, Biomes, and the lush Vegetation Belts that make this continent so unique.

In DT, the excitement continues as the children sharpen their cooking skills by crafting their own delicious homemade pizzas! Using fresh, seasonal ingredients, they'll transform their culinary knowledge into mouth-watering creations.

In Science, the children will step into the fascinating world of chemistry with the "Properties of Materials" unit. They'll become young scientists, conducting exciting investigations to compare and group materials based on their properties, making discoveries that will spark their curiosity.

In Maths, the challenge ramps up as they tackle multiples and factors while mastering their times tables. Rapid recall of multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 will be their mission, with plenty of opportunities to practice both in class and at home. Year 5 is all about honing those skills and preparing for future success!

During Autumn 1, the children dived into the gripping tale of *She Wolf* to complement their history studies. This half term, they're in for an electrifying ride with *Stormbreaker* from the *Alex Rider* series – an explosive, action-packed adventure filled with thrills and suspense! This high-octane story will fuel their imagination and inspire their English lessons as they explore gripping plots, daring heroes, and heart-pounding twists. Buckle up – it's going to be an exciting journey!

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 we 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.

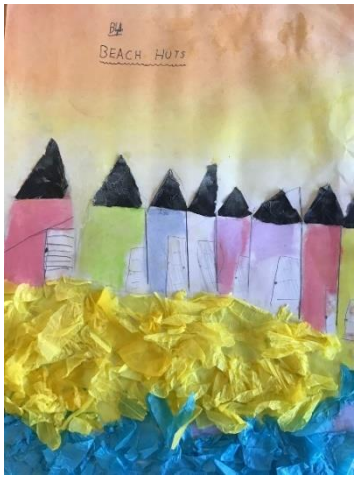
Year 6 children have also learnt how to use formal persuasive language in a letter to Mrs Irving in order to apply for a Year 6 job which will involve the increased level of responsibility that we expect to see them developing as they get closer to moving on to secondary school.

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. We 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 10,000,000 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! The children thoroughly enjoyed carrying out an investigation on how water moves around the body. To do this experiment, they placed jelly snakes in three different types of liquid: plain water, salty water and very salty water. They found out that water will always travel to where hydration is needed.

In art, year 6 were lucky enough to take part in a virtual gallery visit and enjoy an 'Art Adventure'. Artist Sarah Graham led us on a virtual visit to discover artworks in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, and The New Art Gallery Walsall. The children explored the artworks and made their own observations about what they saw. Afterwards, the children thoroughly enjoyed creating collages to celebrate the place where they live, taking inspiration from the artworks they had discovered.



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, they 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, they 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'.

Year 6 class text will be 'The Last Wild' by Piers Torday. This is a captivating animal adventure text which contains some serious messages about human behaviour and human impact on the environment and what we can do to be good stewards of the planet.

Reading for pleasure

As a school, we always promote 'reading for pleasure'. Key Stage 1 took part in a 'reading for pleasure' workshop led by Little Angel Theatre Company. The actors brought the Julia Donaldson story 'Charlie Cook's Favourite Book' to life and the children participated in drama activities based on the pirate scene in the story. The children (and teachers!) became pirates, walked the plank and even created their own sea creature puppets using everyday objects including plastic bags for jellyfish as well as socks and colanders for turtles. It was amazing to see how one page spread from a book can inspire so much creativity, imagination and language development. The theatre gifted each class a copy of the story which they have enjoyed reading in class.

Key Stage 2 also had a great assembly on 'reading for pleasure'. They talked about different genres and authors and even judged some books by their covers. Some of the Year 6 children shared their favourite books and as a result, we are now looking forward to our book club sessions starting again. These are a great opportunity for children to discuss and even recommend their favourite books to their class.

Clubs

This half term the children, across school, enjoyed participating in a range of extra-curricular clubs these ranged from dance club in key stage 1 to tag rugby in key stage 2.

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

Reception

Christmas craft club – Wednesday lunchtime

KS1

Drawing Club – Monday 3.20 – 4.15pm

STEM club – Monday 3.20 – 4.15pm

Christmas choir club – Thursday 3.20 – 4.15pm

KS2

Story Club – Tuesday 3.30 – 4.20pm

Lego STEM club (years 4, 5, 6) - Tuesday 3.30 – 4.20pm

Sign Language Club – Tuesday 3.30 – 4.20pm

Christmas choir club – Thursday 3.20 – 4.15pm

Dodgeball - Monday 3.30 – 4.20pm

Football (Years 3, 4) - Tuesday 3.30 – 4.20pm

Parents Evening

There will be a parent's consultation evening on Wednesday 27th November. Further information to follow

Attendance

Excellent attendance promotes excellent learning. Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. Good attendance maximises the daily opportunities we, as a school, provide and helps children become emotionally resilient, confident and competent adults who are able to achieve their goals and aspirations and make a positive contribution to their community. We don't want any child to be disadvantaged by poor attendance, therefore we will work with families and aim to identify the reasons for poor attendance at the earliest opportunity and try to resolve any difficulties and offer support where necessary.

You will know that penalty notices have changed across the country and we are working with parents and the Education Welfare team to ensure new changes are implemented smoothly. Please do get in contact if you have any questions/queries regarding the new attendance rules.

See attached poster outlining key changes.

Statutory Assessment – Key dates

Week commencing 9th June: Year 1 phonic check

Week commencing 2th June for 2 weeks: Y4 multiplication check

Week commencing 12th May: Year 6 SATs

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

Voluntary contributions for trips

As you will know at Horton Grange we work hard to provide children with a wide rich set of experience, through clubs, visits and residential. School always supplements these trips from school funds. This means the price set for a voluntary contribution is always less than the cost of the actual trip. School does this because we know how valuable these are to children. In recent years, the cost of transport has significantly increased. I would like to thank all the parents who pay their voluntary contribution and would appreciate your support in continuing to do this. With increasing costs, without voluntary contributions we may not be able to continue provide these experiences going forward.

OPAL – GOLD AWARD

The children continue to enjoy their OPAL playtimes and have enjoyed new activities this half term such as pallet and crate construction, a new mud kitchen on the field and water play in Key Stage 1. We have been developing OPAL for the past two years and have recently been assessed on how play has been transformed here at Horton Grange. Our OPAL mentor was very impressed with our play offer when she visited, and was delighted to tell us that we have been awarded a GOLD award! This means that every child has an amazing playtime every day. It also means that playtimes at Horton Grange are inclusive, joyful and provide a wonderful variety of types of play. The work and development around OPAL will continue and we have lots of plans for the coming year so watch this space!

School council

The School council has got off to a fantastic and busy start. As well as fortnightly meetings where they share any suggestions from their classes they have also:

- held an assembly, introducing themselves to the school.
- supported the Macmillin coffee morning, baking and selling treats for this wonderful cause.
- promoted the ASDA cashpot and will help decide how we spend the money we receive.
- helped to decide what food will go on the school lunch menu

With much more to come from this wonderful team, watch this space.

Anti-Bullying Week 2024

Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will take place from **Monday 11th - Friday 15th November** with the theme 'Choose Respect'. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes

RE

This year we have made some exciting updates to our school RE curriculum. Children across all year groups will now get the chance to visit different places of worship across their time in primary school. The year group visits will be as follows:

Year 1: Church visit

Year 2: Church visit

Year 3: Synagogue visit

Year 4: Church visit

Year 5: Mosque visit

Year 6: Hindu temple visit

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.

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 4th November	Parent Drop-in
Tuesday 5th November	Year 3 Enterprise Day
Wednesday 6th November	Year 4 Enterprise Day
Wednesday 13th November	School photos
Thursday 14th November	Reception Maths Parent Workshop 2pm
Monday 18th November	Road Safety Week
Monday 18th November	Year 5 Mosque Visit 10am – 12pm
Wednesday 20th November	Reception library visit
Thursday 21st November	Year 1 St Pauls Church visit
Thursday 21st November	Year 3 Skipping Festival
Friday 22nd November	Year 4 Blyth River walk
Tuesday 26th November	Year 3 trip to Blyth
Wednesday 27th November	Year 3 trip to Blyth
Wednesday 27th November	Parent Consultation Evening
Monday 2nd December	Parent Drop-in
Tuesday 3rd December	Reception – Seven Stories (in school)
Wednesday 4th December	Rocksteady Performance
Thursday 5th December	Year 2 Christmas Choir Club visit to South Bebside Care Home 1:15pm – 2:30pm
Tuesday 10th December	Nursery Christmas Production 9:30am & 2:15pm
Wednesday 11th December	Year 1 Christmas Production 9:30am & 2:15pm
Thursday 12th December	Flu Immunisations
Thursday 12th December	Year 2 Christmas Productions 9:30am & 2:15pm
Friday 13th December	Reception Christmas Productions 9:30am & 2:15pm
Monday 16th December	Year 1 Christmas Party Year 3 Christmas Service
Tuesday 17th December	Year 2 Christmas Party Year 5 & 6 Christmas Service
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Lunch Day 2 Year Olds Stay & Play Nursery Christmas Party Reception Christmas Party Year 4 Christmas Service
Thursday 19th December	KS2 Christmas Parties
Friday 20th December	Christmas Jumper Day / Panto School Closes 2pm