

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Dear Parents and Friends

Well here we are at the end of the Spring term and about to embark on the start of the long Summer term. I am sure you agree, it is lovely, at last, to be experiencing lighter nights once again. This newsletter will give you a flavour of what has been happening at Horton Grange over the past half term as well what is to come in the Summer term. We are extremely proud of the provision here for your children and would like to ask that you continue in your support for school. When parents and school work together we know that is it your children that truly benefit.



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

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

SHARING OUR LEARNING

2 Year olds

The two-year-olds have had a great half term in the run up to Easter. The children spent more time outdoors enjoying the sunshine. They demonstrated their physical skills using the bikes on the nursery yard. They have also enjoyed playing with the bats and balls, initiating games with each other.

The children have explored in the sand pit and have used this opportunity for filling and emptying containers and using language of capacity.

They have enjoyed lots of mark making activities, supporting 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.



Adult led activities have encouraged the children to settle at an activity for longer. This also developed their listening skills whilst following simple instructions.

The children have had opportunities to join others in their play in the small world area. They extended their play, whilst making links to their own experiences.

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

Next half term, the staff will be welcoming new starters into the setting and they are looking forward to meeting them. The two-year-olds will be making the most of the finer weather with lots more outdoor opportunities. The children will be accessing the larger play equipment to



support the children to develop their larger movements. There will be more weekly cooking/food activities to support fine motor development, following instructions and making choices. The children will have lots of messy play, where they can use all of their senses to explore.

There will be a focus on maths, matching games, shape sorting and stacking rings in size order. They will be encouraged to keep trying and to enjoy achieving what they set out to do.

The following stories will continue to be enjoyed in two-year-olds:

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

Finally, could you ensure that your child has spare clothing each day in case they need to be changed for any reason. Also, if your child is toilet training, could you please provide plenty of spare clothing, including socks.

Nursery

This half term in Nursery, the topic has been *Traditional Tales*, and what a magical journey it has been! The children have fully immersed themselves in much-loved stories such as *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Gingerbread Man*, and *Chicken Licken*. Through these stories, the children have explored lots of new and exciting vocabulary, helping to build the children's language and understanding.

Nursery children didn't just read stories— they became storytellers themselves! Using the Tales Toolkit structure, the children created their own imaginative tales, full of wonderful characters and adventures.

Inspired by *The Gingerbread Man*, they also turned into bakers and made their very own gingerbread men... thankfully, none of them ran away!

One of the most egg-citing moments this half term was the arrival of some very special eggs. The children watched in awe as the eggs hatched and chicks began to emerge. They made fantastic observations about what they could see and were even able to hold the chicks, learning how to care for them gently and responsibly.



It has truly been a half term full of wonder, excitement, and imagination. Staff can't wait to see what adventures next half term will bring!

Next half term, the Nursery topic will be *Growing*, and staff are excited for another wonderful learning journey! The children will explore how things grow and change over time, including both plants and themselves. This will help them begin to understand the world around them and how living things develop.

The children will have the opportunity to plant their own seeds and watch them grow, learning first-hand what plants need to thrive. The children will also explore a variety of plants, discovering which ones grow from seeds and which grow from bulbs, along with many other fascinating facts.

Some of the core books for this topic will be *Jasper's Beanstalk* and *Oliver's Vegetables*, which will inspire lots of discussion, storytelling, and hands-on learning.

Summer 1 looks to be full of curiosity, discovery, and growth!

Reception

The children have loved the topic Down on The Farm, the highlights have been visiting Tweddle Farm and watching the ducklings hatch and develop. When they visited the farm, the children took part in some amazing activities such as a tractor tour of the farm, a barrel ride and the opportunity to handle and feed the farm animals including: goats, calves, sheep, lambs, rabbits and chicks! Over the last few weeks, everyone has learned about the life cycle of ducks

while watching the eggs hatch and the ducklings emerge. Everyone has grown very attached to the ducklings; Donald and Daisy, and they were sad to say goodbye!



Learning the story of The Little Red Hen has been another highlight this half term; the children have thoroughly engaged in learning the actions, retelling the story, drawing story maps and innovating the story to create their own adaptation! The children showed off their baking skills when they made their very own bread, the children waited patiently for the bread to rise and enjoyed eating their finished product!



Next half-term, Reception will be putting down roots and spreading their leaves as they blossom into little gardeners with the topic From Tiny Seeds to Plants with Leaves.

Every child will get the chance to plant a seed and watch it grow. They will refresh their outdoor area by planting and getting the chance to watch their handiwork develop, as the days lengthen, and become warmer. The author to be explored in greater depth is Mick Inkpen. The children will learn more about their responsibilities towards the world as they learn about recycling. They will also practise their physical skills as we begin to get ready for sports day!

Jack and the Beanstalk by Mara Alperin will be the end of day story. After reading the story, the children will plant their own beans to observe over the following few weeks!

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 enjoyed reading lots of new texts in their English lessons. They found out about the features of non-fiction texts and used their knowledge from science lessons to write a fact file about spring. They really impressed their teachers and their friends when they read out their brilliant facts to the class. In maths, the children have continued counting in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's and have

started to learn number bonds to 20. They have been adding and subtracting within 20 and have completed addition and subtraction calculations and some word problems. The children used their knowledge of subtraction to find the difference and they can now solve missing number calculations, which were tricky!



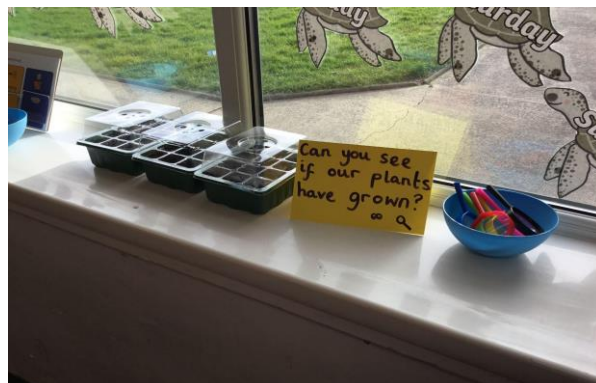
In DT, the children demonstrated wonderful creativity as they researched, designed, and made their own puppets. They developed their cutting skills, carefully cutting out their own puppets before sewing. They were so excited to see their ideas come to life. They worked incredibly hard



throughout the process and felt a great sense of pride in their finished creations. I think some of the Year 1 children may be choosing design or textiles to study at high school!

In geography, the children explored the countries and capital cities of the UK. They developed their fieldwork skills by “travelling” to different locations across the UK, with highlights including visits to Buckingham Palace and the London Eye. Be sure to ask them about the famous landmarks of London—they have lots to share!

In science, the children further developed their understanding of materials. They had fun investigating which materials were transparent, translucent and opaque. They also thought about the seasons and found out about the changes that happen in Spring. During British Science Week, the children explored the question, “What do plants need to grow?” They were able to identify the key things plants require and planted their own sunflower seeds. They have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow and have been excited to see the changes each day!



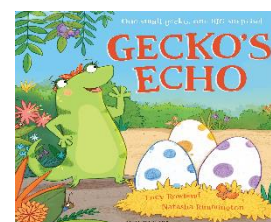
Next half term, in English, the children will be continuing to explore lots of different stories, poems and non-fiction texts to help them to improve their writing even further.

In maths, the children will further develop their understanding of place value, exploring numbers to 50. They will partition numbers into tens and ones and will practise ordering and comparing numbers. The children will continue to practise their number bonds to 10 and 20 as well practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. They love playing ‘Hit the Button’ to practise these skills. Thank you for continuing to play Numbots at home, this is really helping with their fluency.

In science, the children will be learning about the parts of plants and trees and will be visiting the Rising Sun Country Park to support this. In Art, they will be learning about sculptures and using natural materials to create their own in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.

Please continue to read with your child at home. Children who read four times at home in a week can *go green for a custard cream!* Reading folders should be in school every day. Please return school library books so the children can swap them. Thank you for your support.

The Year 1 children will be reading and reviewing various stories about animals at 3.00pm each day



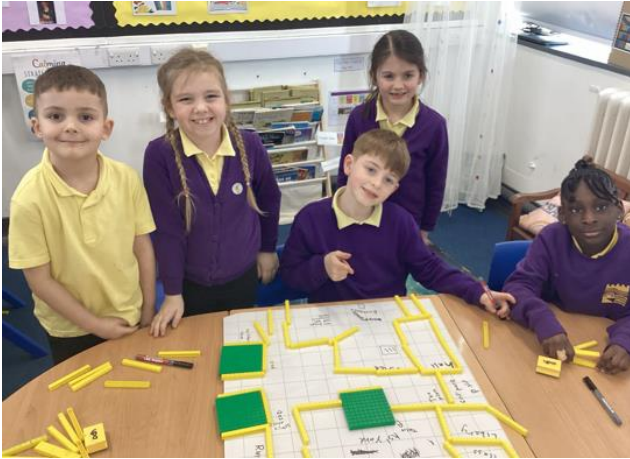
Year 2

Spring is finally here and what a brilliant half term Year 2 have had! In English, the children have read the text *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram. They designed and described their own awesome aliens. They then took an imaginary trip to the Moon in a rocket! They wrote their own postcard about the visit. The children really enjoyed writing these and had some fantastic ideas. They also enjoyed designing and making their own moon buggy as part of this writing unit. They had to ensure their buggy was sturdy, strong and most importantly be alien proof! The children have also written recounts of their visit to the church.

This term in maths, the children have developed their understanding of multiplication and division and are getting more confident being able to problem solve. They showed excellent team work when sorting objects into groups during this topic. Year 2 have also worked hard to complete our length and height unit, demonstrating their ability to measure in centimetres and metres. The children



have had a go at using rulers and metre rulers to measure different objects. They now know that metres are bigger than centimetres. Staff would also like to say, well done and thank you to the children who have been accessing NUMBOTS at home.



In geography, the children have been developing their map skills. They worked as a team to make a map of their school and they realised just how big Horton Grange is! The children then completed some fieldwork on the KS1 yard. They had to answer the following enquiry question - How can we improve our OPAL playtimes? They came up with some brilliant ideas. Watch out for some of these appearing on the KS1 yard next half term. They then went further afield and explored their own local area. They looked at their nearest city, Newcastle. They named several local landmarks and found out some interesting facts about them.

In science, children continued to develop their understanding of habitats. The children then moved further afield and have been learning all about a range of worldwide habitats such as the polar habitat and the rainforest. They confidently identified the plants and animals that live there and depend upon each other. They also looked closely at food chains within each habitat and identified microhabitats. They are now certainly animal experts! Throughout the topic, the children were super curious and asked lots of questions about different animals and habitats. We were particularly interested in learning more about killer whales!

As part of their PE unit, they also attended Blyth Academy for the Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival. They worked on balance, agility, co-ordination and stamina. Go Team Horton!

In RE, Year 2 enjoyed a visit to St Paul's Church in Whitley Bay. They asked some excellent questions to deepen their understanding of the Easter story and how Christians celebrate Easter

Next half term, in literacy, children will be revising all of the spelling, punctuation and grammar taught so far and will be applying this to new pieces of writing. They will be writing instructions for a variety of different purposes. They will also be writing their own adventure stories.



In maths, children will develop their understanding of fractions and will develop their understanding of time. They will also revise arithmetic strategies taught so far. Children should continue to use the following websites to develop fluency in basic maths skills. NUMBOTS (Children have password) <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> HIT THE BUTTON (No password needed) <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Maths-games/hit-the-button>.

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

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

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

Year 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their learning this term. In literacy, they built on their history topic and their visit to the Great North Museum, by writing a non-chronological report all about the Ancient Egyptians, demonstrating their growing knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject. They also wrote a legend based on *Chang and the Magic Paintbrush*, focusing on using up levelled vocabulary and accurately using and punctuating direct speech.

In **maths**, children have completed their learning on multiplication and division. Year 3 were introduced to the formal method of short multiplication and looked at the difference between grouping and sharing in division. The children then moved on to learning about length and perimeter, measuring lots of everyday items and converting between cm, mm and m. At the end of the term, they began to explore fractions, learning about numerators and denominators.



Year 3 have loved learning about volcanoes and earthquakes in geography. They learned about the different layers of the Earth, how volcanoes and earthquakes occur and the various types of volcanoes around the world. The children identified the tectonic plates on a world map and discovered that there is an overlap with where volcanoes and earthquakes happen. We don't think they will fancy a holiday anywhere near the ring of fire anytime soon!

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

In DT, the children designed and created shadoofs (an Egyptian device for taking water from a river). First, they measured the material and then cut the lengths accurately. They loved testing different materials and joining techniques during construction and were very pleased with their results.



In PE, Year 3 have had an introduction to two different invasion games, hockey and tag rugby, which let them develop their dexterity and team work.

This half term, the children also began learning the **ukulele** for the first time. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring this new instrument, learning basic chords and rhythms, and developing their confidence in playing and performing together. They have learned the rock classic, Smoke on the Water.



Next half term in literacy, Year 3 will be focussing on myths, writing their own adaptations of the myth How birds got bright feathers. Following our trip to Berwick at the start of the half-term they will be writing a recount of their

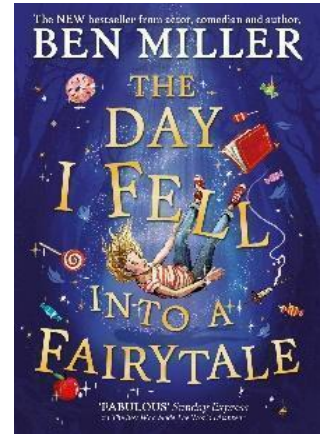
experiences.

In maths, Year 3 will be continuing to learn all about fractions, moving on to finding fractions of amounts; equivalent fractions and finally adding and subtracting fractions.

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

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

For the end of the day texts, Year 3 will start *The day I fell into a fairy tale* by Ben Miller. The story is about a young girl, Lana who loves stories. Especially the ones she and her brother, Harrison, share in their make-believe games. But when Harrison decides he's too grown-up to play with Lana she finds herself feeling lonely. Until something magical happens . . . hidden in the strange new supermarket in town, Lana discovers a portal to a fairy tale world! But these aren't the happy-ever-after fairy tales that Lana knows, they are darker and more dangerous, and the characters need Lana's help to defeat an evil witch.



Year 4

This half term, Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their science topic on electricity. The children explored how to build simple circuits using bulbs, wires and switches, showing a range of scientific enquiry skills as they experimented with different ways of making their circuits work. As part of their learning, they carried out an investigation to discover which materials were the best electrical conductors, making predictions, testing ideas and discussing their results.

Linked to their science topic, Year 4 designed and created their own buzz wire games in DT. This hands-on project allowed the children to develop practical skills, including carefully measuring and cutting wood using junior hacksaws to build a sturdy frame. They demonstrated excellent focus and responsibility while working safely with tools. Once their frames were complete, the children assembled their electrical circuits and shaped their metal wires, thinking creatively about how to make their games both challenging and fun. A definite highlight for everyone was testing and evaluating each other's games—there was lots of excitement and friendly competition!

In English, the children produced some fantastic mystery stories. They used expanded noun phrases and carefully chosen, suspenseful vocabulary to build atmosphere and keep the reader guessing, showing great imagination and creativity in their writing.

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Arbeia Roman Fort, where they brought their history learning to life. The children explored the fort and learned about what life was like for Roman soldiers, including how they lived, worked, and protected the settlement.

A highlight of the day was taking part in the *Time Quest archaeology activity*. Pupils became mini archaeologists, carefully excavating artefacts and using clues to learn more about Roman life.



The children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity, and excellent behaviour throughout the visit, making it an enjoyable and memorable experience for all

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

In English, Year 4 will read *Cliffhanger* by Jacqueline Wilson to link with the upcoming residential visit in Summer 2.

Year 5

This half term in literacy, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring *The London Eye Mystery*, following Ted and Kat on their journey around the capital as they worked to solve the mystery of their missing cousin. Inspired by the novel, the children planned and wrote their own mystery stories, incorporating suspense and exciting plot twists to engage their readers. Towards the end of the term, they produced informative reports about London, focusing on its human

features and including a range of fascinating facts and information. The children also developed their speaking and listening skills by presenting their reports confidently to the class.

In maths, the children have continued to build their understanding of fractions and decimals, developing confidence when working with numbers in different forms. They explored decimal numbers in greater depth, including tenths, hundredths and thousandths, and practised reading, writing and ordering decimal values. The children learned how to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages, using both practical representations and written methods to support their understanding. They also applied these skills to problem-solving activities and real-life contexts to deepen their mathematical reasoning. Alongside this, the children have continued to strengthen their times table fluency, focusing on speed and accuracy when recalling multiplication and division facts. Regular practice on TT Rockstars remains extremely beneficial in supporting their progress and confidence in this area.

In science, the children learned about different types of forces, including gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. They carried out a range of investigations, such as exploring which materials would be most suitable for creating a dance floor, identifying the most effective parachute designs and testing which liquids create the greatest water resistance. Later in the term, they explored how gears, pulleys and levers can change the effects of forces and investigated how these mechanisms are used in everyday machines.

In the first week of this half term, Year 5 were visited by paramedics and took part in an exciting, hands-on learning experience. The children learnt life-saving skills such as CPR and how to dress different types of wounds, and showed great maturity when discussing how to respond in emergencies. They also explored the ambulance, learnt about its equipment and features, and some even had the chance to sit in the front and pretend to drive! It was a memorable start to the half term and helped the children understand the importance of helping others in an emergency.



In geography, the children have been studying London and comparing it with Blyth, developing both their map-reading and research skills.

The highlight of this half term for Year 5, was the residential to London; an exciting city adventure filled with unforgettable experiences. The children went on the London Eye, where they enjoyed incredible views across the city skyline and spotted many famous landmarks from above. They visited Buckingham Palace to watch the Changing of the Guard, which was fascinating to see. They watched Matilda in the theatre, which was brilliant and full of energy, music and laughter. Another highlight was the opportunity to explore the Natural History Museum, where they enjoyed amazing exhibits and discovered so many interesting facts together. Special memories were created, new experiences ventures as the children enjoyed everything the capital city has to offer. You can see much more on this experience on the school Facebook page.



Next half term, Year 5 children will continue to develop their reading and writing skills across a wide range of genres in literacy. They will explore historical fiction through the class text *Cogheart*, using it as inspiration for descriptive writing, character development and narrative structure. Pupils will also study play scripts, learning how dialogue and stage directions are used to convey action and emotion, before moving on to film narratives where they will analyse how stories are presented visually and adapt their own writing for different audiences and purposes. A continued focus will be placed on spelling, punctuation and grammar, alongside opportunities for editing and improving their work.

In maths, the children will deepen their understanding of fractions and decimals, including comparing, ordering and solving multi-step problems involving these concepts. They will then move on to learning about perimeter and area, applying their knowledge through practical and reasoning activities, before beginning a unit on statistics where they will interpret and present data using charts, tables and graphs. Emphasis will be placed on mathematical reasoning and explaining methods clearly.

In history, pupils will revisit previously studied historical periods as they investigate the theme of Crime and Punishment over time. They will explore how laws, justice systems and consequences have changed from ancient civilisations through to modern Britain, considering how attitudes towards crime have evolved and what this tells us about society in different eras. Children will analyse historical sources, discuss fairness and justice, and develop their enquiry skills through discussion and research activities.

In science, the children will learn about the life cycles of different animal groups, including mammals, amphibians, insects and birds, and will explore how both plants and animals reproduce. They will compare similarities and differences between life cycles and understand the role reproduction plays in the survival of species. As an exciting hands-on experience, pupils will observe the complete life cycle of a butterfly in the classroom, studying metamorphosis in detail from caterpillar to chrysalis and finally to butterfly. They will record observations, make predictions and discuss scientific changes before releasing the butterflies into the wild on our school field.

Year 5 will be reading *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl. Mayhem and mystery meet in this gripping Victorian adventure, which follows the story of Lily, a young girl who finds herself at the centre of danger after her inventor father disappears. Set in a fascinating world of clockwork machines and mechanical animals, the novel combines elements of historical fiction, science fiction and adventure.

Through the text, pupils will explore key themes such as friendship, courage, loyalty and perseverance, while developing their skills in prediction, inference and comprehension. The story will provide rich opportunities for discussion about the Victorian era, inventions and technological change, helping children to deepen their understanding of the historical setting. Pupils will also use the novel as inspiration for their own writing, including descriptive narratives, character viewpoints and suspenseful scenes.

Year 6

It has been another enjoyable and very busy half term for Year 6 and it is now very close to the SATs which begin on Monday 12 May. The children have already been working incredibly hard for their upcoming tests and we are very proud of them.

This term in geography, the children have been learning about the wider world, with a focus on North and Central America. They have used Google Earth to explore countries and cities through virtual fieldwork, also building on their previous learning about South America and the Aztecs in Year 5. They have compared the human and physical features of the Mountainous West in North America with the Lake District, using key vocabulary such as “mountain range,” “arid,” and “plain.” The children have also learned about latitude and longitude, including the Greenwich Meridian, and explored how time zones work. They now understand why time differs around the world and can use maps to work out the time in different countries. The children have worked hard to develop their map skills and confidence in describing and comparing different parts of the world.

In science, the children have been investigating and making a range of electrical circuits and learning the appropriate scientific symbols for each component. They worked scientifically by planning a range of enquiries, recognising and comparing variables, taking measurements and reporting and presenting findings. The children explored enquiry questions such as: ‘Does the number of batteries/voltage of batteries affect the brightness of a bulb in a circuit?’ and ‘How do parallel and series circuits compare?’

In DT, Year 6 have looked at mechanical systems involving gears and pulleys. The children were given a brief of designing, making and evaluating a product that will support the mining industry. The children were very successful in making a pulley system that could be used to transport coal up a mine shaft. During the topic the children recapped their previous learning about mining in the North East and examined products that have been developed throughout history to support the mining industry. The children produced designs that included annotated sketches, cross-sectional planning, diagrams and prototypes before making their product and they worked on skills such as accurately measuring, marking out, and cutting using a hacksaw.





The children have worked hard on writing clear and effective instructions in English. They have produced excellent pieces of work, presented them beautifully and with great care. The children have successfully included key features such as imperative verbs (bossy verbs) to give clear commands, and prepositional phrases to add detail and precision. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they organise their ideas and write for a clear purpose.

It was lovely to see the children enjoying a biscuit and a book alongside their parents. The atmosphere was great, with everyone sharing stories and spending quality time reading together. It was

especially pleasing to see such enthusiasm for books, as the session helped to promote a real love of reading. Thank you for joining us!

Next half term, Year 6 will be studying the history of human rights and changes over time; we will be looking specifically at the life of Emily Wilding Davison (a suffragette who is buried nearby in Morpeth) and the civil rights movement in the USA. We will also look at the work of William Wilberforce and the abolition of slavery.

In science, the children will learn about the classification of all living things and the characteristics of animals, plants and microorganisms. The children will learn about a very famous taxonomist called Carl Linnaeus who came up with a way of classifying animals into groups. They will be working scientifically and will answer our enquiry question 'How much mould develops on bread over a week?'

Sculpture will be the focus in art with the children learning about the work of Max Ernst and the Dadaism movement in art. The children will use mod roc to construct a sculpture and will use and understand effective joining techniques to make their own solid 3d sculpture.

In RE the children will explore the key question 'For Christians, what kind of king is Jesus?' They will relate the Christian 'kingdom of God' model (i.e. loving others, serving the needy) to issues, problems and opportunities in the world today and articulate their own responses to the idea of the importance of love and service in the world today.

Year 6 will be reading Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah. This story follows the journey of a young boy eager to find shelter from his war-torn homeland

SEND

Parents are regularly contacting school asking for a call from Miss Middleton on the same day. I would like to ask that parents understand staff have scheduled commitments each day, teaching or otherwise, and this is not always possible. To help alleviate this, school will be trialling a drop-in session for parents and carers of children with SEND after the Easter break. The trial period will be between Tuesday 21 April and Tuesday 5 May. This means Miss Middleton will be available from between 2 and 3 o'clock on these dates to offer a one-to-one session to any parents/carers for around ten minutes. Should you wish to take up this opportunity, you do not need to make an appointment, you just need to turn up and report to the main reception. You will be seen on a first come first served basis. The senior leadership team will review this approach and if it is successful it will continue. Please be mindful that if you contact school to speak to Miss Middleton you may be directed to attend this session in the first instance.

Pupil passports will be sent out to parents the first week back after Easter. They will show your children's progress towards their targets and their next steps. If you want to discuss these at any point, please chat with the class teacher in the first instance or come to the Tuesday drop-in sessions.



Clubs

Taking part in extra clubs helps children develop important social skills. They learn how to work as part of a team, communicate effectively, and form friendships with peers who share similar interests. These experiences can be especially valuable for building self-esteem and a sense of belonging within the school community.

Clubs also encourage independence and resilience. Whether learning a new sport, developing creative skills, or solving problems in a group setting, children are given the chance to try new things, make mistakes, and grow from them. This supports a positive attitude towards learning and helps children become more adaptable and confident individuals.

Why not sign your child up for a club Summer 1. The following is available and will begin in week 2:

Reception

Drawing Club

Art Club

Key stage 1

Drawing skills

Lego Club

Dance Club

Key stage 2

Baking Club

Athletics Club

Football Club

Team Sports Club

French Food and Games Club

Drama Club

Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with attendance. This half term we introduced our Early Bird Easter Draw. All the children, who arrived on time, were entered into a daily draw to win Easter Prizes. It is vital that children attend school on time to avoid missed learning and this has been a great incentive to promote this. Well-done to everyone who arrived on time and received a prize.

Next half term we will be introducing some Attendance Ambassadors who will work closely with class teachers to monitor attendance and introduce their own project, Friday Freddos! Watch this space for more information.



Some attendance reminders

Holidays will not be authorised in term time and will affect your child's attendance. Please avoid booking holidays or appointments (where possible) in school hours.

Please contact June Hewes via the school office should you require information or support regarding attendance.

Rewards

This half term, Mrs Carr has continued to run Always Club, celebrating children who follow our Horton Values consistently. We will be looking at ways to share this success with you over Summer term.

School Council

Over the rest of this year, the school council focus will be using the school council to support our local community. This has started with the oldest members (Y5 and Y6) litter picking on the school field to support its opening and will develop to support our local community, inside and outside of our school. They look forward to seeing their achievements.

OPAL

Now the weather has started to warm up, children across all key stages are enjoying more OPAL equipment and have been able to start to use the field again. School have had some fantastic donations recently and are planning on opening a construction area in the Key Stage 2 yard, and expanding our mud kitchen in Key Stage 1 with some kitchen equipment. Children have loved using the donated keyboards and phones. Look out for our requests for donations on Facebook and through text messages - we would be very grateful for all you can donate!

Health & Safety

Just a reminder that cars cannot come on site unless you have an official disabled badge or other exceptional circumstances which are pre-agreed with school. Also thank you for your patience while we have had solar panels fitted to the school roof. Work will also be starting over the Easter holidays to repair the ramp to the Year 5 door. Please continue to be vigilant when supervising your children on site before and after school.

Safeguarding – Premises

In line with the school safeguarding systems school must now prepare for lockdowns and complete a regular drill as we do fire drills. This will take place in the Summer Term.

Best wishes

Mrs Nichola Irving

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Please note whilst we endeavour to stick to these dates occasionally amendments have to be made in response to other events in school, which are often out of our control. However, if you are unable to make an event, please contact school and we will discuss how the information can be shared in an alternative way.

Monday 20 th April	School Returns Year 3 Berwick Residential Trip
Tuesday 21 st April	Year 3 Berwick Residential Trip
Wednesday 22 nd April	Year 3 Berwick Residential Trip
MAY DAY Monday 4th May	School Closed
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs
Wednesday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs 10.45am Nursery Biscuit and a Book 2.30pm Nursery Biscuit and a Book
Friday 15 th May	2.30pm Reception Biscuit and a Book
Thursday 21 st May	9.15am-2.30pm Year 1 Rising Sun Trip
Friday 22 nd May	Teacher Training Day – School Closed
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	School Closed for Summer mid-term holiday