

Head of School Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2015

Welcome to the start of our summer term. I hope you had a wonderful Easter and didn't have to be subjected to too many Easter eggs! Thankfully, there was some sunshine, I hope you were able to make the most of it whether it was with your first barbecue, a bit of gardening or even a bike ride.

Due to various letters being sent out in the last week I decided to postpone this newsletter for the start of term and this will be its regular issue slot from now on.

Please, please refer to the calendar of events at the back of this newsletter as it has all our forthcoming events.

Assemblies - Please see the table below which outlines the themes we have discussed this half term...

Date	Title	Aims	Religious and citizenship links	British Fundamental Values
Monday 2 nd March	Comic Relief	To learn about the importance of charity and understand that they can make a positive difference to other people's lives through their own efforts.	To think about and care for others.	To engage pupils in activities to help their local community.
Monday 9 th March	Eco School Launch	To learn about the importance of charity and understand that they can make a positive difference to other people's lives through their own efforts.	To think about and care for others.	To engage pupils in activities to help their school and community.
Monday 16 th March	A day for special people	To celebrate all mothers, even if they are not our birth mothers.	To promote respect for individual differences.	To promote fundamental British values of respect for and tolerance of different faith and religious and other beliefs. To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
Monday 23 rd March	Easter bunnies	To learn how traditions have evolved. To learn to consider others before thinking of yourself.	To help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. To think about and care for others.	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
Wednesday 25 th March	Easter Service - led by Revd. A Stobart	To learn about how Christians celebrate Easter through stories, songs and prayer.	To help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

PTA - Thank you to those of you who supported the 'Rags2Riches' clothes collection it raised £157.62. The PTA will be running this initiative in the summer term, so keep collecting!

Thank you all for supporting the Easter Fair. The children had a wonderful time decorating their eggs and the Easter bonnets were amazing. We raised over £350, not bad in five weeks!

Easter egg winners:

Foundation: 1-Iris Lawley, 2-Olivia Murray, 3-Harry Ward
 Year 1: 1-Max Anderson, 2-Jensen Barnes, 3-Isobel Dryden
 Year 2: 1-Thomas Graham, 2-Fin Scarr, 3-Sam Hatch
 Year 3: 1-Jessie Walker, 2-James Wilson, 3-James Horniman
 Year 4: 1-Harry Johnson, 2-Gracie Dye, 3-Freddie Walker
 Year 5: 1-Betsy Hurst, 2-Leah Ward, 3-Maisie Penteney
 Year 6: 1-Katie Mullen, 2-Louis Stockdale, 3-Joe Clendenning

Yorkshire Sculpture Park - The school had a wonderful visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The children were a credit to the school. Members of the public had even commented on this to certain classes and the artists conducting the workshops said how much they enjoyed working with our children. **A huge thank you to all our parent helpers who, in some cases, stepped in at the last minute.**

Here are extracts from writing from the Year 4 children:

A man called Gary took us to do our workshop. He took us around and explained the sculptures, which were amazing, and told us their stories. Amazed, I focused on how I would feel if I was in one of the stories. **Eve Banham**

First, we walked to a bird house area, then a sketch area where we carved our initials. After that, we learnt a story about a fireplace which was very interesting. As well there was the Totem Pole, glittery, multi-coloured octopus, Day and Night sculpture, weird silvery sculpture, landscape trees, galloping horse, naked rabbit, 10 chairs and sound room. We all learnt a lot. **Emma Hughes**

My favourite sculpture was the killer whale sculpture which had an amazing story. **Freddie Walker**

My favourite sculpture was a multi-coloured octopus. It glistened in the sunlight making beautiful patterns on the floor. **Lucy Ward**

It was fascinating and inspiring. It was a great day and I might even make my own. - **Jemima Boyle**

The bus Year 4 was on was posh, comfy and royal. **Grace Dye**

Next on the list we had to find the 10 Chairs. The sculpture was headless and it had no arms. The next sculpture was a digital galloping horse. The sculpture was three metres long and it did 120 strides in 1 minute. **Aaron Atkinson**

Some of the stories behind the sculptures were really fascinating. **Rebekah Turnbull**

My favourite sculpture was the big rabbit because it had things hidden in it. **Will Snowden**

My favourite sculpture was the eagle because they are brave like me. **Charlie Radmore**

It might inspire me in the future. **Derek Warwick**

I love Yorkshire Sculpture Park!!! **George Hall**

I had the best day ever at the sculpture park and I am hoping to go again with my family. **Hollie Slater**

It was a sculpturist day! - **Luke Ebdon**



Thank you - I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the children who were fantastic, the volunteers who gave up their time, the staff for all their planning and a very special thank you to Mrs Coates and the Arts and creativity team, Mrs Adamson and Miss Williams for organising a wonderful trip.



Hurworth Primary School Choir - Our wonderful choir successfully defended the Junior Class Singing Shield at Darlington Festival of Performing Arts. The judges praised their firm attack, dynamics and crisp staccato singing. Well done girls. We look forward to future events. Mrs Coates

Sporting achievements - Our swimming team made a real splash at the swimming gala this term scooping up many medals in various events - the school has never seen so much 'bling'. The high 5 team (Y5 and Y6 pupils) took part in the Darlington Schools Tournament and they came 5th out of over 18 schools. Our boys 5 a side took part in the county cup finals - hundreds of schools entered and we got to the final 4. An amazing achievement we finished 3rd overall in the County. The boys also played their first league fixture this week and were outstanding in a 4 nil victory over Rydal Academy. Our cross country runners from Y6, Y4 and Y3 will represent Darlington this week in Middlesbrough - another fantastic achievement. Our Y3 tennis team won their cluster competition at the Dolphin Centre and will now go to the Town finals this week - coached superbly by Mrs 'Navratilova' Coates. Some of our children were fortunate enough to be asked to attend an event at The Mowden Park Arena. The event was to try and break The Guinness World Record for number of children performing the New Zealand All Blacks version of the Haka. Over 5000 children from across the region took part in the event. We hope to hear from Mowden Park shortly if we broke the record. Next half-term we look forward to the Boys schools football cup competition as well as the high 5 league fixtures and boys football league fixtures. Thanks to all parents for your continued support and well done to all our sporting stars!!! Thank you, Mr Hollis

The boys' County Cup 5 Aside Team...



The rugby Stadium filled with over 5.000 pupils performing the Haka. Good luck spotting your child!



Year 3 Tennis - 8 Year 3 boys and girls were selected for a Tennis Tournament at the Dolphin Centre. The team have given up their lunchtimes to practise with Mrs Coates on our MUGA. They had an impressive win against other schools in Darlington and, as we went to press, competed against the other winning schools across the whole town. James Wilson, Jack Edwards-Almond, Charlie Hardcastle, Aaron Learoyd, Morgan and Ciara Johnson, Emilia Hallett, Anna Shield and Jessie Walker were wished the very the best of luck. It worked and I am delighted to announce they won. They will now compete in the regional championships. Well done to you all!

Extra-curricular activities - Please see the table of after school activities that are currently on offer:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Meeting place	Pick -up
Football			3.20 - 4.15			Hall	Delivery gates
Zumba			3.20 - 4.15			Hall	Reception
Let's Get Cooking				3.20 - 4.30		Science and Technology Room	Reception
Choir	3.20 - 4.00					Science Room	Reception
Street Dance		3.20 - 4.30				Hall	Reception
Film club					3.20 - 4.30	Hall	Reception
Gardening				3.20 - 4.30		Year 4	Reception
Music Theatre	3.20 - 4.20					Hall	Reception

Music Theatre - We are delighted to announce, the boys' Music theatre will start after the Easter break. The children are really looking forward to it and we look forward to uncovering some hidden talents!

Dates for your diary: School will reopen on Monday 13th April 2015

SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 13 TH APRIL			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 5 children	15.04.15 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ELECTION PURPOSES THURSDAY 7 TH MAY			
SATS Week	Year 6 children	11.05.15 – 15.05.15	5 days
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 22 ND MAY			
SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 1 ST JUNE			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 3 children	03.06.15 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Later Phase Residential	Y5 and Y6 children	03.06.15 – 05.06.15	3 days
September 2015 Foundation children Information Evening	2015 Foundation Parents	11.06.15	17.00 – 18.00
Class and Team Photos	Whole School	16.06.15	8.30 – 11.00
Y6 Transition Days to Hurworth Comprehensive	Y6 children	25.06.15 and 26.06.15	All Day
Induction mornings for 2015 Foundation children	2015 Foundation children	25.06.15 and 26.06.15	Morning until after lunch
Transition days for whole school	Whole school	25.06.15 and 26.06.15	All Day
Sports day	Whole school	03.07.15	All Day
Art Exhibition	Whole School	07.07.15	3.30 – 5.30
Musical Evening	Whole School Parents	08.07.15	18.00 – 19.30
Middle Phase Tennis Tournament	Middle Phase Parents	10.07.15	13.30 – 15.00
PTA – End of Term Disco	Whole School	10.07.15	15.00 – 17.00
End of Year Reports	Whole school	13.07.15	15.15
Later Phase Performance	Later Phase Parents	13.07.15	18.00 – 20.00
Later Phase Performance	Later Phase Parents	14.07.15	18.00 – 20.00
Y6 Leavers' Assembly	Later Phase Parents	16.07.15	09.30 – 10.30
PTA – Non Uniform Day	Whole School	17.07.15	All Day
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 17 TH JULY			

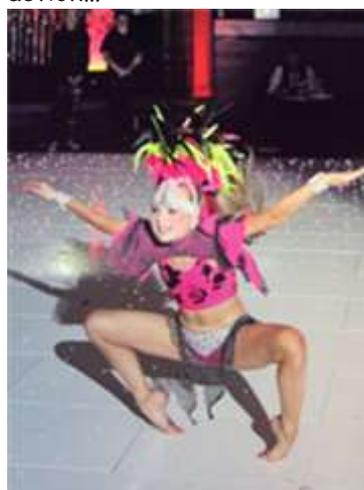
Please note that this calendar of events now contains some additional and removed dates.

We appreciate that this half term has been extremely busy and demanding for you, not just in terms of contributions but also time and preparation. To ensure that this does not happen again we are already planning dates so fundraising doesn't clash with national charities and school trips. Please accept our apologies if this has caused unnecessary stress.

Parking - Please, please can we ask you **NOT** to park in the school car park between the hours of **8.30 and 9.15 and 2.45 and 3.30**. Our car park is for staff only and for Little Acorns' parents who are dropping off their children. A member of staff's car has been bumped and our fear is that a child might get bumped. The last thing I want is to alienate you with this issue but ask that you appreciate how dangerous parking in a school car park is. Unfortunately, a child in another school was knocked down in a school car park and I do not want that to happen to your child. We are wanting to encourage as many of our children to walk, cycle or scoot to school and hope you will help the children to do this. We will be initiating some new schemes next term so watch this space.

Many thanks for your support.

Special Mention - Grace Lowe in Year 6 competed in Wales at the Quay West Championships and gained 1st and 2nd prize for her club. Here she is in action...



Amazing!

Don't forget - If your child has something they've achieved outside of school we'd love to hear about it.