

Head of School Newsletter

Spring Term 1 2015

Welcome - Belated 'Happy New Year'. Christmas seems in the dim and distant past but I hope you had a wonderful time and you and your family managed to enjoy the magic and sparkle without being infected by the many illnesses! This term has only been a short term but we have fitted a great deal in. I hope you enjoy reading all about it.

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 5th January	New Year's Resolutions	To think about the many resolutions that get made and how hard it is to keep them.	To help children to think of a positive way, that they could change.	To promote fundamental British values of individual liberty. To help pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour.
Monday 12 th January	New School rules	To show how rules at school and in life help us to grow and flourish.	To ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair.	To help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made and to provide clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong.
Monday 19th January	Our School	To reflect on our school as a team in which everyone has an important role.	To promote respect for individual differences.	To promote fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.
Monday 2 nd February	Stories from other cultures	To acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures.	To listen to and learn about stories from other cultures.	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
Monday 9 th February	Safer Internet Day	To think about how our actions online affects our lives offline.	To help children to think about how they can do things online to really create something positive.	To promote fundamental British values of democracy and to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Fundraising - As part of our work on healthy lifestyles and heart start, we raised money for the British Heart Foundation. The children raised an amazing £186 by wearing red. Thank you for your continued support.



PTA - Once again the school disco was a huge success. Splitting the children into two groups rather than three worked much better. The disco raised nearly £500 which is an amazing amount of money so a big thank you for all your support. Plans and preparations are already in place for the Easter Fair which will take place on Friday 20th March at 3.15pm.



There will be a clothing collection on March the 11th and 12th so a great opportunity to spring clean and raise money!

National Storytelling Week - On Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February, to celebrate National Storytelling Week, we were visited by Storyteller, Gary Cordingley, who worked with children across the school. Gary began by telling a selection of African and Maori stories to the whole school. He then spent time in each class working with the children to create their own stories based on their learning this term: In Early Phase, the children listened and joined in with a range of traditional stories; in Middle Phase, the children created stories about Volcanoes; and in Later Phase, the children explored the myth of a river witch who lives in the River Tees, and created their own stories about her. Gary also shared tips about the art of being a good storyteller. To end his visit, Gary entertained the whole school again, by retelling in his own style, some of the stories that the different classes had created. Following his visit, each class has been busy improving their stories and practising their own skills, ready to tell their stories to each other on Thursday 12th February. We are very much looking forward to hearing all of their wonderful tales.



Whole School Trip - Yorkshire Sculpture Park

This spring we intend to take the whole school to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on Thursday 19th March. The Arts Domain have already visited the park to carry out a requisition and have returned to school full of ideas. Our intention is for the children to produce their own sculptures which we hope to exhibit towards the end of the summer term. Once final arrangements have been made you will be notified so watch this space...



Whole School Trip to Darlington Civic Theatre -

This year's pantomime will be Cinderella. Although the vast majority of children really enjoyed the 2014 show, there were a couple of scenes which were a bit scary. We have spoken to the theatre and they have noted our concerns, however they cannot tell us whether there will be similar content in the next show. Consequently, we have provisionally booked seats for Thursday 17th December. We will be informed of the content in October and will take the decision to cancel should the show contain scary scenes.



Sporting achievements -Our Tag Rugby team attended the final of the town's primary sporting achievement awards at Darlington College. They achieved second place, which is a fantastic effort. On Tuesday 10th Feb, the boys five a side team took part in a competition at the Dolphin Centre and won the town schools football cup with a fantastic set of results; they played 6 won 6, scored 28 and only conceded 1 in the whole tournament. I was both proud and amazed at just how fantastic they were. The children received so many positive comments from other schools, parents and the organisers. On the same day our cross country runners also took part in a fun run filmed for Blue Peter. Next half term there will be football and high five fixtures arranged against other schools. Letters have also been send out to confirm the start of after school football practise and the remaining three tag rugby coaching sessions. Thank you, Mr Hollis



The lady with Harvey Matthias and Cairns Wilkinson, is the British and European 400m Hurdles Champion, Perri-Shakes Drayton.

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					Hall	Reception
Tag Rugby	3.20 - 4.15					Hall	Delivery gates
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	TBC					Hall	Reception

Music Theatre - Sadly, due to a bereavement we cannot say when Music Theatre will begin. As soon as we know more information we will notify you. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Gardening Club - As long as it doesn't snow, gardening club will start again after half term.

Let's Get cooking - Started in January and has been a huge success. Twelve children from Year 2 and 3 have been learning some basic cooking skills in our after school group on a Thursday. They have made scones, crumble, cakes and pizza (including making the base!). They are proving to be a fantastic group of bakers....



We have no spaces in our next group but if your child would like to take part look out for the letter next half term. Thank you, Mrs Haines and Mrs Rusby.

Dates for your diary: School will reopen on Tuesday 24th February 2015

SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 4 children	25.02.15 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	03.03.15	15.30 – 18.00
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	04.03.15	15.30 – 18.00
School choir	School Choir Parents	07.03.15	TBC
Early Phase Performance	Early Phase Parents	16.03.15	14.30 – 15.00
Whole School Trip	Whole School	19.03.15	All day
Easter Fair	Whole School Parents	20.03.15	15.15 – 17.00
Middle Phase Performance	Middle Phase Parents	23.03.15	14.00 – 15.00
Easter Service	Whole School Parents	25.03.15	10.00 – 11.00
PTA – Non Uniform Day	Whole School	27.03.15	All Day

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR EASTER ON FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 13TH APRIL

Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 5 children	15.04.15 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
SATS Week	Year 6 children	11.05.15 – 15.05.15	5 days

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 22ND MAY

SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 1ST 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	11.06.15	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
Middle Phase Performance	Middle Phase Parents	06.07.15	13.30 – 14.00
Early Phase Performance	Early Phase Parents	06.07.15	14.30 – 15.00
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 17TH JULY

Please note that this calendar of events now contains some dates and times that were awaiting confirmation.

Dogs - Please can we ask if you bring your dog to school, that you keep it on a short lead and when you are waiting please could you stand in the grassy area opposite the school gates. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of reported incidents involving the younger siblings.

Many thanks for your support.

Finally - After an action packed six weeks the children are definitely ready for half term. I hope the weather warms up so the children can enjoy some outdoor time. Don't forget your pancakes on Tuesday 17th February!

Whatever your plans, have a super holiday. Best wishes,
Alison Maddison

