

Dear Parents and Carers,

I begin by reminding you that next week is the final week of the current half-term and that school returns on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. This is due to an INSET day for the staff. The training involves two completely different sessions. Our morning will involve a three-hour presentation from Hester Riviera, a child psychologist who specialises in the use of PACE – an approach to keeping children safe through thinking about playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy. I am sure Hester's presentation will involve some useful information that I will share with you in the next of these fortnightly newsletters.

The remainder of the INSET day will involve the staff being shown how to make the best use of an item of software we use in school called Espresso. This trusted and safe online resource is a useful tool in supporting teachers to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum across both core and foundation subjects. Both topics will have a positive impact on the quality of the care and education your child receives at Northern House School.

Next week is the first of what I hope will become an annual *Geography Week*. Mrs Burns, the teacher responsible for coordinating this subject, has planned an engaging set of activities that will involve each class learning about a different country. This forms part of her work towards achieving a geography award for the school that will recognise the depth and range of teaching and learning around this part of the curriculum. Be sure to ask your child which country they are focusing on and, if possible, share your own knowledge of this nation.

As mentioned in my last newsletter, the soon to be new headteacher, Mrs Alison Priddle, visited the school last week. I made sure to introduce her to the children and begin the handover process so that she is fully prepared to take over the school for September. Alison will be in school again next week to form part of the interview panel planning to appoint one or two new fully-qualified teachers to join us for the start of the new academic year.

**Please do not share the following news with your child**, but, very sadly, a long-serving member of staff passed away this week. As many of the pupils will not know of this person, we will share this news with those who do at a more opportune moment. I mention this news here as, although the funeral arrangements are yet to be confirmed, it may have a bearing on how we organise the school day when showing our respects to our dear friend and valued colleague. I am sure you will join with me in deep felt sympathy for the family involved.

On a more positive note, this week has been the Key Stage 2 SATs week. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Year 6 pupils who completed the tests and thank the staff who worked tirelessly hard to help the Year 6 pupils prepare for this series of challenges. I will share the outcomes of the tests when they are made available to us later in the term. Whilst not the be all and end all of any child's time in school, we are hoping to see a fourth successive year of improved results.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis  
Headteacher



### **Osprey Class (Mr Moar):**

We have continued studying the ancient Egyptians and have focused on the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter. We have looked at what was discovered inside and some of the symbolism surrounding the items discovered in the tomb. We have looked at the parts of a flower this week and identified the different fragments and their purpose to the plant. We even enjoyed a rap that helped us to learn the different parts. In PE we have been enjoying cricket and have been improving and developing our throwing and catching skills as well as our handling of a cricket bat.

### **Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):**

We have been finding out about the history of space exploration. This has involved ordering significant events, which fed nicely into our maths work, which saw them ordering negative numbers across zero and relating this to different levels of temperature. They have also explored events leading up to Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon. The pupils were able to put themselves in his shoes and write about how he may have felt when taking off on such a dangerous and nerve-wracking mission.

### **Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):**

Many times, I have been asked why I love teaching. It is easy to understand why when watching the Year 6 children complete their SATs this week. To play a small part in helping them to believe in themselves, to manage their anxieties and work to the best of their ability in order to reach their academic potential; makes being a teacher a truly fulfilling job. Well done to all the Year 6 children - you can be extremely proud of yourselves. I would like to thank all the parents for all your support during this time. We will be resuming our normal routines next week after enjoying today's exciting visit to Race Hut.

### **Wren Class: (Miss Davies):**

Wren have continued to explore their topic of Pirates. We have looked at famous pirates in history such as Blackbeard and Anne Bonny. We have looked closer at the Jolly Roger flag and

designed their own flags. In Maths, we have started to look at position and how to use directions to get to a new place. In PSHCE, we have been looking at relationships and what it means to be a good friend. It has been mental health awareness week this week and Wren have explored different feelings our body experiences.

### **Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):**

This week, the Year 6 pupils of Red Kite have been working extremely hard on all of their SATs tests! We are so proud of all the effort that they have put in, and, as a result of all their determination and positive attitudes, they have earned themselves a trip to Race Hut; where they will have the opportunity to race against their friends and teachers in a fun and light hearted end of SATs celebrations. The Year 5 pupils in the class have been studying space and creating rockets throughout the week: planning, designing and building both rockets and spaceships. Their creations are very impressive!

### **Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):**

Falcon class have looked at statistics in their maths lessons. This has seen them handle data that they used to create line graphs and bar charts. In our science lessons, we have been looking at sounds and vibrations where the children have had opportunity of making their own instrument to demonstrate different pitches. The children now know shorter vibrations make higher pitched sounds.

### **Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):**

Kingfisher class had an exciting week of learning. In our topic lessons, we have been studying Ancient Egypt and learnt a great deal about The River Nile. All the children worked incredibly hard to build a model of the river and produced some excellent models. We have also been working very hard in science learning about how plants grow. The children planted seed in pots, and we are excited to see how fast their plants will grow!

### **The Nest (Miss Youngman):**

In the Nest this week we have been getting really excited about our DT project on making rockets. All the children worked incredibly hard and have produced some outstanding pieces of work. It was lovely to see them work so well together by helping each other out so much. In literacy, we have started learning about Neil Armstrong and his moon landings. We will be writing our own newspaper articles next week, so any facts you can gather over the weekend would be helpful.

### **Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):**

Well done to all the Year 6 children in Eagle class for a fantastic SATs week. The pupils have worked so hard, mostly with smiles on their faces, and the Year 5 children have behaved very well in their groups, too. The afternoons have been spent looking at Vincent Van-Gough's *A Starry Night* and designing their own painting based on his style of work. We also listened to War of the Worlds and imagined the planet the alien space craft has come from and drawing their impressions of this environment. We have been learning about the moon and the children have written some great poems using interesting vocabulary, similes and personification.

### **Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):**

For the past two weeks we have been doing lots of spelling, punctuation and grammar work. In PE we have worked on striking and fielding skills and we have been enjoying the music technology sessions, where we are getting better and better at creating our own tunes! We have also cooked cinnamon rolls and chocolate rice crispies. Our DT lessons have seen us build some very cool rockets made of Lego, plastic bottles and cardboard. Our pupils from Year 6 have been working hard during SATs week and we are so proud of them, well done to everyone!