



CLAVERING PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



2014-2015 – Term 2A – Ed. 3

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are as excited as we are about 2015 at Clavering Primary School.

Clavering Primary School is now at its largest ever pupil population of **391 pupils** (including our nursery children). We also have our largest ever staff number with Mrs Simpson joining us as a teaching assistant and Mrs Howe moving to the position of Year 3 class teacher, replacing Mr Staples.

Many thanks to all the families who have taken the time to thank the school for presenting their child with a **new book for Christmas**. As you may have seen, our Year 6 children were all presented with **Leavers' Hoodies** which, as you can imagine, they were extremely excited about!

CHRISTMAS AT CLAVERING

As always, the weeks before the Christmas holidays were a very special time at Clavering Primary School with Christmas parties, productions, nativities and much more!



Children in our Reception classes all enjoyed their trip to the Arc and children in Years 1-6 all had a fantastic time at the Forum watching 'Aladdin'. In addition, we put on our own four fantastic Christmas productions: Nursery, Reception, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), Upper School (Years 5 and 6); plus our annual Carols by Candlelight led by our Clavering Christmas Choir. The raffles from each production raised a combined total of £397 for school funds.

Many thanks to all the staff members, family members and children who helped to ensure that all of these events were a success.

In addition, thank you to every member of the Clavering Family who supported our *Friends' of Clavering* Winter Discos which raised £336 and our *Friends' of Clavering* Christmas Fair which raised £1,252 for school funds!

Finally, many thanks to everyone who bought a Santa hat from the school office (donated by Mark Rycraft from the Hartlepool Round Table). This raised £125 for the school.

FUNDRAISING

On 'Children in Need' Day the school was filled with sports stars, super heroes, fairies, musicians, Disney characters and a whole lot more! The children (and staff members) looked fantastic and £536 was raised for 'Children in Need'.

Once again, our Poppy Appeal for 'The Royal British Legion' was very well supported, raising £385.

Thank you to everyone who made a purchase at our Winter Book Fair. £215 profit was made for the school.



OUTDOOR LEARNING



At Clavering, the opportunity to learn in an outdoor environment and to experience wild places is something that all children get to do from Nursery up to Year 6. We are proud that these opportunities – whether they are going on a Gruffalo hunt in Reception or canoeing down the River Tees in Year 6 – are not only fully embraced by our pupils and staff members, but, just as importantly, by the Clavering parents who see the benefit that our outdoor learning programme brings to their children's academic learning and wider development. Without this support, the children's outdoor learning would be nowhere as successful as it currently is.

As was featured in the *Hartlepool Mail*, last half-term, children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and pupils in Year 6 who are working towards their John Muir Award all experienced learning days in the Newton Hazard Plantation with the West View Project; children in Year 4 visited the Teesmouth Field Centre; and the Clavering Outdoor Learning Zone continues to contribute to learning in various subject areas in the Clavering Curriculum.

At Clavering, outdoor learning isn't about taking children outside purely for the sake of it, but looking at the many advantages that can be gained from strategically planned outdoor learning opportunities such as providing direct contact with the natural world; helping with spiritual, social and personal development; promoting more versatile and creative approaches to problem solving; and developing active citizenship which results from a greater sense of connection and responsibility. We are very proud of the success of our outdoor learning opportunities.

PUPIL PREMIUM ELIGIBILITY

If you think that your child/children is/are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and the school isn't already aware of this, please contact the school as soon as possible. We keep 'finding' children who are eligible for this funding and we are concerned that there are other children 'out there' who may also be entitled but are missing out because they haven't come forward. If you know another Clavering child who you think might qualify, please encourage his/her parent(s)/carer(s) to apply. For more information, please visit the 'Pupil Premium' section on our school website.

MATHS PROBLEM SOLVING DAY



During a special Problem Solving Day in school, children had a fantastic time solving a series of maths-based challenges. Children from a range of different year groups tackled a variety of different tasks during a day organised by Mathematics Coordinator Mrs McLean and HLTA Mrs Richardson. Mathematics continues to be a very popular subject at Clavering and our teachers aim to make learning fun and interactive whilst also being academically stretching and challenging. The problem solving event celebrated all that is good about maths learning at Clavering.

Each year group had the chance to think flexibly and creatively whilst working in mixed ability groups to complete a variety of different tasks provided by the 'Happy Puzzle Company'. Family puzzles, games and brain teasers were then available to buy after school and we were pleased to see how many families took this opportunity.

Following this event, children in Year 6 travelled to the Centre for Life to take part in a Year 6 Mathstastic Workshop, testing out their problem solving skills. They also had a fantastic ice-skating session afterwards!

CLAVERING STRIKES GOLD ... TWICE!

As you will have hopefully seen in the *Hartlepool Mail*, following our award by the Department for Media, Culture and Sport of the School Games GOLD Mark for outstanding sport provision, we were also visited by Lisa Yates from the Youth Sport Trust who spent a morning with Mr McAvoy discussing the Clavering PE and Sport Programme. We are delighted to say that we have been awarded the Youth Sport Trust GOLD Kitemark, making us the first school in the town to hold both GOLD Standards.

As we repeatedly state, the Clavering PE and Sport Programme is part of a wider and established culture that promotes individual academic and sporting excellence whilst also helping to develop the 'whole person' and a 'culture of success' within the school. We are fortunate that the Clavering Family supports our vision for PE, Sport and Physical Activity and one of the areas that the Youth Sport Trust was most impressed with was how the Clavering PE and Sport Programme is focussed on every Clavering child, not just our elite sports superstars. CONGRATULATIONS to everyone (children, parents, staff and governors) who are part of the Clavering PE and Sport Programme!



Gold Quality
Mark 2014/15

A VISIT FROM THE MP!

As was also covered in the *Hartlepool Mail*, following our award of the School Games GOLD Kitemark and the Youth Sport Trust GOLD Kitemark, we were visited by Mr Iain Wright MP who presented us with our shield and plaque during a special whole school assembly led by our School Games Organising Crew (Sophie C, Ellie-Mae R, Stephanie P, Olivia M, Kyle C, Ben Mc, Luke R and Dylan B).



Mr Wright said: **'It is a fantastic achievement for Clavering Primary School to be the first school in the town to achieve the GOLD standard of the School Games Kitemark, as well as the GOLD standard of the Youth Sport Trust Kitemark. Giving children a love of sport, from the earliest possible age, provides dividends throughout that child's life in terms of learning lessons of healthy eating, active lifestyles, hard work, determination and team work. I think it is a huge recognition of Clavering's success that they have been awarded these accolades and I was honoured to have presented these awards.'**

Many thanks to Mr Wright for taking the time to visit the school.

NORTH HARTLEPOOL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS' 'COUNTDOWN' EVENT

Following trials in school, a group of twelve pupils from Years 4 to 6 represented the school brilliantly at our annual North Hartlepool Family of Schools' 'Countdown' Event. We came third in the 'Letters' round and first in the 'Numbers' round. Well done to all of the girls and boys:

Numbers team: Sophie C, Jayden S, Adam E, Jack G, Thomas H and Hollie W;

Letters team: Ellie P, Kyle C, Dylan J, Arabella B, Jessica B and Hollie M.

RE TRIPS

The Clavering Curriculum for RE is enhanced by a variety of educational visits in different year groups, a number of which took place last half-term:

- as part of their 'What can we learn from visiting a church?' RE topic, pupils in Year 1 participated in a field trip to Holy Trinity Church;
- as part of their 'How and why do religious people show care for others?' RE topic, pupils in Year 4 participated in a field trip to St Mary Magdalene Church;
- as part of their 'What can we learn about Christian faith through studying the lives of Northern Saints?' RE topic, pupils in Year 5 visited Durham Cathedral. The children explored the lives of St. Cuthbert, St. Aidan, The Venerable Bede, St. Oswald and St. Hild through an interactive journey round the cathedral. They collected symbols for each saint, visited the shrines of Cuthbert and Bede and heard the stories of the lives of the Northern Saints.

SCHOOL CHOIR

A large number of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed being part of our Clavering Christmas Choir last term as they prepared for our Carols by Candlelight Concert. The plan now is for the choir to go through a metamorphosis into a glorious Glee Club under the direction of Miss Peart during the Spring Term. In addition, a small Clavering Gospel Choir is going to perform at the first ever North Hartlepool Family of Schools' Choir Concert in February with Mr McAvoy.



ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB

A second set of children spent a half-term developing arts and crafts skills with Mrs Carter and Mrs Angus in our very popular Year 3 Arts and Crafts Club.

SCHOOL GAMES UPDATE

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

Clavering Cup of the Americas

Six more competitions were held last half-term in our intra-school

Clavering Cup of the Americas:

- Jamaica won the Year 1 Squirrels Competition;
- USA won the Year 2 Hoop Ball Competition;
- Brazil won the Year 3 Quicksticks Competition;
- Mexico won the Year 4 Quicksticks Competition;
- Mexico won the Year 5 Tri Golf Competition;
- Peru won the Year 6 Tri Golf Competition.



Adding in the points for the Clavering Sport Values, the current leader board reads as follows:

1st: Mexico 2nd: Brazil 3rd: Canada 4th: USA 5th: Argentina 6th: Peru 7th: Jamaica

Clavering African Cup of Nations and Clavering European Championships

Over 70% of children in Key Stage 2 have signed-up to participate in our two intra-school football competitions: the African Cup of Nations for children in our Upper School (Years 5 and 6) and Clavering European Championships for children in our Middle School (Years 3 and 4). All we need now is some decent weather and a dry school field!

INTRA-SCHOOL SPORT

Upper School Tag Rugby

We came third in the Tees Valley Finals! As you may have seen in the *Hartlepool Mail*, having been crowned the **Tag Rugby Cluster Champions** and **Tag Rugby Town Champions** (along with Hart), our mixed Tag Rugby Team travelled to Middlesbrough College to represent Hartlepool in the Tees Valley Finals. Having won every pool match, the children lost their semi-final to a controversial Golden Try, but showed great character to get over this disappointment and secure the bronze medal with a thrilling 7-5 victory against Pallister Park of Middlesbrough. We are very proud of the ten children: Kyle C, Ben Mc, Luke R, Thomas F, Owen S, Scott T, Sophie C, Alexandra L, Joanne H and Macy T.

We are the North Hartlepool Family of Schools' Girls' Tag Rugby Champions! As featured in the *Hartlepool Mail*, as part of the competitive sport element of our North Hartlepool Family of Schools, we organised a girls-only tag rugby competition for the six schools. The Clavering girls demonstrated all of the skills and tactics that they have developed during their tag rugby lessons, winning every match and being crowned worthy winners. The girls scored twenty-eight tries in five matches without conceding a single try! Well done to the ten girls: Sophie C, Ellie-Mae R, Emily H, Joanne H, Mia B, Mia F, Millie G, Sarah H, Stephanie P and Macy T.

• **Upper School Boys' Football**

A team of boys (Dylan B, Owen J, Thomas F, Aiden L, Ben Mc, Kyle C, Luke R and Owen S) competed at the town-wide ESFA Cup Competition and the Kids' Cup Football League Cup Competition, finishing in the top four in both competitions. Our Year 6 Boys' Team, Year 5 Boys' Team and Upper School Girls' Team will all, hopefully, begin their league matches this half-term.

• **Hartlepool United FC Half-Time Penalty Competition**

During the Christmas holidays, the Clavering team (Owen S, Thomas F, Kyle C, Ben Mc and Dylan B) narrowly lost to Rift House in the second round of the competition at Victoria Park.

• **Year 3 Tennis**

We are the **Year 3 Tennis Cluster Champions!** All of our Year 3 children have recently benefitted from a block of tennis tuition from our tennis teacher Mark Barras. Following trials, eight children were chosen to represent Clavering at our Cluster Competition where they showed great skills and teamwork to win the competition. Congratulations to Shay H, Charlie W, Ben N, Bradley L, Shelly W, Millie T, Grace S and Chloe M.



• **Upper School Sportshall Athletics**

We are the **Sportshall Athletics Cluster Champions!** Following track and field trials, twenty-nine children were selected to represent Clavering at our Cluster Competition, competing in a variety of jumping, throwing and running events. After an exciting afternoon of competitions, we were crowned overall winners, having finished first or second in every event.

Congratulations to Sophie C, Sarah H, Joanne H, Macy T, Stephanie P, Mia B, Jessica M, Millie M, Phoebe E, Tegan P, Ellie-Mae R, Mia F, Jessie H, Ellie P, Kyle C, Dylan J, Luke R, Ben Mc, Aiden L, Scott T, Owen S, Luke G, Oscar W, Dylan B, Matthew R, Jack G, James S, Eddie L and Thomas F.

The children will now compete in the Town Finals on Thursday.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT CLUBS

In addition to the above competitions, children have been able to participate in the following clubs:

- Monday Table Tennis Club (Year 6);
- Tuesday Football Skills Club (Reception to Year 2);
- Wednesday Gymnastics Club (Reception to Year 2);
- Friday Football Skills Club (Year 3 to Year 6);
- Lunchtime Tag Rugby Training (Years 5 and 6).

Many thanks to the Clavering members of staff and coaches from the Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation and Hartlepool Table Tennis Club who have led our different sports clubs last half-term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

PD Days 2014-2015:

Friday 13th February
 Friday 22nd May
 Monday 20th July

Residentials:

Year 6: 16th-20th March
 Year 5: 1st-3rd May
 Year 4: 4th-5th June (Mrs Hilton's class)
 and 10th-11th June (Mr Piggford's class)

Additional dates:

22nd January: Individual and family school photographs
 (more details to follow)
 3rd and 4th February: Term 2 Parental Consultations
 1st July: Term 3 Parental Consultation
 May (ongoing): Year 2 SATs
 Week beginning Monday 11th May:
 Year 6 SATs Week
 Week beginning Monday 15th June:
 Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

We look forward to working with you throughout 2015.

Miss H. J. O'Brien
 Headteacher

Mr N. C. McAvoy
 Deputy Headteacher