



WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST

NORTON IN HALES C.E. SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

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Dear Parents,

We wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of the successes and activities that we have engaged with across the year.

Highlights of the year

The new morning class structure has enabled us to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of individual learners and enable maximum progress

New communication approaches have enabled us to keep you more connected with what is happening in school

The new behaviour policy has given consistent focus to expectations across the school and the children have responded positively

The Race for Life morning raised an incredible £1619.00 and saw all children and many parents taking part for such a wonderful cause

Despite being a small school our sporting achievements continue to flourish

Our data figures show the school continues to perform well

Successful integration of our Newly Qualified Teacher (Miss Derham) to our school.

Academic achievements

We are very proud of all of the children at Norton in what has been a difficult year, with so many changes to assessment and an increase in expectations set by the government. All pupils have coped extremely well and have worked hard to be their best. The children in Year 2 and 6 completed the new style SATs tests in May, sitting them with confidence and resilience. Miss Derham, Miss Wright & myself would like to congratulate all the children on their hard work and their positive attitudes during the tests.

EYFS: 71% achieved at least expected progress in all 17 areas of profile.

Phonics results: 69% (9 out of 13) achieved pass mark.

Year 2 SATs: Reading – 86% (6 out of 7 who sat the test) achieved national standard or above, Maths – 100% (7 out of 7 who sat the test) achieved national standard or above.

Year 6 SATs: Reading – 82% (9 out of 11 who sat the test) achieved national standard or above, Maths – 73% (8 out of 11 who sat the test) achieved national standard or above, Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling – 82% (9 out of 11 who sat the test) achieved national standard or above. National averages have not yet been released although the media is reporting c.50% of children failing to meet national standard in at least one subject.

This year we have been lucky enough to have been able to expand to four classes in the morning and this has brought about great benefits to all the children as work in English and Maths is now even more closely matched to their individual needs.

Curriculum

Our curriculum focus for the year has been to embed the new and increased national expectations across every Key Stage. We have introduced a new whole school handwriting scheme and are seeing the benefits throughout the school. The whole school came together for an inspiring and enriching Diwali day where we experienced art activities including making Diya lamps, Indian music and cookery as well as enjoying a fabulous lunch provided by Oruna restaurant.

Staffing

This year has sadly seen Mrs Lea retire and Mrs Lloyd is moving onto pastures new. We wish her all the best for her new adventure and she will be missed by all at Norton, she has been an outstanding member of our team in various roles over the years and we would like to thank her for everything she has done for the school. With the departures come opportunities for new members to join our team; Mrs Harris, Miss Derham, Mrs Welch (SEN provision) and Ms Ravlen have all joined since last September and have provided great enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the school.

School Council

The school council have gone from strength to strength throughout the year. They work closely with Mrs McDonald (Chair of Governors) and Mr Ancliffe (Foundation Governor) meeting every other week. The council have official roles and set their own agenda, write their own minutes and make sure all information is shared throughout school. They now have their own noticeboard within school and are currently fundraising for a new train outside Class 1. They held a successful cake sale and have sent donations to our link school in Gambia. They have plenty of ideas to look forward to next term.

Parent forum

This year we have introduced parent forum meetings which provide the opportunity to find out more about changes and new initiatives that the school are implementing as well as being an opportunity to ask questions about school life. Agendas are led by requests from parents and developments in school since the last meeting. Our next meeting will be in the autumn term and we actively encourage parents to attend.

Sporting success

We have had another busy and successful year with our sports teams. We have entered the following competitions: Cross Country, High 5 Netball, Basketball, Tag Rugby, KS1 Gymnastics, Quicksticks Hockey, Sportshall Athletics, Dodgeball, Rounders, Mini-Tennis, Swimming Gala and Kwik-Cricket. Our most notable successes came in the Swimming Gala (retained small schools trophy for 7th year in row), Basketball, Cross Country and Tag-Rugby where these teams made it through to the next stage of their respective tournaments. We are extremely proud of all our teams and the way in which they have represented the school at all the events. We have recently submitted our school games mark and are on course to maintain our gold status which is a great achievement for the school and pupils and testament to the provision that we provide.

Clubs

We have been delighted to offer a range of afterschool clubs this year including: cookery; pilates; art; singing; gardening; homework as well as multi-sports and football. We review and refresh our club offering each term, consulting with the children on what they would like to see included. We are always looking for parent/carer volunteers to support or lead clubs so if you have specific skills you can offer please let us know.

Breakfast and afterschool club

We continue to run a successful and highly valued provision. We have taken the opportunity this year to capture specific feedback around the quality and range of provision in order to ensure we are providing the best and most appropriate service possible.

Friends of Norton in Hales

As ever Friends have worked hard at raising much needed funds for our school in addition to organising engaging activities and events for our children. Highlights this year have been the Oruna curry night, our annual winter fayre, discos, film nights and quiz night. Watch out for more next year.

Governor activity

We have been delighted to welcome three new governors to our team this year Phil Brammer, Donna Hand and Jenny Lamb. Our focus this year, through our monitoring visits, has been ensuring the delivery of the school development plan with particular focus on EYFS environment, school attainment and progress and ensuring that our high levels of safeguarding are maintained. The governing body has also participated in a self-evaluation process highlighting opportunities and focus areas for continued development.

Looking ahead to 2016/17

Staffing - We are fortunate that we will be able to continue with our four class morning structure: Mrs Buckley – Class 1, Miss Derham – Class 2, Mrs Harris – Class 3 and Mr Verling & Miss Wright – Class 4. For the afternoons we will, again, be working with three classes: Mrs Buckley – Class 1, Miss Derham – Class 2 and Mr Verling & Miss Wright – Class 4. As we are always looking at ways of improving provision the timetable in class 4 will change in order to provide further continuity for the pupils. Miss Wright will be teaching English all week and Mr Verling will be teaching Maths in order to ensure progression across the week is maximised.

Sports - When we return in September Mr Chris Thompson will be joining our team and taking up his role of Teaching Assistant and PE lead. We hope this will provide long term sustainability for sport throughout the school and further raise its profile within school.

Forest Schools - Mrs Buckley has recently been on Forest School Training, which will be completed in the autumn term; this will provide us with the wonderful opportunity to teach Forest School throughout the school, meaning all year groups will get the opportunity to visit the woods weekly. We plan to have our Forest School day on a Friday and Mrs Buckley will provide specialist teaching to all classes throughout the day.

Curriculum - We have reviewed our creative curriculum and feel it will be enriching for the whole school to study the same theme each term, this will allow us to access a wider range of specialist resources and teaching and enable us to take whole school visits outside of school. With our new creative curriculum new areas for learning will be introduced such as rainforests.

Aspire – This term we have embarked on a journey of whole school development with partner schools Adderley, Moreton Say and Buntingsdale Primary as part of a small school pilot scheme led by the National Association for Head Teachers. This will provide opportunities for sharing of best practice and collaborative working, with a drive to ensure our schools are the best they can be.

Pupil numbers – Next year we anticipate our pupil numbers to be broadly similar to this year and continue to strive to maximise our appeal as a school of choice.

Residential – Our Year 5 and 6 children will be heading to Manor Adventure in November for our adventure activity residential. We know that this opportunity will provide the children valuable life skills and experiences that they will always remember.

Academisation – With the governments continued focus on every school becoming an academy, we will in the year ahead be exploring the best possible route forward for our school. We will of course consult with all effected parties once we have anything concrete to discuss with you.

Finally, we would like to thank all staff for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm over the past year, the parents/carers for their continued support and the children for all their hard work and energy over the year.

We hope you have a lovely relaxing summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours faithfully

Guy Verling (Headteacher)

Hilary McDonald (Chair of Governors)