



Barnburgh Primary School

Newsletter

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Headteacher: Mrs Potts

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SPRING 1 NEWSLETTER

It only seems like 5 minutes ago that I was wishing you all a Happy Christmas and here we are at the end of the first half of the Spring term. The Spring term is always a strange one because the weeks are quite often shorter. This year the Spring term is just 10 weeks split into two 5 week blocks. Therefore you will probably notice that your children will continue much of their topic work across the full term rather than starting a new one next half term.

For such a short half term there have been a lot of exciting things happening in school including a pantomime, school trips, sports competitions...

I have enjoyed celebrating all this news through our school app. You may have noticed that I have not issued a newsletter so far this half term. I have tried to celebrate all the events as they happen by increasing the amount of news item notifications and developing the gallery on the mobile app. This ensures we are maximizing the use of this resource. I will continue to trial this in the second half of the Spring term and I welcome your thoughts on this.

VISITORS INTO SCHOOL

We started the half term off with a pantomime! On Wednesday 10th January M&M Productions presented a performance of Dick Whittington. It was a fantastic performance which transformed our school hall. We look forward to making this a regular treat at our school. You will find some images of this on the website gallery.

A huge thank you to Mrs Fleetwood who introduced our Foundation Stage children to "Winter" through outdoor learning workshops on Wednesday 31st January.

We couldn't have ordered better winter weather to explore the theme with the children! From Mud Mud Glorious Mud; making mud paint to experiment with mark making; winter weather paintings on giant canvases to life size ice paintings of winter clothing, our foundation children experienced hands on learning that engaged, motivated and encouraged them to be involved. All children had the opportunity to create and think about their own ideas through experiencing their natural environment whilst investigating and having fun with their learning about winter!

The children and staff can't wait for our next session. Until then please take a look at our gallery page to see this learning in action. You will find some images of this on the website gallery.

On Tuesday 6th February Year 6 welcomed Mrs Sylvia Atkinson into school to tell the true story of Imogen's (Y6) great grandfather, Tommy Smith. She shared his experiences of life on the battlefield during WW2. Mrs Atkinson brought in lots of memorabilia for the children to look at and she kindly provided us with a photo of Tommy to borrow for the display. The children remained respectful throughout the session and asked lots of questions. You will find some images of this on the website gallery.

SCHOOL TRIPS

On Thursday 11th January our Year 2 children visited Lincoln Castle to support their topic, Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. They went on a historical walk around the castle walls and dungeons to learn all about the history of the Normans and Lincoln Castle. The day included a traditional medieval banquet with jesters, dancers and jugglers. The children learnt how to fire bow and arrows; they dressed as a traditional knight; made traditional shields with their own designs and they were able to handle real armour including helmets, swords, chain mail and gauntlets.

On Tuesday 16th January our Year 6 children visited Eden Camp to support their topic, 'A Child's War'. They visited different WW2 huts to learn about the blitz, blackouts and how communication has changed over time. The children sang war songs and ended the day acting out their own war against each other on a battlefield assault course.

And finally, on Thursday 8th February our Year 5 children visited the National Space Centre to support their topic, Stargazers. The children explored six interactive galleries and experienced the amazing 'astronaut' show in the UK's largest planetarium. The highlight for many of the children was enjoying the thrills of the interplanetary space travel aboard 'The Sim Ride'. And, as if that wasn't enough, the children found the energy to climb the iconic 42m high Rocket Tower!

WORLD THINKING DAY

On 22nd February each year, guiding members across the world think of each other and of their commitment to international friendship and understanding. This is World Thinking Day.

Every year World Thinking Day has a theme. It is usually an important international issue, giving children all over the world the chance to think about issues from a shared angle.

This year the theme is 'impact'. Guides will be celebrating the amazing impact guiding has on the world.

As a school we are committed to supporting our community. We are aware that many of our children attend brownies, cubs and beavers. In support of World Thinking Day we would like to give permission to any of our children who attend brownies, cubs or beavers, to come to school in their uniforms.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

This half term in School Council we have been deciding on how to spend the money raised from reading events in Autumn term. We have approximately £600 to spend on books raised through book fair and the sponsored read event in Autumn. We had to decide the best way to spend the money and we knew that it was important to get the views from our classes. In the end we thought a fair way was to share the money. So every class had £60 and they decided which books they wanted. Harry, our treasurer, has ordered these with Mrs Grange and we look forward to getting new books next half term.

Our next project is to think of ways we can celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire. We are also thinking of ways we can do a sponsored event in the summer to raise money for our school so watch this space!

Grace (Chair) & Sophie (Vice Chair)

STAFFING UPDATE

You wouldn't imagine that there would be many updates regarding staffing in such a short half term – if only that was the case!

By now I am sure you are all aware that we said goodbye to Mr Tuhey on the 12th January. Mrs Langley has done a fantastic job at providing the cover we needed in the office to ensure we could continue to provide the best possible outcomes from our admin service. In addition, Mrs Langley has been providing assistance with teaching and learning in various classes which I am delighted will continue into next half term. We cannot thank her enough for all the help and support she has provided across school this half term. Next half term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Aspinall who will join the admin team in the role of finance and admin assistant.

I appreciate our Year 5 parents will be waiting with anticipation for an official start date for Mr Taylor. We tried our best for him to be released early from his current job but we were not successful. Therefore I can announce that Mr Taylor will be joining us after Easter. Consequently, we have taken the decision to postpone Year 5's parent's evening until the first or second week back after Easter (date to be confirmed). This will provide an opportunity for you all to meet with Mr Taylor. He will be supported by Miss Yates who will be able to talk about the progress your children are making. We are so very lucky that Mrs Hill has agreed to extend her contract with us and continue to teach Year 5 until Mr Taylor can join us.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming Miss Johnson back from her maternity leave after Easter. As part of Miss Johnson's HLTA role she will continue some of the excellent pastoral support that Mrs Dimanna started in the Autumn term. Miss Johnson will spend some afternoons next half term visiting school and working with some of our children. We look forward to welcoming her back.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM OUR SCHOOL COOKS

A big thank you to Vonnie and her team for taking the time to produce some beautiful Valentine biscuits for dinner today. Our school cooks are doing a fantastic job at providing healthy delicious meals for our children and we would urge as many children as possible to choose hot dinners. We understand that some children prefer to bring their own packed lunch. Please can I take this opportunity to remind families that we promote a healthy school and therefore we request that packed lunches do not include sweets and chocolate?

Thank you for supporting us with this.



ATTENDANCE

It has been a difficult half term to promote good attendance due to all the winter germs. Despite the germs our attendance for Spring 1 is 97% which is considered 'good'. Year 1 won the half term award for the class with the best attendance and this week they won the trophy for having 100% attendance this week. Well done to Year 1.

Mrs Nowell presented our first attendance assembly this half term. It was a pleasure to award so many children with Bronze certificates and badges. These awards went to children who didn't miss one day of school during the Autumn term – quite an achievement! I look forward to seeing how many more bronze awards we can present at the end of the Spring term AND how many silver awards we can present to children who have had 100% attendance for the whole of the Autumn AND spring term.

New legislation has encouraged us to tighten our attendance policy with regard to absence. Our new procedures to check why a child is absent from school are as follows...

- Our admin team will note all registration marks by 09:00.
- Voicemails will be listened to and acted upon by 09:30. Emails will also be checked.
- Any child whose whereabouts is unknown will be followed up by 09:45. All adults on the child's contact list will be called in order of priority. If the child's whereabouts cannot be ascertained from any contact then a home visit will be undertaken by a senior leader by 11:00.
- If the home visit does not provide satisfactory evidence of the child's whereabouts then we will telephone the police by 11:30.

We hope these new procedures reassure you that we will always take the whereabouts of your children seriously during school hours.

WHOLE SCHOOL DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME
27 and 28.02.18 (whole school) Year 6 - 26 and 27.02.18 Year 5 - after Easter	Parent's Evening Please note that days and times are different for Year 6 Parents evening and for Year 5 parents evening. Year 5 will be postponed until after Easter to provide an opportunity for parents to meet Mr Taylor (date TBA)	Appointments between 15:30 and 18:00 for whole school
01.03.18	World Book Day (children come dressed as a book character)	
19.03.18	Year 4 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45
20.03.18	Year 6 Express Event Foundation Stage 2 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45
21.03.18	Foundation Stage 1 Express Event Year 5 Express Event	09:00 to 09:45 14:00 to 14:45
22.03.18	Year 1 Express Event Year 3 Express Event	09:00 to 09:45 14:00 to 14:45
23.03.18	Year 2 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45
WC 14.05.18	Year 6 SATs week	
28.06.18	Foundation Sports Day	10:30 to 11:30
29.06.18	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day	Afternoon TBC
09.07.18	Year 4 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45
10.07.18	Year 6 Express Event Foundation Stage 2 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45
11.07.18	Foundation Stage 1 Express Event Year 5 Express Event	09:00 to 09:45 14:00 to 14:45
12.07.18	Year 1 Express Event Year 3 Express Event	09:00 to 09:45 14:00 to 14:45
13.07.18	Year 2 Express Event	14:00 to 14:45