



Hotspur

Bulletin

Friday 12th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This morning in Golden Assembly we had all of the children that played in our KS2 tag-rugby tournaments standing up. There were 18 teams in total which is quite an achievement – and an organisational challenge too! The lovely weather made these really great afternoons. There is a further report on this later in the bulletin.

Yesterday, Kevin McVittie and I attended the Schools North East Summit at St James' Park. This was packed as the key note speaker was Amanda Spielman who has been HM Chief Inspector of Education since January last year. Some of you will be aware that I have not always been the greatest supporter of Ofsted (or perhaps a bit of a critic at times). However, Amanda has been a breath of fresh air and is bringing in fairly radical changes to the focus and ethos of school inspections. There will be a greater value on the whole educational experience that children receive rather than just a narrow analysis of national test data. Schools are being challenged to look more closely at the curriculum



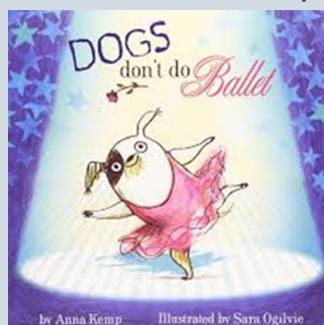
that is offered, the rationale behind it and its purpose. This is all great news for us as we are now 'in fashion' again. More importantly it is good news for children across the country. I am very optimistic about the changes that will be consulted on more widely in January. The new framework will operate from September 2019. I just hope that politicians will understand the importance of the changes.

Miles Wallis-Clarke
Headteacher



Art Afternoons

Our Y5 Art Afternoons are well underway now. Each KS2 year group has an intensive set of five Monday Art Afternoons. This year they all have a theme of Challenging Stereotypes. We would love to have more adults to lead or help with our Y4s next half term. If you could help please contact a member of Y4 staff or Cheryl Outterside. You can also express interest via the curriculum part of our website. Y4 will be using the book *Dogs Don't Do Ballet* and the picture Stormtrooper in a Tutu as the stimuli for the afternoons.



Events next week

Monday

- Y5 Cappa Pie Workshop

Tuesday

- Y6 Macbeth rehearsal at Northern Stage

Wednesday

- 9am Family Thrive Introduction

Thursday

- Reception 2019 prospective parent tours
- 5pm Heaton Manor Open Evening

Tag Rugby

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, 18 tag rugby teams from Y3/4 and Y5/6 took part in the first inter-house Tag Rugby tournament. Thankfully the weather was on our side and the children had a wonderful afternoon.



Golden Children This Week



Car Park Safety

We keep returning to this. Several parents/carers and members of staff have expressed concern that there can be a lot of children running around the car park when clubs finish – particularly on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please make sure any siblings or children who have been at clubs are supervised.

Additionally, we still have some parents driving up to the front door and leaving their car engine running as they pop into school to collect their children. Please do not do this. We will have to find other ways to tackle this if a handful of people continue to ignore the polite requests.

Family Thrive

We are now taking bookings for the next Family Thrive course in school. The Thrive course runs every Wednesday morning for 6 weeks next half term. For more information and to register your interest please see the school website.



Friends of Hotspur – Christmas Fair

It's that time of year again when the Friends of Hotspur are starting to plan the Christmas Fair. There will be 3 planning meetings at 4.30pm on 25th October, 8th November and 22nd November, please come along to find out how you can support the fair. Treehouse places are available for parents needing childcare to attend the meeting. Please do let us know if you can't make any of the meetings but would like to help out.

