



Hotspur

Bulletin

Friday 11th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year to you all!

It was lovely to have all of our children back this week after our two week holiday. We have an interesting Spring Term ahead of us. Highlights will include our 'talent' evening – more of this in the bulletin, and an exciting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week focused on space. At the end of term there will be the Hotspur Festival which will include the twelfth annual Ouseburn Learning Trust concert at the City Hall, our Y3/4 performance and events in school on the last Friday of term.

In assemblies this week I talked about Mrs Jones, a 92 year old woman who is virtually blind and uses a frame to walk with. I had read about her over the holiday and was impressed with her optimistic outlook on life. She says that she wakes up each day determined to focus on the bits of her body that work well rather than those that don't and entered a nursing home already loving her room as she said that was a decision she had made in advance. She also talks about drawing on her memory bank of happy memories in her twilight years. This has influenced my new year's resolution of being optimistic – as my annual weight loss commitment doesn't seem to materialise! I hope that any resolutions you have made are achievable and bring you joy.



Miles Wallis-Clarke
Headteacher

Spotlight on Reading

This year we are focusing on our Core Canon. The Core Canon is a literature spine that runs through school. Each year group has twelve



books that they read many times during the year and get to know in depth. These books then help to inspire children's own writing and by the time they leave Y4 they have a great knowledge of 60-72 children's books (depending on whether or not they have been in Nursery here). They do of course read other books in addition to the Core Canon.

When we migrated our website a couple of years ago we lost this section. We would now like to reinstate it so that families can access the stories at home. We are looking for some help with this in two ways:

- Volunteers to read a story sitting in our storytelling pod
- Volunteers to help film and edit simple clips (a couple of minutes long)

If you could help with either of these please let a member of staff or the school office know.



Events next week

Monday

- Year 6 Art afternoons

Tuesday

- am 4Y at Laing Art Gallery
- Y5/6 Basketball fixture at Walker Academy

Wednesday

- am 4B at Laing Art Gallery

Friday

- 9:45am Year 6 Elite Football Assembly
- 12pm Family Group Lunch: Ridley

Golden Children This Week



'Talent' Showcase Evening

On Wednesday 30th January Hotspur will be hosting a showcase of talents at 6pm. A panel of year 5 and 6 children are looking for acts to participate in this event. If children wish to audition they should fill in an application form before Wednesday 16th January. These will be available in classrooms from Monday morning. Children will then be given an audition slot between Thursday 17th and Tuesday 22nd January. Children can work in small groups (maximum 6) or individually. Children can work with anyone from across the school. Year 5 and 6 are looking for 20 unique acts. Some events may not be quite ready for this evening and will be given a chance to participate in our Comic Relief event during the day on 15th March.

Tickets for the evening will be £1 for adults. Children will be free. If they are not performing they will still need a (free) ticket so we know how many people to expect.

Year 3 Visit to Laing Art Gallery

On Thursday, Year 3 visited The Laing Art Gallery for an art workshop focusing on drawing and shading. It was a wonderful visit and we all came away knowing new techniques for shading.



Morning Multi-Skills

All Morning Sports clubs start again at 8:15am next week:

- Tuesday - Year 1/2
- Wednesday - Year - 3/4
- Thursday - Year 5/6

Everyone is welcome to join even if you haven't been coming before Christmas. Just turn up on the correct day for your child's year group.