



# 'The Aspin Owler'

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Spring Term 2018-2019

## *Issue 1*

### **Welcome Back to 2019**

Having being back for five days already, and experiencing five very dark 'get-ups' this week, there is no doubt we are firmly in January! However having taken two assemblies this week, the children have returned ready for the long term ahead, and early indications are that they have settled quickly. Although belatedly I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

### **'Record Breakers'**

As you will know we are starting this term with a Science-based Whole School Topic called Record Breakers, focusing very much on finding out and investigative work. We are keen to encourage the children to experiment and we are looking forward to hosting 'Sublime Science' in a couple of weeks' time. In the meantime the children will be busily building their 'cars' to become their own classes 'Record Breaker' and thus being entered into the 'Grand Final' against all other class winners in our 'Landing Assembly' on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. This topic has the opportunity to create real awe and wonder, and even as adults there are things that continue to amaze us – perhaps you could share these with your children over the coming weeks. I shared my 'awe and wonder' moment on Tuesday, which is ships being launched sideways into water – the children actually clapped when they saw the clip!

### **'Ambition'**

This half term's seed of success is 'ambition' and a lot of our assemblies will be based around this, as well as work in classes' right across the school. Having covered 'effort' and 'courage' already this term, ambition is a nice one to follow these – especially with the Record Breakers topic happening at the same time.

### **Assemblies**

I have placed an extensive list of dates covering this half term onto the website, but I wanted to put it in to this newsletter specifically class and year group assemblies coming up this term;

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January – 6K**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February – 5P**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – 4G**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – 1W**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Foundation Year**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 6S**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 4MR**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – FN**

All assemblies are at 2.30pm and access to school should be gained via the Wetherby Road entrance.

### **Scooters**

Can we ask that no scooters are used on the school playground before or after school, even if the children are pre-school? We have had some near misses in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Your help with this would be gratefully received.

### **Assessment Cycle & Reporting**

Today you should have received your child's first report of the year, summarising their achievements in the Autumn Term, and giving targets for the coming term, which is another long one with Easter so late. There is an accompanying letter with the report to explain the process. As a Trust we have strived to make the 'assessment cycle' as streamlined as it can be, and this does involve some testing at the end of term for Y1-6, but in reality the greatest deal of assessment is done in the classroom and through looking at books and the work the children have done. The tests merely support teacher judgements.

The teachers have spent time over the Christmas period completing the reports you have received today, and it is hoped that they support the 'structured conversations' next week at Parents Meetings. These reports are cumulative, and the teachers will complete the Spring Term section to be sent out to you in early April, before further Parents Meetings in the last week before the Easter holiday. We are doing the Parent Meetings again this term, because we effectively do not return to school for the Summer term until late April, early May and we want the children to have the best possible opportunity to achieve all they can, and this means they can hit the ground running when they return.

If you have not yet made an appointment for Parents Meetings there are still appointments available.

### **Schools Direct Programme**

The school is part of the North Star Teaching Schools Alliance, which has successfully over the past three years trained new teachers. Aspin has been heavily involved in hosting and developing this group of teachers. This year already we have welcomed Mr McCullum in Y6, and Miss Clarke is currently in Y2. The programme involves working for four days in a school, and then having a 'hub' day on the Friday when all trainees come together for training. I do know from speaking to parents in the past that some have you have considered training to teach, some have already taken the plunge. Next **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** staff from North Star will be in the Entrance Hall in Abbey from 3.00 – 4.30 to give you more information about everything related to the course itself, so even if it isn't immediately, if you might consider teaching as a future career, come along and see them.

### **Website**

In the near future our school website will migrate to another platform, which we hope will be more interactive and easier to use. I have spent a lot of time in the past term 'upgrading' the website into more of what we want it to look like and more accessible, hence I hope why you are reading this through a link to it. We will inform you of when the website moves over, but please take some time to have a look at the website as it currently is.

### Aspin Harmony

Our hard working choir 'Aspin Harmony' resume their singing sessions next **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.15am**. New members are welcome to join the group and KS2 teachers have letters if so desired.

### North Yorkshire Police Community Messaging

We subscribe to the North Yorkshire Community Messaging Service and we received both of these over the Christmas Period, therefore I am passing them on.

'We are seeing increased reports of bogus/scam phone calls from individuals purporting to be from legitimate businesses and government organisations. These individuals are attempting to gain bank details and are using methods to exploit people into giving them money. If you receive such a phone call, please report to Action Fraud. Do not give personal bank details to anyone over the phone. The police and other government organisations will never ask for personal banking details or money over the phone.'

'A scam which appears to be doing the rounds at the minute is where the victim is targeted via email claiming that their computer has been 'hacked' and that the hacker has been monitoring the victims online activity. They will claim the victim has been visiting adult sites and that all this has been monitored. The scammer will then state that unless payment is made (usually in Bitcoin) then the victims activities will be circulated on social media as well as the victims computer being 'formatted' (i.e. all data being erased). As you can imagine, this causes the recipient of the message some concern. Below is advice from our Cybercrime unit as to what to do in relation to these emails:

"The victim's computer is not at risk of being formatted, the password has been compromised in multiple data breaches. A person can see this for themselves by entering their email address into [www.haveibeenpwned.com](http://www.haveibeenpwned.com). That is why it is very important for users to change their passwords. We would recommend using password manager software such as LastPass, Dashlane or one of the many other legitimate versions and also enabling two factor authentication. Advice on these and other security tips can be found on [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org).

Unfortunately there is very little a person can do to block these emails as the suspects are constantly changing the origin accounts that the emails are coming from and in the latest versions are making it appear as though it is originating from the victim's own account".

**The main thing is not to panic and DO NOT make any payment to these scammers**

### Preparing to Work in Schools

A course which trains adults to work in schools starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> February in Harrogate. This is a 16 week Level 1 CACHE course, which gives an excellent opportunity to gain qualifications for employment as a teaching assistant in the primary and secondary school sector.

This is a very popular FREE COURSE if you earn less than £15,736.50 per year.

Please phone to find out more 01609 535624

Email: [south.adultlearning@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:south.adultlearning@northyorks.gov.uk)

### Grimbald Road

I am passing on the concerns of a parent in school who e-mailed the school on the last day of term, these are her words not mine;

***'I know it's the last day of term and nothing can be done until after hols but as I was sat in the car this morning with my daughter in year 1. At least 5 cars stopped next to me and let their children out onto the road and drove off. One car was trying to pull out when this happened and I am so worried that a child will end up getting knocked over. I know it's been in the newsletter but please will you highlight it again as it's the same cars every morning doing it.'***

Once again I appeal for common sense to prevail, if you know that your actions are endangering children and adults alike (including your own children) please refrain from doing so.

### Adversity United

Adversity United is a disability football club for boys and girls between 6 and 12 living with physical, behavioural, social and cerebral challenges. Sessions run between 3.30 and 4.30pm each Tuesday in term time only at Harrogate Grammar School. Please contact Cameron Osburn at [adversityunited@gmail.com](mailto:adversityunited@gmail.com) or 07468 855433 or Vicky Lever on 07881 797716 if you anyone you know may access these sessions.

### Burglaries

There has been an increase in burglaries and break-ins in the Harrogate District where premises and vehicles have been left insecure.

Please ensure that your property is secured at all times.

### Staffroom

It appears that the staffroom may very soon be back in action, if you have been to the school entrance this week you will have seen the wall has been re-built, new windows go in at the weekend and we are hopeful of a speedy return late next week. Thank you all for your patience throughout this period of time.