

## Newsletter 8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope you all received in good time the notice that school was closed last Friday. It is always a fine line between making the decision too early or too late. Whilst I was able to drive into school to check the conditions on site, my journey was not without incident. Hence taking the decision to close for the day. Thank you for your understanding around this matter.

We have recently had a spate of difficult situations whereby some pupils are having difficulties in school due to inappropriate comments being made between them whilst playing online games. Please ensure that you monitor how your child uses these platforms and speak to them about the impact of cyber bullying.

For those of you who have children who take medication at home, we ask you to ensure your child is given their prescribed dose before coming into school each day. Please make sure they are not responsible for self-medicating without adult supervision. There have been numerous occasions of late where teaching and learning has been extremely difficult due to the children not being given the medication they need to focus in lessons.

Two weeks ago, we had a visit from the Worlds Tallest Basketball Player, Paul Sturgess. Not only did the children have a wonderful time watching and copying some of the tricks he had to share, but Paul was quick to tell me when he left how impressed he was with all the pupils at the school and how he felt the staff were 'diamonds' and work really hard for the pupils. I echo these sentiments and, considering we sometimes have to hold difficult conversation with you regarding our concerns about the pupils, ask you to remain respectful when talking to the adults who go that extra mile to ensure your child stays in school in each day.

Items such as the basketball player's visit are posted on our school's website (<http://northernhouseoxford.schooljotter2.com>). Please be sure to take a regular look at the homepage to get a picture of the work we do in school. The items posted given an indication of the different activities the pupils enjoy, and the fact that we offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Future fun activities planned include World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – when Wren class will be leading the assembly – and our Red Nose Day celebrations on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Next week I will be forwarding you a copy of annual parental questionnaire to gain your thoughts on where we can make improvements and to gather your views on your child's time at Northern House School. Please take the time to engage in this exercise. Your feedback is an important part of maintaining the good work we do in school.

Also, just a quick reminder about next Tuesday' (12<sup>th</sup> February) coffee morning for parents of children with autism. Mrs Lee, our Home-School Link Worker, will be running this event from 10am. The following week is half-term, meaning the taxis will be stood down and the school will be closed to pupils until Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis

Headteacher

### **The Nest (Miss Youngman):**

We have been working on our team building skills by using Lego to make a city and a bridge. We reflected on our own work and considered what we could improve and how we could better work in groups. We celebrated the Chinese New Year by enjoying a book entitled *The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac*. As part of this we wrote our own creative sentences using connectives. Our Maths work has seen us explore the work of money by designing our own shops and writing number sentences that required adding and subtraction sums.

### **Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):**

We are continuing on our Viking journey, which was made all the more exciting by a real-life Viking experience talk. Photos are on the website showing some of the armour worn and how the weapons were used. We are now in the process of creating our own shields and Longboats, with some help from Mr Cherry. We have also started to explore Viking story telling through songs during our music sessions. Our Maths focus has been fractions, which become far easier to understand when it involves cake. Our English focus is still based around the story of Beowulf and his quest to defeat various beasts. We have been writing descriptions of battle scenes, letters home and poems about Grendel.

### **Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):**

Red Kite have been learning about Beowulf's battles with Grendel. We have been acting out battle scenes (safely) and writing character descriptions and powerful speeches. In our Maths lessons we have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. We have also enjoyed drawing Viking symbols and patterns and made our own warrior shields. Miss Jackson has proved an excellent addition to the team and the children are developing excellent working relationships with their new teaching assistant.

### **Wren Class: (Miss Davies):**

Wren class have continued their topic of the Enchanted Woodland. We have classified different animals and identified

parts of plants and trees. In RE, Wren Class have really enjoyed exploring Buddhism, we have enjoyed listening to some of the faith's traditional stories. In Maths, Wren has been looking at doubling numbers and exploring money. We have used practical activities and ICT to explore different ways of making the same amount. Wren class have been doing a lot of work around a new story '*Don't Hog the Hedge!*' We have explored the different characters, created posters and described the different settings. Wren class really enjoyed the visit from the world's tallest basketball player, we learnt skills and practiced playing part of a team!

### **Osprey Class (Mr Moar):**

We have been learning about fantasy texts by studying the excellent *Spiderwick Chronicles*. Part of our lesson work has also included us classifying rocks and their properties in Science. In our topic work we have been looking at key events in the stone-age, as well as designing our own stone-age tools. The class have been more settled now that Mr Moar is back at school but are aware that he will be absent for school for 15 days after the half-term holidays.

### **Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):**

Falcon class have enjoyed a very exciting week. First, we were invited to a Jaqueline Du Pre Room music concert; where we all enjoyed listening to and learning all about the different instruments. On the same day we were lucky enough to have a visit from the World's Tallest Basketball Player. He introduced himself by leading an assembly and showing us his different tricks. The children were also given time to ask him questions and learn about life as a professional sports person.

### **Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):**

It has been a busy week for Kingfisher Class. On Tuesday we had a visit from two archaeology students from the University of Oxford. They taught us lots of information about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and brought in some artefacts that we were able to look at and handle. We are hoping to do our own archaeological dig in the school

grounds when the weather is warmer. In Maths, we have been working hard to remember our times tables and this week we started to solve division problems. We have carried on with our investigation in Literacy to find out whether or not Tutankhamen was killed.

### **Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):**

Woodpeckers have been learning all about the location of different countries and the continents in which they are found. This has linked quite nicely with a study of where the early Anglo Saxons came from and the period of conflict with the Vikings, which preceded the establishment of something resembling the Great Britain in which we live today. We have lots of character pictures of Grendel from our Literacy focus, Beowulf and ancient animal artwork and patterns from the Viking period. We hope these will all come together to make a fantastic Viking/Beowulf display! In Maths, we have become more confident in different methods of addition and subtraction... most recently using the frog method to help us round numbers and solve problems involving money.

### **Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):**

Eagle Class have been writing some wonderful descriptions based on our class book, Beowulf. In our Geography lessons we have been learning about continents, countries and climates around the world. The class have continued to enjoy our Viking topic, making helmets and shields and learning about Lindisfarne. We thoroughly enjoyed a visit from the World's Tallest Basketball Player and set to work trying to emulate his skills and tricks.

### **Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):**

Robin class have had a week full of interesting and varied activities. We have been cooking pancakes (yummy!), met the World's Tallest Basketball Player and did some trampolining in the Oxford Academy. We have created amazing job advertisements that we have put in our English display and we have also done some drawings of Viking dragons and Viking snake heads.