



Spring Term 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy start to the Spring Term and have enjoyed many trips such as 'Stump Cross Caverns' and 'Jorvik Viking Centre', and workshops such as our Fairytale and storytelling workshop, that have enhanced our learning. In addition, we have had many children representing our school, and continuing to make us proud: KS2 representatives competing in the Cross-County races, Football Tournaments leading us to the finals in March; and through lunchtime sporting clubs in school. Our choir is also in the final preparations for their upcoming performance at Young Voices in Sheffield, which is set to be a fantastic event!

We have been so proud to see the children develop in confidence and really demonstrate those 'Six ways to Shine' throughout the curriculum and as part of their everyday activities. All our children have made us very proud with their determination, independence, and positive attitude in everything that is asked of them. Our programme, My Happy Mind, has really begun to embed in the children's learning behaviours and mental health, and we are seeing the positive impact of this. To access the app or related materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. **Your authentication code is 140076.**

We have also enjoyed welcoming parents/carers across each year group into school for our regular 'Parents Events'. This is a great opportunity to see what is happening in the classroom and take part in a variety of opportunities. Next half term the Parent Event for all classes will be held on **Thursday 21st March at 2pm.** Each classroom will have a STEM inspired challenge that the children will be taking part in, and parents are welcomed to come and join the classes. If you have more than one child in school, there will be the opportunity to move between classes and take part in both children's activities.

Next half term is set to be busy, so please can we draw your attention to the attached list of dates on this newsletter.

Have a wonderful half term break, we will look forward to welcoming the children back to school at 08:30am on Monday 19th February 2024.

Kind Regards,

Leanne Ruddock, Head of School &

Kirsty Hutchinson, Executive Headteacher



Governor update

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to the February half-term holidays. I can't believe February is here already and the first half term of 2024 is almost finished. I am sure all the staff and children are looking forward to a well-earned break during the holidays.

Along with the chair of Governors, Jenni Mayo, I am a Governor with a role that focusses on the quality of education in school and the implementation of the curriculum. Last week, we had the pleasure of visiting Mrs Ruddock (Head of School) and Miss Roe (Curriculum Leader) for a catch up and learning walk across most year groups and talking to some individual pupils about the work in their books. The visit had a particular focus on the teaching of 'non-core' curriculum subjects and adaptive teaching.

As I have always found in school, on the learning walk all the children displayed exemplary behaviour and there was a real buzz for learning in each classroom. In Year 6, we saw ART/DT where the children were working on building models of Viking long boats and mechanisms using pulleys. It was lovely to see at the end of the lesson the children presenting their models to the whole class and receiving great feedback on them. In Year 1 and Year 4 we saw amazing science lessons with the labelling of plants (Y1) and a really exciting experiment involving chocolate (Y4). The children were working really well in groups listening to everyone's ideas. When we dropped in on Year 2 the children were creating wonderful work on the timeline of the first moon landing as part of their history lesson. In Year 3 the subject was Geography, with the pupils learning all about volcanoes. We again observed the whole class enjoying working in groups with lots of open questions being asked to the children. The final stop of the afternoon was Year 5 who were having a computing lesson. The children were working in pairs on iPads choosing countries of the world to research and build a database. It was clear to see the children were enjoying their work and really engaged in the subject.

From all the School Governors, we hope you all enjoy the half-term break
Will

Upcoming Dates

Thursday 8th February– Rota Kids Tombola 3pm in playground

Friday 9th February– PTFA Uniform sale 3pm in playground

Friday 9th February– School closes at 3pm for half term

Monday 19th February– Return to school at 08:30am

Monday 19th February– Young Voices Concert

Monday 19th February– Y5 Swimming Begins

Wednesday 21st February– Y5 Saltaire Workshop

Friday 23rd February– Y4 Magna Trip

Friday 1st March– Spanish Day

Thursday 7th March– World Book Day

Thursday 7th March– Author to visit KS2 in school

Thursday 7th March– Y5 to visit Pre-school for shared reading

Friday 8th March– Y3 Tudor Workshop in school

Tuesday 12th March– Reception Tropical World trip

Tuesday 12th March– Parents Evening (More details to follow)

Friday 15th March– Comic Relief– Non uniform and something funny for money (More details to follow)

Wednesday 20th March– Y1 Trip to Skelton Grange

Thursday 21st March– Parents Event– Easter craft and design technology challenge in the classrooms 14:15-15:00 (Parent/Carers welcome)

Friday 22nd March– School closes at 3pm for Easter Holidays

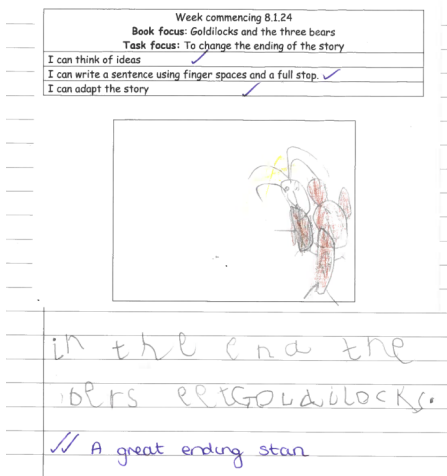


Reception Update

This half term, Reception have taken a real interest with their topic “Traditional Tales” The children have loved exploring different tales both old and new and using the role play area to perform their favourites, as well as making their own versions of familiar stories. As part of our topic, Reception have also enjoyed learning about castles - identifying their features and using their new knowledge to create castles with a variety of materials.



Reception have read a variety of texts as part of their English units including Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man and The Three Little Pigs. The children have been busy retelling the stories through role play as well as creating story maps and sequencing the beginning, middle and end. Their writing is so impressive!



Finally, Reception had a special visit from the storytelling and drama workshop led by Beth. The children enjoyed singing, dancing, acting and storytelling. They adapted familiar stories and created alternative endings using their imagination.



Year One Update

In Topic we have been learning all about London. We started the topic with a fun day with a virtual trip around London. The children worked together in groups to create representations of significant London landmarks. They also wrote clues to help people play guess the landmark.



In PE this term the children have been developing their gymnastics skills. They have worked on balances and learned some gymnastic shapes, which they have practiced on the floor and on equipment.



In Music this half term the children have been working on a unit called football. They have learnt a chant and developed their knowledge of rhythm to create a drumming accompaniment and then adding a melody using the glockenspiels. The children then combined the chant, melody and drumming to create a class performance.

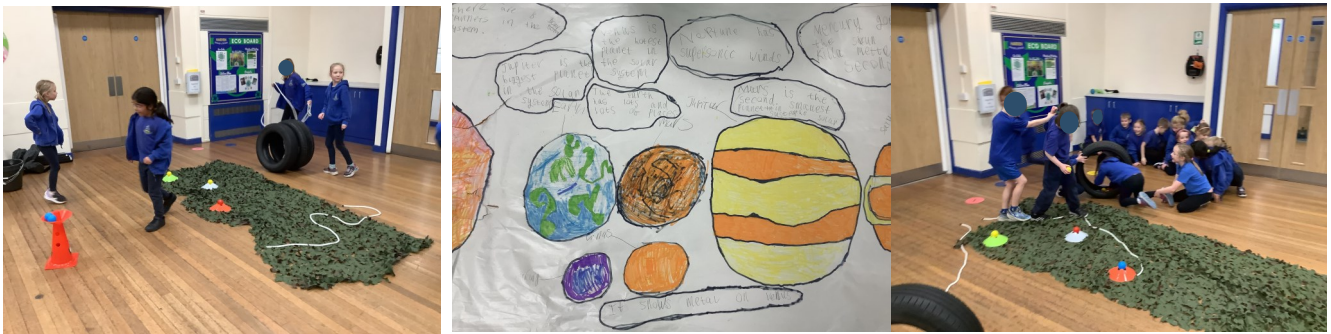


In Design and Technology, the children have been learning about healthy food choices and learned about the differences between fruit and vegetables. Using this knowledge, the children worked in groups to design a healthy smoothie. They selected ingredients and developed skills such as cutting, peeling and teamwork. Year 1 enjoyed tasting their smoothies and discussed what they liked and what they would change next time.



Year Two Update

Over the past few weeks, Year Two have been busy learning all about Neil Armstrong and the moon landings in their history topic. After going on a mission of their own in the hall, collecting samples during their hook, they looked at the journey to the moon that happened on that historical day. The children looked at evidence in photographs to identify items that were left and the moon, discussing the reasons.



Year 2 have had fun learning about Wassily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian, and their influence during the abstract art movement. They then used their paintings to influence their own ideas to create their own abstract pieces of art. They used primary colours to mix secondary colours, then added black and white paint to create different shades of these colours.



During PE, Year 2 have been focusing on balancing and travelling, in gymnastics. They have put together sequences, individually and in groups, showing skills of transiting between the balances, holding balances and teamwork.



Year 3 Update

Trip to Stump Cross Caverns

Year 3 had an amazing day at Stump Cross Caverns. Although it was cold and wet they fully immersed themselves in the learning. The children had a tour of the caves with the guide, using UV lights to explore the intricate formations. Year 3 were able to handle and learn about real fossils, such as a megalodon tooth, before creating clay imprints of ammo-



English

Year 3 have used the short film 'Dream Giver' to create fantasy stories based around dreams or nightmares. The children have now started to create their own dragon species to write reports about.



Science

This term's topic of rocks and soils has made Year 3 into rock sorting experts. Learning about the physical properties, rock cycles and the use of rocks in everyday life. The children have conducted experiments to find the benefits of different soil types.



Volcanoes

Year 3's topic day at the start of the term allowed them to research information ready to use and take part in volcano 'missions'! Whilst learning about the location, features and eruption causes for volcanoes, Year 3 have been working in teams to construct their own volcanoes. These will be erupted in the playground, allowing the teams to explain the process of a volcanic eruption.



Year 4 Update

This half term, Year 4 have been learning all about The Romans. Year 4 started their topic with a Roman Day where the children dressed as Romans and spent the day engaging in Roman activities including the Roman army fitness training! Wow that was tough!

Year 4 have learnt all about how the Romans created their empire and explored why the Roman Army was so powerful. Through looking at primary and secondary sources, we have also explored what life would have been like in this period.

The Battle of Watling Road was one of our favourite lessons and the children loved learning about Boudicca and her revolt against the Romans.



In Science, Year 4 have been learning about States of Matter. The children have had lots of fun experimenting with different materials to see what effect things have on the states of materials. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed investigating to see if gas weighs anything and if the temperature affects how quickly chocolate changes from a solid to a liquid.

In DT the children have been looking at different mechanisms and how they work. Year 4 designed their own mechanism that could be used in the Roman times and used a variety of methods and materials to create it. Year 4 then evaluated the effectiveness of their designs and models.



In PE the children have been developing their gymnastics skills through making shapes, jumping and balancing. Year 4 have worked on control and movements both on the mats and on apparatus. They have practised balances individually



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Year 5 Update

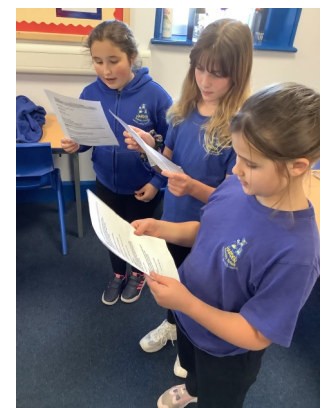
In Geography this half term, Year 5 have been focusing on Mountains. They fully immersed themselves in their topic 'hook' day, taking part in a Commando Joe's mission where they had to work as a team to cross a 'ravine'. The children reflected on the skills they needed to complete the challenge and why mountaineers would need those skills.



The children have continued their learning on mountains over the weeks, collecting knowledge about the locations, climates and structures of different mountains. Year 5 got hands-on when investigating how different mountains are formed, practically making each type of mountain.

Year 5 welcomed Ms Moorhouse from Bingley Grammar School into class, as they immersed themselves in the storytelling of Shakespeare. They read scenes from Macbeth, created freeze-frames and acted in the style of witches and warriors!

Fold mountain		
Fault-block mountain		
Volcanic mountain		
Dome mountain		
Plateau mountains		



Year 6 Update

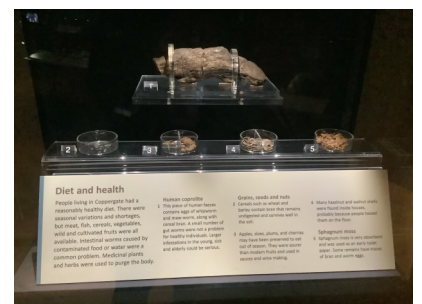
What a fantastic half term the children have had!

The new topic of Vikings was launched with a Commando Joes quest inspired topic day. The children were given the mission to stock up on the vital supplies they would need as Viking warriors undertaking a long and perilous voyage across the North Sea to invade England. They used the



equipment to create market stalls stocked with food and equipment. The coloured balls became their currency. Each half of the invaders took it in turns to run a stall and make purchases. This was followed by a variety of activities to learn about the Viking era including coin making, dragonhead sketching and baking Viking oats.

To immerse the children further in life during the Viking Era, they visited York to take part in a battle tactics workshop involving bearded axes, spears and swords! They also became archaeologists on a dig, learning how they unearthed artefacts and learnt about life in Jorvik. Finally, the children visited Jorvik to travel back in time to a village in Jorvik where they saw and smelt what life was like! They were also able to see artefacts that were found on the site, including the largest coprolite (fossilised poo!) found.



In DT, Year 6 were given a problem to solve—'To design and make a machine that the Vikings can use to transport goods to and from their longships'. The children explored how pulleys, levers and gears worked and then designed a machine incorporating some or all of these. They



then built their machines using knex before making their machines using modelling materials. The final part of the journey was to evaluate their designs. They had lots of fun designing, building and testing!





Mother's Day Gift

A little gift from them to you
to say 'thank you' for all you do!

£3.00 per child

Perfect for a special lady who deserves
to be thanked on Mother's Day.

Children will be creating a gift (1 per child)
from 26th February 2024 ready to
bring home in time for Mother's Day.
PTFA volunteers will be on hand to help,
please let us know if you can join us.

Payments made via ParentPay by the 26th Feb

We will be using glass jars so if you have any
medium sized jars to donate please send them
into school.

