



Northborough Primary School

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Spring Term 2016 Newsletter

Spring into Learning!

Welcome back, we hope you all had a great Christmas. Last term was packed with learning, trips, visitors, open days and performances; this term is just as busy! Included in this terms newsletter are some reflections by the children for last term.

This term we started back thinking about attitudes to learning. The theme of our Monday assemblies has been about the 4 R's of learning:

- Resilience
- Resourcefulness
- Reflectiveness
- Relationships

Each week we have studied what actions/ events attribute these values and how children could use these in supporting their learning. Each week children will be awarded a lily pad in class by a teacher or teaching assistant when they have demonstrated one or more of the 4 R's of learning, they will be celebrated in our weekly celebration assembly. At the end of each term children will take their lily pads home and share with parents what successes have been written on them.

As a school we are focusing on our mind-set and attitudes to learning, using this approach allows children to understand their own approaches to the curriculum and behaviour.

Using one of the 4Rs we share with you some reflections from class and children:

Foundation.

In Foundation we have been learning about People Who Help Us and had inspiring visits from a Police Officer, Nurses and the Red Watch Firefighters from Dogsthorpe. We visited Mr Greens Garage where the children asked Anton the mechanic questions about how they fix cars, St Andrews Church where we met Rev Hilary and Mrs Beesley the Church warden and talked about their jobs and even found some of our names in the Baptism Book. We also went to the Village Shop and Post Office and the Toddlers Group at the Village Hall remembering to take care as we crossed over the roads. We all very much enjoyed playing shopkeepers in class and Sharon from the Village shop came to tell us a little more about her role and to answer our questions. The term went in a flash and we look forward to more exciting learning!

Year 1.

"In year one last term I enjoyed learning maths. In maths I enjoyed shapes. And I enjoyed doing monsters" - *Isabelle*

"In year one last year I enjoyed making my monster and making my monster book and the fire of London" - *Harry*

Year 2.

"Making paper hats was really fun because we wore them at the Christmas dinner and we ate with our teachers" - *Oliver*

"Going to the pantomime was great fun because we went on the bus. We laughed all the way through the show" - *Brooke*

Year 3.

Year 3 have enjoyed reminiscing about their first term in Key Stage 2. Whilst they have many fond memories, there are three highlights that are particularly memorable.

We enjoyed our PE sessions, playing many exciting games and even performing a dance in the AMVC dance festival. Exploring Pop Art was great fun and we only wish we could do some more! When we visited Flag Fen, we saw many interesting artefacts, and were even able to sit in a roundhouse.

The first term proved to be fun-packed and full of learning - and this term is shaping up to be no different!

Year 4.

Last term our first topic was the water cycle. Class 4 did some acting to show how the water cycle works. We now understand the process of it. One of our favourite parts of the topic was watching the water horse, and we did art using water colours. We wrote instructions for a water cycle lanterns. Our next topic was wonder wildlife to kick start this topic we went to Stibbington which we all enjoyed, it was our favourite part of last term. We really liked sharing a room with our friends. In our term assembly we showed all our work and sang a great song teaching us about the types of rocks.

Thanks to *Lottie* and *Grace* for their thoughts.

Year 5.

Last term, we were learning about the Anglo-Saxons and made amazing 3D models of their villages. In literacy we read ghost stories, including the Highwayman poem and made our own books with suspense about an evil snowman inspired by a story about an evil scarecrow.

In science year 5 have been doing lots of experiments, one of them was a balloon experiment. We had to get a bottle, pour in some vinegar and some baking soda. Then we put a balloon on top, this made the balloon blow up with the gas. Also a few of us went to Design and Technology Challenge Day at AMVC and we won the maths challenge while we were there!

Thanks to *Hannah*, *Olivia* and *Lindsey* for their thoughts.

Year 6.

During the Autumn Term in Year 6 we learned about many interesting and fun topics. As part of our science topic on the environment we were given the challenge of building a model of an eco-friendly house.

Quite early into the year, we participated in a basketball festival which we all enjoyed at AMVC. After that some of the class were chosen to enter a hockey tournament. We thought we had done well, but unfortunately did not quite make it to the semi-finals.

Later in the year we began the intriguing topic of South America and learned about the importance of the Amazon Rainforest and the Mayan people. As well as South America, we spent an ICT lesson on joining "The Hour of Code" where we could use coding to create a game based around Minecraft, Star Wars or Frozen!

Thanks to *William* and *Ben* for their thoughts.

Important Reminders:

Attendance, Absence & Lateness.

Parents and carers are reminded about good attendance. Our children achieve the most when they regularly attend school. We would also like to take the opportunity to highlight our view on medical appointments as we saw the number taken during school time last term creep up. This along with overall attendance is something we are looking into closely.

Illness and Medical Appointments:

When a child is unwell, parents should contact the school before 9.15am on the first day of absence informing the school of the reason for absence. When a child is absent, the class teacher will record the absence in the register. As part of our Safeguarding Procedures, the school office will endeavour to contact the parent or carer and other emergency contacts if no message has been received regarding the reason for the absence to check on the safety of the child.

- a) Every effort should be made to arrange medical appointments outside school hours.
- b) An appointment card or verification by the doctor/ dentist/hospital is required.
- c) If it is necessary for a child to be out of school for this reason, the child should be returned to school directly after the appointment.
- d) If your child is absent due to vomiting, they should not return to school for **the next 48 hours** after the last bout of sickness. This is to reduce the risk of infection to other children and adults at school.
- e) For more than three days of absence the school require a written explanation of why the child was absent. The school office will request this if it is not produced.
- f) Medical certificates are required for absence greater than five days.

Bikeability PLUS.

We have been lucky enough to be offered a FREE cycling awareness course which is open to the whole school (subject to availability). Starting Wednesday 27th January, then each Wednesday for 4 weeks. Children from Foundation to year 6 will have the opportunity to take part in ability appropriate sessions throughout the day. Letters providing more information to follow.

Impact Workshops. 'Reading' for Y5 & Y6 and 'Maths' for Y1 & Y2.

Following the success of previous 'Impact Workshops' we will be running 'Reading' Impact workshop for years 5 and 6 and a 'Maths' workshop for years 1 and 2.

- Y1 & Y2 - Friday 22nd January
- Y6 - Wednesday 3rd February 9.25-10.25 - in the main hall
- Y5 - Wednesday 10th February 9.25-10.25 - in the main hall

Parents Evenings.

Parent Consultation Evenings are an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet teachers to discuss pupil progress. Appointment booking letters will be sent out next week (w/c 18th Jan). We will do our very best to accommodate your preferred appointment date/ time. Appointments will be available between 3.50-7pm on both dates.

- Tuesday 2nd February
- Wednesday 3rd February

Dinner Money.

Dinner money payments continue to be an issue. Parents are to pay for their child's lunch in advance of receiving it. The best way to do this is by leaving dinner money credit on your child's ParentPay account. Each time your child has a meal the daily charge (£2.10) will be deducted. Please ensure your account is regularly topped up. **We will not provide a meal without accompanying payment on more than one occasion.** Children in Foundation, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to universal free school meals.

For the safety of our children please THINK and ACT!

Now that the car park is closed to parents at the start and end of the day, it has not gone unnoticed that parents are choosing to stop on the double yellow lines immediately outside the school gates. You can only do this if you are displaying a valid disabled badge. If not please be respectful of those that need to and also be mindful of the immediate danger this poses to our children.

JANUARY

- *Sensory Circuits starts - week commencing 19th. (T/ W/ T) 9-9.15am (school hall)
- *School Census Day - Thur 21st - menu change for this day, please see website
- *Y1 & Y2 Maths Impact Workshop - Fri 22nd
- *Bikeability Plus Fun Day (whole school event) - Wed 27th after school (letters to follow)
- *Y6 Tudor Day - Friday 29th

FEBRUARY

- *Parent Consultation Evenings - Tue 2nd & Wed 3rd
- *Y5 Table tennis festival at AMVC - Tues 2nd
- *Y6 Impact reading workshop - Wed 3rd
- *Y5 Impact reading workshop - Wed 10th
- *Y2 Cake sale - Fri 5th
- *Valentines Disco - Fri 12th - Foundation & KS1 6-7pm & KS2 7.15-8.30pm (tickets available from school office w/c 25th Jan)
- *HALF TERM 15th - 19th

MARCH

- *Class photographs - Mon 14th (during the school day)
- *SOKE Netball & Football at AMVC - Thur 17th 1.45-4pm approx. (letter to follow)
- *Y5 Bikeability - Mon 21st - Thur 24th
- *Y5 History off the Page 'Ancient Greeks Day' - Thur 3rd
- *END OF SPRING TERM - Thur 24th

APRIL

- *START OF SUMMER TERM - Mon 11th

A full PTFA event calendar is to follow.

Guy Claxton's 4 R's of Learning Power

We ask the children - What makes a good learner? What qualities, knowledge, skills and dispositions do people need to be successful learners?

Resilience - Being ready, willing and able to lock onto learning
Absorption - Flow, the pleasure of being rapt in learning
Managing distractions - Recognising and reducing interruptions
Noticing - Really sensing what is out there
Perseverance - 'Stickability'; tolerating the feelings of learning

Resourcefulness - Being ready, willing and able to learn in different ways
Questioning - Getting below the surface; playing with situations
Making links - Seeking coherence, relevance and meaning
Imagining - Using the mind's eye as a learning theatre
Reasoning - Thinking rigorously and methodically
Capitalising - Making good use of resources

Reflectiveness - Being ready, willing and able to become more strategic about learning
Planning - Working out in advance
Revising - Monitoring and adapting along the way
Distilling - Drawing out the lessons from experience
Meta-learning - Understanding learning and yourself as a learner

Relationships - Being ready, willing and able to learn alone and with others
Interdependence - Balancing self-reliance and sociability
Collaboration - The skills of learning with others
Empathy and listening - Getting inside others' minds
Imitation - Picking up habits and values

Thank you once again for all your support in my first term as Head at Northborough Primary.

Mr S Mallott.