



Henshaw CE Primary School

Newsletter

Newsletter No. 7 Spring Term
Friday 27th January 2023

West Tyne Federation of Schools

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A Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holidays (it feels like rather a long time ago now!) Apologies for this late running newsletter, which was due last week. Due to the inspection of our sister school, Greenhead Primary, this newsletter was unable to be finished in time but we appreciate your patience in this.

We have made a fantastic start to the year and children have settled back well into classes. We have had a 'facelift' at our school with new carpets and I would like to say a big thank you for sending your children in with slippers to ensure that these are kept clean; it has also added more of a 'homely' feel to our school day. Thank you for the parents who were able to come to our Workshop Wednesday and engage in Reading activities with your children - we are thrilled to be able to offer you these opportunities to engage in your child's learning within the school day.

As detailed in my previous email, the National Education Union is planning to implement a series of strikes in the coming weeks. For the **1st February**, we are planning that **all classes will be open to all children**. Attached is a letter detailing some Frequently Asked Questions, which I hope will help with the context of the strike. Industrial action is not taken lightly and decisions can alter over time, even in the hours before a strike. However, we will do our best to keep families informed of any changes to ensure there is clear planning to support our children.

Best Wishes Mr Glenton

Inspection of our sister school, Greenhead Primary

As previously mentioned, our sister school, Greenhead Primary School, was inspected by the education regulator Ofsted, on Friday 20th January. As a federated school, we share expertise and subject leadership across both schools, which utilises the talents and specialisms of the professionals that work across the Federation. Unfortunately, the outcomes of the report is confidential until it has passed a rigorous checking and validating process, but what I can share is how incredibly proud we are of our Federation and what it offers children in both schools; we may be small but we have huge ambition and I am sure this will be realised by Ofsted when the report is published in the next three to four weeks. We will notify you as soon as this is available.

Class News

Tyne Class

In Tyne Class this week, we have been reading the story 'Whatever Next!' We built a rocket to take us to the moon like Baby Bear did. We made 'bear on toast' as a snack to take to the moon. We also pretended to be Baby Bear and thought of questions to ask, e.g. What did you see on the moon? Why did you wear a helmet? It was great fun pretending to be Baby Bear. Maybe you could pretend to be a character from one of your favourite stories and ask an adult to ask you questions about the adventures you have.

Thames Class

Thames class have been busy recognising and making patterns in Maths with 2D and 3D shapes. Year 1 are now looking at place value and understanding numbers. Year 2 have been recognising and making equal groups. In English, Year 1 have been consolidating their understanding of capital letters and full stops. Perhaps they could look for words in and around the home that have capital letters? Year 2 have been using contractions. For example *I am* becoming *I'm*. They could have a look for these words in books and perhaps make a list of the ones they have found. We are reading the book 'Katie Morag and the New Pier' in guided reading and answering questions about the book. In Science, we have started to look at animal groups and identifying which animals belong to each group.

Rhine Class

This week in Rhine class, we have been continuing our diary writing. The children's entries are focusing on their worst ever visit to the dentist, based on the 'Demon Dentist' class text that we are sharing. In guided reading, they have also written a letter as Ashley to his father at the missionary. In Maths, we have been carrying out work on multiplication and division, with Year 4 working on dividing a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number. In Science, we have been completing an investigation into light to try and solve the crime of the stolen earrings. In R.E., as part of our work on Sikhism, we have found out some more facts about Guru Nanak - the first guru. In Geography, we have carried out a case study into physical and human properties of rivers.

Nile Class

Our Year 6 children in Nile class and Mississippi class went on their first trip to Durham University. It was a fun filled day exploring the campus and meeting Durham University ambassadors, who shared lunch with the children and showed them around the various facilities, answering questions about the campus. Meanwhile, our Year 5 children had a great afternoon with parents creating their very own species of animals. The children thought about where the creatures lived, how they moved, what they looked like and what they ate.



Our School Promise

Our School Promise reminds us of our vision and values that we hold dear at The West Tyne Church Schools Federation.

Well done to the following children for achieving their awards:

Learning Award - Zane, Charlie, Parker,

Resilience & Teamwork Award - Tommy, Isabella

Etiquette Award - Cain, Eve

Environmental Award - Charlotte Cy, Alfie

Kindness Award - Eva Gm, Lockie, Eva Gt

Inclusion Award - Heidi

Friendship Award - Bethany, Ivy

Role model Award - Elizabeth, Dylan, Grace M, Macy



Each week, other children receive a postcard through the post to let their adults know how proud of them we are.

Attendance: Every day is important to give children their full entitlement to an exciting learning journey

Tyne - 93.3% Thames - 98.7% Rhine - 90.4% Nile - 100% Whole School: 96%



Bible stories and Drama Club

Our local church community trialled a 'Bible Stories and Drama' after school club, after members of our school had expressed interest in starting up an after-school club at the churches. The children really enjoyed listening to stories, acting them out and learning more about the Christian faith. A huge thank you to Father Steve, Elsie and Judy for providing this wonderful provision for our children. The next session is on **Wednesday 15th February at 3:20pm at Greenhead Church. Please let the office know** if your child would like to attend. This session will be charged at £2, which can be donated on the day at the church.

A Message from Father Steve

Hopefully Haltwhistle Carnival will be happening this summer. I was thinking about a Churches' float in the procession. Is there anyone who has experience in this sort of thing, or is willing to help? Part of the Church contribution to local life is our two Church Schools in Greenhead and Henshaw and I wonder if anyone could help shape what we do in the event, whether procession or stalls or any other ideas. Please contact Steve, the vicar, 07952 813786.

Packed Lunch Policy

A few months ago, the School Council came to see me with an issue they had found themselves...they thought that packed lunches were becoming very unhealthy and they wanted to change this. The Council have worked on a plan, with Miss Munro, to address this with which involved consulting with other children and the parents, and then producing their own guidance for a Packed Lunch Policy. They then presented this to governors at a recent governor committee meeting. The governors voted overwhelmingly to adopt this policy. Well done to the School Council for improving our school! Please could I ask that parents support the children in the hard work they have put into this policy, by abiding by this guidance from Monday. Thank you in advance for supporting and empowering the children to make a difference and have a voice.



Learning outside the classroom - Durham University and Eco Council

Last week, members of our Eco Council visited Haydon Bridge High School to take part in a Sustainability workshop with 8 other local schools. They were able to present what they had done to make our schools more environmentally friendly, and also made plans for our next steps. This week, Year 6 have also started their work with Durham University by visiting this prestigious centre for learning and embarking on a University course. We are looking forward to meeting our University tutor next week and starting our project.

Dates for the Diary

- Wednesday 1st February** - Year 6 University tutor starts - workshops every week
- Thursday 2nd February** - Mining workshop - Rhine Class to Greenhead School
- Thursday 9th February** - Tynedale Hospice assembly and possible follow-up fundraising
- Monday 13th February** - Railway Safety Talk (Network Rail)
- Tuesday 14th February** - Greenhead Reception visiting Henshaw Reception, Henshaw Primary
- Tuesday 14th February** - Valentine's Day Service (Years 1 to Year 6), 2:30pm at Henshaw Church - parents welcome to attend (information to follow)
- Thursday 16th February** - The Demon Dentist theatre visit, Rhine Class to The Sands Centre
- Friday 17th February** - Teacher Training Day, School closed to children
- Monday 20th Feb - Friday 24th Feb** - Spring Half Term break
- Monday 27th Feb** - LKS2 (Y3/4) commence swimming lessons

A final thought...

Enjoy life - You only get one

Richard Branson

