



# Northburn News

## Dear Parents

Yet another term has flown by and, as usual, there has been plenty going on at Northburn. I particularly enjoyed the Mary Poppins performance. Absolutely fantastic, they were VERY good!



Mr Tony Hall will be retiring at the end of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony for his dedication to pursuing the very best outcomes for the children of Northburn. He has greatly influenced the curriculum and ethos of the school and will be greatly missed.

Mrs Steph Hall will also be retiring at the end of the year. I thank her for her commitment, for sharing her expertise in English and for working tirelessly to enrich life for our children as director of many superb school performances.

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Chris Richardson who has secured a job working in a hotel. I thank him for all his hard work and wish him every success in future ventures.

After the Easter holiday we welcome Paul Smith as our new caretaker. Miss Natalie Harrison has been appointed as Deputy Head and will join Northburn in September. They both bring with them a wealth of expertise and I am thrilled that they are joining our team.

## OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Playtime continues to inspire learning. Our OPAL leaders help to develop play opportunities and ideas for their peers.



Thank you to those parents who have been developing our ground in all weathers. The tyre wall has significantly improved our drainage issue and I am very much looking forward to seeing all the tyres full of plants.

I know Mrs Jackie Aitman has many more ideas!

Mrs Gillian Cowan is working with some children and gardeners at Alnwick Gardens on a Roots and Shoots programme. The children are learning a great deal about growing foods, nutrition and conservation. Work will soon begin again, planting out the allotment.

# Early Years (Nursery and Reception)



The nursery children have enjoyed a very busy term focused around people who help us. Through our topic, we have welcomed many parents and visitors into the setting to talk about their jobs and how they help us in our community.

The parents and children have all supported our healthy recipe book, Mrs Ashley has enjoyed teaching the children a new skill each week and we have all loved tasting the healthy food.

In the hall this term, we have supported the children's independence skills: putting on their own shoes and socks. We have also encouraged their listening skills and use of space within team games. Thursday is definitely a highlight in the children's week!

We have continued to develop our outdoor area to support the characteristics of effective learning. Firm favourites have been the builders yard, reading house, woodwork and our recently improved mark making area.

Each day the children now sign in using their own register. This activity has supported the development of each child's writing and mark making skills.

This term you will have noticed lots of rhyming in nursery and it has been noticed lots of rhyming work has been continued at home. Hat, bat, cat, mat, sat!

We all enjoyed our STEM week in class and our Easter open day where we celebrated the children's achievements with their families.



# Early Years (Nursery and Reception)



We have had a very busy term in Reception. We started with a visit to Footprints on the Moon at Plessey Woods. We built dens, roasted marshmallows and also went on a fairy treasure hunt.



Next, we had a people and communities themed week. We had many visitors from the community. People talked to us about their jobs, hobbies and the different places in the world they came from. We even had a bear from Shanklea Primary School come to stay with us!



## Key Stage One

Spring has been another extremely busy term where we have all worked hard and been learning about keeping healthy, both in the past and now through Florence Nightingale and Plants.





Key Stage 1 have been helping to improve the school grounds during Thumbs-up Thursday. We have uncovered an existing, hidden path and, with Mrs Aitman and parents, have helped to redevelop the path, filling it with gravel to make our very own yellow brick road.

Furthermore, we have weeded and overturned the soil in the fenced garden ready for *Roots and Shoots Club* to start their planting in the summer.

We are also in the midst of creating our own vegetable and wild flower planters and, in conjunction with the children, will be deciding what will be planted in the summer term.



Key Stage 1 loved their Steel Pans workshop where they learned about the history of steel pans and played simple tunes together, keeping in time with each other.



We have had a number of visitors who have support us in our learning.

Mr Taylor talked to us about playground equipment as part of our DT Playground topic, allowing us to design and develop our own model playgrounds that were safe and fit-for-purpose.



Continuing on from our phone call from Antarctica researcher, Derren Fox, where we discussed the environment and plastics, Key Stage 1 took part in Northburn STEM week. We reused broken or damaged plastic bags to make bookmarks by weaving.

We continue to work towards accomplishing our *Challenge Award* and this term we have planted beans.

(We observed them growing and discussed what plants need to survive.)

We also linked this further to our plastic learning and thought about the importance of using compostable pots.



# Lower Key Stage 2

## Roots and Shoots



Pupils in year 4 have been invited to take part in Northumberland County Council's outdoor learning initiative, 'Roots and Shoots'. This well-established programme gives children the opportunity to learn how to grow, tend and harvest their own food and to learn about the importance of eating healthily. Pupils from Year 4 have been developing learning in curriculum areas such as science, (e.g. plants), and PSHE (e.g. healthy eating/team building/sharing), via outdoor learning experiences. In March, pupils had a fantastic day at The Alnwick Garden where they planted a range of fruit and vegetables. They will visit the garden again later this year to harvest the crop.

## STEM Week

During STEM week, year 3 and 4 pupils have been learning about and considering the problem of plastic waste in our environment. Pupils agreed that we could recycle our plastic waste by reusing it as another useful product. The product, chosen by LKS2, was garden ornaments and plans were put in place to make hedgehog ornaments to sell at the school Easter fair. All pupils had input in the production line including sourcing raw materials, costing, pricing, advertising, selling and even making the product. In music, pupils have used the recycling process to inspire a composition. They will perform it in our end of term celebration assembly.

Egypt Day—LKS2 pupils thoroughly enjoy learning through outdoor experiences. In March, pupils had a fantastic time immersing themselves in some of the problems that Ancient Egyptians would have faced. During the day, pupils had to move water by building an Egyptian shaduf, Move heavy items using cylinders as wheels, make an Egyptian water timer and finally, mummify a tomato. Pupils enjoyed learning about history in a fun, practical and scientific way.



Hancock Museum—As a culmination of our history topic, pupils thoroughly enjoyed the LKS2 trip to the Great North Hancock Museum to visit the Ancient Egyptians exhibition. The exhibition allowed children to consolidate their learning about Egyptian mummification, gods and goddesses and the journey to the after-life. One of the many highlights was seeing a real life, unwrapped mummy with its death mask and sarcophagus.

## Upper Key Stage 2

### Silent Disco

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Years 5 and 6 were treated to a book themed 'silent disco' for World Book Day. This was great fun and involved wearing headphones whilst listening to tracks related to well-known children's books. We participated in a treasure hunt for letters which were hidden in related books around the classroom. These formed an anagram of 'Share a Story', the theme of World Book Day. Our disco wasn't exactly as silent as we had planned though, because we all forgot that whilst wearing headphones, we use voices that are louder than normal! Everyone had great fun and we look forward to having Forum Books in school again.



Children's roles included quality control, resource manager and production line. The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

### STEM Week

Also in March, the whole school took part in a STEM challenge. Years 5 and 6 learned about the different types of plastics that could be recycled and then used their knowledge from business ambassadors to create a budget to create a product from re-using plastic bottles to sell at the Easter fair.



## World Book Day and Sports' Relief

The children enjoyed World Book Day and Comic Relief day. There were many, many fantastic costumes paraded, at both events. Everyone had the chance to dress as their favourite book and red-nose character.



## Sporting Success



In February, our year 3 and 4 gymnastics team competed in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley gymnastics tournament. The team had ten weeks pre-school club training behind them and were very excited to be competing at Northern Gymnastics Centre. After four rounds of competition, we were very proud that we came 2nd out of ten local schools and were awarded the silver team medal, with Ava receiving an overall gold medal as top scoring individual.



Mr Hall has been very busy preparing our year 5 pupils to compete in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley hockey tournament. In March, two teams were selected to play in the cup and shield competitions and both represented the school with merit during the event. After finishing top of their respective groups, our teams made the final of the cup and shield competitions but were unfortunately beaten by 1 goal in both games, leading to silver medals for all pupils. We were very proud when Northburn were awarded a special award on the night as the team that best displayed the school games values.



In March, year 5 attended the Cramlington and Seaton Valley skipping tournament with high aspirations, after a much success in previous years. Mr Aird had whipped the team into peak perfection during eight weeks of after-school training. At the competition, Team Northburn performed fantastically and won many individual medals, as well as earning a bronze medal for 3rd place of ten teams. Skipping Club is always popular and pupils have learnt new skills that they now use regularly on the school playground.

During the spring term, we have run an after-school netball club to prepare our year 6 girls for an inter-schools tournament on 4th April. Year 5 boys will also compete in an inter-schools tournament after the Easter break. We wish them all good luck.

Next term, we will be starting after school tennis club with Cramlington Tennis Club. Pupils in year 3 and 4 have had taster sessions during PE and some have been selected by the coach to join the club, aiming to make it into the school team that will play in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley Tennis tournament. A number of year 5 and 6 pupils will also be participating in a dance festival.



## School Challenge Award



It is great to be able to recognise achievements made outside of school, in school. When your child reaches the end of a phase- Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6, and if they have completed sufficient challenges, they will be awarded a badge in an assembly. The badges have been designed by children and can be seen above. Exceptional effort will be rewarded with a gold badge. There are now School Award displays in each phase area.



### Governors

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all governors for the time they give their time and expertise voluntarily to support the school in driving forward improvement. If you would like to find out who our governors are, please have a look on our website.

### P.T.A

I would like to thank the P.T.A for the amazing work they do. Our school budget continues to be incredibly tight and funds raised through events are critical if we are to continue to provide an exciting and inspiring primary school experience. As usual, the Easter Fair was a great success. Thank you to all for providing the funds to allow us to upgrade our laptops, provide enterprise experiences and trips that we would otherwise be unable to afford.

### 100% Attendance

Well done to all who have managed to attend every day since the beginning of the spring term.

Those children who attend every day are entered into a termly draw. The winner receives a Vue voucher. Dixon Clark is our winner this term.

At the end of the year, all children who have 100% attendance for the year will receive a £5 voucher.

### House Teams

Red have won the cup for the half-term. They will have a non-uniform day on

**Friday the 26th of April**



Many thanks for your continued support. Have a lovely and, hopefully, sunny and warm Easter and I look forward to seeing you all back on **Monday the 23rd of April.**

Clare Scott

## Dates for your Diary

Drop in	Wednesday 24th April 3.15-4.15pm
Y6 S.A.Ts	Week beginning the 13th May
Summer Fair	Saturday the 6th July
Drop in	Wednesday the 10th July 3.15-4.15pm
Sports Day	Y5&6 (classes 10,11,12) 9.15AM Reception, Y1,2,3,4 (Classes 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) 1.30pm

### Easter Fair raffle prize winners

1st	Oliver McCleod
2nd	Chris Fryatt
3rd	Jake Taggart
4th	Oliver
5th	Josh Chapman
6th	Olly Potter
7th	Dixon Clark
8th	Bev Farrier
9th	Alfie Rutherford
10th	Kealy Dixon

11th	Chapman
12th	Darrell Reynolds
13th	Lucy Bilclough
14th	Dixon Clark
15th	Jackie Aitman
16th	Elizabeth
17th	Alfie
18th	Lizzy Stackhouse
19th	Oliver Common

**Thank you to all the companies and individuals who donate prizes.**

Northburn Primary School  
Horton Drive  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 3QS  
01670 73911