



HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER

SHIELD ROW PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been a busy half term here at Shield Row and the children have settled back into school life well! Here is a little snap shot of what has happened over the past 7 weeks...



Y2 OUT AND ABOUT!



As part of their Science unit on 'Living Things and Their Habitats', Y2 were Wildlife Biologists! The children had an awesome day at Washington Wetlands where they investigated a range of habitats and classified some of the plants and animals they came across. The children have explored how animals and plants adapt to their environments and looked into food chains and dependency.

In Geography Y2 have been Cartographers; learning to use compass points to navigate, looking at aerial photographs and maps, spotting human and physical features. The class ventured into the local area to use their observational skills to study the geography of Shield Row before returning to school and building their very own 3D map of the area.



PLAY LEADERS IN TRAINING

Dave from Skip2bfit made a return to school and spent a day with our Y5 and Y6 children. The children went through some training to be Play Leaders to equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to set up and initiate games for other children. Miss Robson issued application forms for any children who wanted to apply for this role and the applications are in!

Our new playleaders will be announced after half term and they will lead games and activities during playtimes so everyone can have fun.



MINI MEDICS

Mini Medics joined us this term and led a first aid session with some of our Key Stage 2 children and their adults. The session gave an introduction to some basic first aid and defibrillation. The children enjoyed the educational and practical session and feel more confident about having to help someone who may be poorly or injured.

HARVEST COLLECTION



Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people can reflect and show gratitude for the food that they have.

It dates back a long time in British history, to when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest.

It is the perfect time for reflection on what we are thankful for and to be able to help those who may be in need of a little support. We were overwhelmed with everyone's kindness and were able to collect a fantastic donation of food and toiletries for PACT House in Stanley. Our head boy and girl, Bailey and Darcy, helped to ensure everything was delivered.



ROAD SAFETY MAGIC SHOW



Year 1 and Year 2 were visited by Allan's Road Safety Magic Show, provided by Durham County Council to raise awareness of the Slow to 20 Safer Streets programme.

From learning how to stop, look and listen and finding safe places to cross, to learning how to use different types of light controlled crossings, our pupils picked up safety messages in a fun and engaging way through the art of magic.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING



We have sent out an overview of our upcoming Health and Wellbeing Initiatives.

Wellbeing is important for children and young people for a number of reasons:

- it is fundamental to their overall physical and mental health
- supports them to overcome difficulties
- gives confidence and a positive self-esteem

Our first health and wellbeing initiative will start after the half term break and it is all about quality family time. We hope you can get involved with our Family Bingo! More information to follow...

SHIELD ROW PRIMARY SCHOOL
2023/2024 HEALTH & WELLBEING INITIATIVES

AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
FAMILY TIME During the run up Christmas break we will be promoting the importance of Family time! When we spend time with family (especially face-to-face communication, as opposed to digital) it significantly reduces the occurrence of depression, anxiety, and other mental illness. Being physically present with loved ones creates a strong emotional support.	E-SAFETY This half term we will be highlighting some key E-safety tips with parents to ensure children are supported to stay safe on-line at home. Aside from the more obvious risks such as online bullying, grooming or device addiction, the way children are engaging with the online world means that we have to take stock of their mental health and wellbeing, the type of content they are viewing and what they are posting online.	RECYCLING & ENERGY SAVING This half term we will be exploring environmental issues, discussing the importance of recycling and looking at ways to save energy! Children might not have a grasp of the value of money. And, saving money on energy can seem really abstract. The way to keep children engaged and turn these into life-long habits is by having them understand the why behind what they're doing.	EMOTIONAL WELLBEING This half term we will be focusing on the importance of good mental health and exploring ways in which we can look after ours. Children's emotional well-being is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health helps them develop the resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well-rounded, healthy adults.	HEALTHY EATING & PHYSICAL HEALTH This half term we will be discussing the importance of physical health and how to make healthy choices. Healthy habits are the building blocks of lifelong well-being for children. Healthy eating and physical activity are important for growth and development and to prevent chronic health conditions.
SCHOOL Not only will we be discussing the importance of Family and relationships in school, but we will also be launching Family Time BINGO after half term. Your BINGO grid will feature a number of Family activities.	SCHOOL Before Christmas we will be sending out a survey to find out the types of devices our pupils are using and the apps which are most popular. We will use this information to provide the most useful guidance for parents/careers and will be sending home a weekly information poster.	SCHOOL We will explore the importance of looking after the environment and saving money as well as overall! Durham County Council will lead an assembly on recycling and 'Love Food Hate Waste'. For parents/careers and children to offer more insights into recycling.	SCHOOL We will look at practical steps the children can take to look after their own mental wellbeing and how they can boost other people's wellbeing! We will launch Wellbeing BINGO and challenge the children to complete some wellbeing activities as well as some random acts of kindness.	SCHOOL We will consider what a healthy lifestyle looks like and how we can make better day-to-day choices to keep ourselves fit and healthy. We will send home a weekly cooking card and activity challenge to encourage trying new things at home!
HOME See how many of the activities you can complete as a Family and share your actions with us on Seesaw! If you manage to complete 10 or more of the activities, hand your bingo card in by the deadline and you will be entered into a raffle for a FAMILY HAMPER!	HOME Please read the information we send home and it supports your child to stay safe on their devices at home. Drop into school and access our E-safety Support evening where technicians will be on hand to help you set up privacy controls, screen time limits and answer any questions you may have.	HOME Please join us for our recycling assembly! We will be launching a competition for the children to take part in. EYF and KS1 children are to design a poster to encourage other people to save energy and help the environment and KS2 children will be challenged to create an information leaflet. The winning entries will be copied and sent out to all of our families and prizes will be awarded!	HOME Support your child to take part in our Wellbeing BINGO and make try some of the activities yourself! Share any pictures with us on Seesaw! Anyone who completes 10 or more of the activities' challenges can bring their bingo card in for the deadline and they will be entered into a prize draw for a luxury wellbeing hamper!	HOME Engage with our wellbeing challenge cards, trying out new recipes, completing the physical fitness challenges or boost everyone who completes 5 or more challenges will be entered into a prize draw! We are running a Family Fitness day in June - come along and get involved! Take part in our 'Green & at home' challenge - what can you grow in your garden which you can then use in your kitchen!

CREATIVITY IN THE CURRICULUM



Over the last few years we have been redeveloping our curriculum to ensure all learning is meaningful and purposeful for our children. We ensure that learning is progressive, building from nursery all the way through to Year 6.

One aspect of our curriculum is art and in each unit of work the children complete, they start by 'meeting the artist'. The children have a focus artist in each block of study so they consider different styles and techniques before using these to design their own creative pieces.

This half term Nursery have 'met' Piet Modrian; Reception (pictured) have explored Wassily Kandinsky; Year 1 - Molly Haslund; Y2 - Vincent Van Gogh; Y3 - Hannah Rae; Y4 - Laura Carlin and Shaun Tan; Y5 - Louise Fili; Y6 - Pablo Picasso.



Encourage your child to practice their writing skills at home.

They could:

- write your shopping list
- send an email or a letter to a family member
- create their own story
- research a topic of interest and make an information poster



WRITER OF THE WEEK

In school we are having a big push on handwriting and sentence accuracy to further improve children's writing skills. To motivate the children, we have introduced Writer of the Week Awards with a winner in Key Stage 1 and a winner in Key Stage 2 each Friday. Winners are nominated by class teachers for superb effort and improvements and they are awarded a golden quill. The golden quill takes pride of place on their desk for the whole week and has caused much excitement!

READING IS THE KEY



One of our main goals is to ensure 'every child is a reader' because it is one of the key life skills that will enable them to succeed. We do everything we can in school to teach, support, develop and encourage our children to read but we also need support from home.

Please listen to your child read 3 x per week and log these in their reading records. Regular reading is vital to strengthen fluency, comprehension and confidence.

Reading records are checked every Friday and children are awarded golden stars every time they have achieved 3+ reads in a week.

Please support your child's reading at home. It really does make a huge difference.

ATTENDANCE

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. The government have a keen focus on improving school attendance and we are eager to support families where it is needed.

It is important that if your child is going to be absent from school, that you alert school to this before 9:30am on their first day of absence. Failure to do this will result in unauthorised absences.

Current Attendance Figures

Whole School = 94.5%

Reception = 93.8%

Year 1 = 94.7%

Year 2 = 96.4%

Year 3 = 92.2%

Year 4 = 96.6%

Year 5 = 93.1%

Year 6 = 94.4%

SHARING LEARNING



We have defined 'sticky knowledge' in all subjects; this is the essential knowledge children should have in order to support future learning.

Staff have created knowledge mats which present this key knowledge for each unit of work, and we use these in school to recap and consolidate learning.

Your child will bring a copy of these knowledge mats home at the end of units of work so that you can talk to them about what they have learned and even quiz them!

To strengthen your child's knowledge, we ask that you discuss the Q and A style facts and see if they can recall what the key vocabulary means. Can they teach you all about ...

We hope these sheets give you a good insight into what your child is learning about and allows you to have more conversations about school at home.

FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

A big thank you to our Friends of the School who organised our Halloween Disco. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and had lots of fun with their friends!

The Friends will be running their shop, selling sweets, crisps and drinks, on the last Friday of every month from their shed near the gate!

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent Meetings have been held for all children from Nursery to Reception. These were incredibly well-attended and we hope you found them useful and informative.

If you did not manage to have a meeting with your child's teacher and would like one, please get in touch after half term and we can arrange this for you.

PAYMENTS ON ARBOR

All charges for breakfast club, school meals, Recharge and after school clubs should all be made via Arbor.

Please ensure any outstanding charges are cleared before we return to school on 6th November.

If you have any difficulties accessing Arbor, please contact the school office and Ms Bainbridge will be able to offer some support.

It is important that you are signed up to Arbor for payments and school communications.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Our nursery is a lively, engaging and nurturing start to education. We accept children the term after their 3rd birthday, with intakes in September, January and April.

We have very limited places remaining for this academic year. If you are interested in a place for your child, or know someone who is, please complete an application form as soon as possible.

Forms are available from the school office and can be downloaded from the school website.

