

MOORSIDE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue: 17

21st January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week was another busy and exciting one at Moorside. Year 5 excelled at Marrick Priory, pushing themselves to try new activities, taking risks and working together as a team! Meanwhile, at Moorside, our new STEM club began and we had a visit from Karen Butler, our School Improvement Advisor, who enjoyed hearing about our creative and exciting plans for learning this term. The children enjoyed sharing their work with her and we carried out a learning walk and lesson observations throughout the Infant and Junior schools.

She observed that, 'lessons were engaging but calm and purposeful, teachers use high level questioning which impacts on pupils' learning; they tackle any misconceptions and extend thinking and pupils could articulate their learning.'

'All teachers observed modelled well. There is greater consistency of practice across the Infant and Junior schools. This is as a result of the expectations of the Headteacher and Key Stage Leaders.'

'Marking and feedback enables pupils to identify what they have done well and what they need to do to improve. There is evidence of writing for a variety of purposes and at length, pupils respond to feedback which improves their learning and evidence of progress.'

To further improve our curriculum, we have put new measures in place to measure the outcomes of learning in Forest schools. Mrs Goss and Mrs Groundwater are keeping some fabulous BIG BOOKS to demonstrate how the Science, PHSCE and DT curriculums are delivered in the outdoors. We look forward to sharing these with you at our Parent Consultations at the end of term.

We continue to ensure that all provision areas are utilised effectively by all staff within the EYFS, including the outdoors, to maximise learning opportunities. It is really encouraging and supportive to receive feedback from professionals and advisors to ensure that momentum in making progress continues throughout our amalgamation. We will receive the final decision on the outcome of the amalgamation consultation on 19th February.

Mrs Hunton has shared some very exciting news with our staff team.... She is expecting her second baby at the end of May! We are really happy for the Hunton family and would like to congratulate them all! Mrs Hunton is due to begin her maternity leave at the end of the Easter holidays. Mrs Burland has kindly agreed to increase her teaching hours to three days each week from 29th April (Wednesday to Friday) and Mrs Bailey, who has been working with the Year 2's since last February when they were in Year 1, will teach them on a Monday and Tuesday. She will continue to teach Reception on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This is an ideal arrangement, as Mrs Bailey has continued to work with both Mrs Hunton and Mrs Burland as well as the Year 2 class this academic year, and will ensure that they continue to make progress in Mrs Hunton's absence. We are very lucky to be able to cover the class with consistent teaching staff.

I hope that you all have a super week! As always, the door is always open if you would like a chat, especially if you have any concerns or questions about your child's academic progress or well-being in school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rowett
Headteacher

Class Updates

Nursery – We thoroughly enjoyed our 'zero party' on Friday! This week, Nursery are exploring the number 1. We will also be learning and writing about penguins. See if you can find out where in the world penguins live - do they live where polar bears live?!

Reception – In Reception this week our Spark will come from the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. Children will be talking about the two main characters (a penguin and a boy) in the story and thinking of words to describe them. We will also be writing some 'Lost' posters to try and find the penguin's family. In Maths this week we are learning lots of vocabulary related to time, such as the days of the week, morning, afternoon, evening, day and night and we will have a go at making some times on clocks.

Year 1 - In Literacy this week we are focusing on story writing based on 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We will also be making 2D and 3D shapes - continuing to focus on their features and learning their names. In PSHCE we are continuing to think about looking after ourselves and others, and what it means to be healthy. Please talk to your children about this at home - we will focus on healthy food, getting lots of sleep, exercise and keeping clean. In Topic we will be planning and creating our giant product. During Science, we will be setting up an experiment looking at whether plants always need soil to grow, also the children will be sorting different plants into categories. Finally, in RE we will be learning about the importance of the story of the lost sheep.

Year 2 – We were very excited in Year 2 last week as we got to plant our own sunflower seeds. We are having a competition to see which sunflower will grow the tallest. Unfortunately Mrs Burland didn't plant the seeds with us so we will be writing her a clear set of instructions so she can plant her own at home. As part of our showcase we are going to share everything we have learnt about plants and, starting this week, we will be thinking about what questions we want to find answers to! We are hoping to create our own plant fact file. In Maths we are continuing with money and we will be comparing the prices of different items and working out what the difference is. We will use coins and dimes to help us as well as drawing bar models to show our thinking.

Year 3 - Year 3 are moving onto direct speech in Literacy and will be writing conversations between characters from our class text, 'Homework on Pluto'. We will be doing the grid method in Maths and continuing to practice our times tables. In Science we will be doing experiments using magnets and learning how to label a magnet and other vocabulary linked to magnets.

Year 4 – This week Year 4 will be fully immersed in our fractions work in Maths. We will be looking and adding and subtracting fractions as well as finding equivalent fractions. In Literacy we will be looking at using direct speech to help us write a conversation with an alien invader. We will be continuing our Science work with an investigation into magnets and magnetic force and trying to link our forces to our Topic of 'Space'.

Year 5 – In Year 5 this week, we will be reflecting on our residential to Marrick Priory and writing diary entries and information texts about what we have experienced. In Maths, we will be continuing with our topic on Fractions. In Topic, we will be starting our exciting ‘Mission to Mars’ project.

Year 6 - This week, Year 6 will be continuing to explore 'Wolf Brother' during our guided reading sessions and using this to plan and write a diary entry as Torak, describing his adventure in the forest. In Maths, we will be practising long division and in Science, we will be continuing to work on our space mission: designating group roles and beginning our research. We hope Year 6 are continuing to practise their reading skills on Reading Plus at home as much as possible.

Attendance

To date:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.45	93.91	95.05	97.48	95.89	96.42	97.03

Last week:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
88.76	96.50	96.00	95.00	97.95	99.39	100.00

Diary Dates

Friday 25 th January	Kawasaki Awareness Day
Tuesday 12 th February	The Big Sing – Year 1 & 2 at Ripon Cathedral
Tuesday 29 th January	KS1 & KS2 Reading Cafes
Friday 22 nd February	Half-term
Monday 4 th March	Back to School