

March '22

Spring is here and the pupils are bouncing like new born lambs. The brighter weather and sunny skies are a blessing, and our outdoor curriculum is in full swing. Covid-19 rates continue to be a challenge but the pupils' resilience and determination shines through at every opportunity – an inspiration to us all. Our Governing Body are steadfast in their support and members have been 'hands on' wherever possible. Thank you to everyone for their kind words and support. Members of St James are busy with Easter arrangements and we're very excited at the 'Stations of the Cross' event at the end of term.

Our Year 3 /4 adventurers have headed out to Tower Wood, Windermere, for an action packed 2-day outdoor experience. Eager anticipation has been building for weeks and we could have powered the school lights with the tangible excitement in the hall before leaving! At Arnside, we gradually build the pupils' experience away from home, starting with a night away in Year 3 to a three-day action-packed Year 6 urban adventure in London. For many Year 3 pupils, it's their first experience away from home and it's a careful balance of building independence and nurturing confidence. Thank you to Mrs Shipperd and Mrs Brough for their hard work – priceless memories that will last a lifetime.

After several cancellations due to storms x, y & z, our Eco team finally ventured out to Coldwell Meadow to assist members of the AONB with tree planting. We had an extremely productive morning and the final total managed to top over 400 trees planted! It's a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to care for and manage their special surroundings and I hope the children will return in the future to view the rewards of their hard work. The first of our National Trust 'mini-ranger' days was a huge success and pupils enjoyed a variety of activities from sampling to tree hugging. Thank you to Nancy Burditt and the team for giving their time and support to a great project.

Fairtrade Fortnight was once again celebrated by all pupils in school and Mrs Hartropp had the School Council working hard to organise assemblies, collective worship and a Fairtrade Chocolate Stall; it certainly was a recipe for success! Hot off the heels was Book Week and it was the turn of Ms Piper to plan, inspire and celebrate everything literary. Several local authors visited the school to work with classes and a number of parents arranged book reading sessions for pupils. It was wonderful to welcome our visitors and the pupils loved the recitals, activities and presentations. World Book day was another opportunity to dress up and the pupils thoroughly embraced the challenge – their costumes were amazing. It was decided that all fundraising donations from the week would go to the Ukraine Appeal and the School Council are working on further opportunities to fundraise and support where possible. Our love for the wider world is a fundamental part of our Christian vision at Arnside and the pupils, staff, parents / carers, have a very sensitive and caring nature.

We are currently celebrating National Science Week and the timetable is full of exciting activities. Our whole school investigation is, "Do bigger hands pick up more sweets?". I'm sure the pupils will be eager to experiment... Our parents / carers have once again volunteered their services and we have a range of 'scientists' coming in to talk about their jobs, including micro-biologists, an engineer, a recycling expert and a guest appearance from a bearded dragon. Such great opportunities to inspire the next generation of scientific brains that will help shape and develop a bright future.

"The important thing is to never stop questioning." Albert Einstein

Who knows what our pupils will discover? Take care and enjoy the wonders of the world, Mr Sharp