

Oct '24

The academic year is in full flow and our new September Nursery starters have well and truly settled into school life. As they find their feet, it's wonderful to see each little light begin to shine and the mix of characters bring a wonderfully diverse and vibrant energy to the class. Every child is valued, celebrated and encouraged to embrace their individuality and sense of identity.

"If you walk in the footprints of others, you won't make your own." Unknown

Our recent Harvest Festival was a huge success and it was great to see so many parents, carers, and members of the community. As we were already celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight, we chose the theme to reflect a 'Fair Harvest' around the world. Classes delivered presentations on sugar, coffee, chocolate and our Hoglets / Hedgehogs (youngest pupils) stole the service with a wonderfully catchy banana song. With the support of Father Andrew and Reverend Hannah, the celebration helped send a message of gratitude, thanks and hope for a fairer future. We were also lucky enough to try out our new school stage and the pupil consensus was, "It's fantastic, we can see EVERYONE!" I would like to formally offer our gratitude to Ian Bullough (Nisa) for an extremely kind donation which will have an impact for years to come. The infants are already planning their staging for the nativity...lights, camera, action!

The Year 6 pupils had success on two wheels when all of the class managed to pass their Bikeability Training. Learning to ride safely on the roads is a vital skill to develop and many of the pupils are looking forward to independently riding to school. Year 4 pupils had a bike handling taster session on the playground and later in the term we will be welcoming PC Hayley into school to talk about road safety. The much awaited first sporting competition at Dallam School was a big success and pupils thoroughly enjoyed competing against the cluster schools at basketball and skittleball. Small, informal competitions are a great platform to develop a whole range of sporting skills and attitudes, and the pupils thoroughly enjoy the friendly rivalry. It will soon be cross country season and there's possibly just enough time to dust off the trainers and get some training in, phew.

The School Council have been busy assessing playtime equipment provision and older members spent an hour with Mrs Reid, office manager, choosing and ordering new items for each class. The Eco Club have just completed a very productive bulb planting session and are also busy planning the next stage of their re-wilding project. With Christmas approaching, the Ethos Team are beginning to draw up plans for charity gift packs which will be distributed through the food bank scheme. There are many ways to support the school community and our pupils thrive on the responsibility these roles offer.

We were thrilled to celebrate another World Cerebral Palsy day and all the pupils / staff wore green as a symbol of unity and respect. Our very own CP superstar delivered a captivating assembly and the pupils loved the question / answer session; an inspiration to us all. Later this term the infants will also be joining together to celebrate Diwali as part of their World Faith learning. With the Mountain Film Festival, Trowbarrow Nature Reserve visit and discos fast approaching, it looks set to be an exciting few weeks ahead.

Teaching assistants are like gold dust and are the hidden 'glue' that holds everything together. Their work can sometimes go quietly unnoticed as they seamlessly juggle interventions, 1:1 programmes, group sessions and whole class support, all while ensuring resources are prepared and ready to go - WOW. As a result of this, we celebrated National TA day with a delicious cream tea spread from 'Hey Sugar' courtesy of Leanne Waddington. A perfect way to thank our talented and much appreciated TA team.

Take care, Mr Sharp