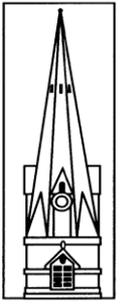


# Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



**'Life in all its fullness'**

*Headteacher: Mrs V Clarke B.A. (Hons)*  
*Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Noblet B.Ed (Hons)*

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, we're at the end of the half-term already and it really has gone quickly. The lighter mornings and evenings seem to be on their way and let's hope for some more springtime signs when we return after the holidays.

In Worship over the last couple of weeks, our values have been 'Joy and Peace'. We've also been talking about Lent as the preparation for the celebration of Easter and things that we might like to either give up, or challenge ourselves with for the period of forty days. This starts the day after 'Pancake day' or as we call it, Shrove Tuesday which is next week during the half-term break. I'm looking forward to hearing all about the children's Lenten challenges that they've started when they return to school – mine is to fast from chocolate, not sure how long it will last, but I'll certainly try my best and the children can keep checking up on me at lunchtimes!

Wishing you all a very restful week off, and see you on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, Mrs. Clarke ☺

## Explorers

This week, Explorers have played dodgeball, had a Buddhist visitor and played in our EYFS band with Rocky Steady! Also the children have been focusing on Chinese Lunar New Year as it will take place this Saturday. We have learnt all about how Chinese New Year is celebrated and how red is a very lucky colour and we are entering the year of the Dragon. We read "The Great Race" the story of the Chinese Zodiac and made dragon decorations. On Friday, we took part in some food tasting, trying noodles, fried rice and prawn crackers and we talked about which one was our favourite. This was not the only food tasting this week, on Thursday we learnt all about Shrove Tuesday ready for the beginning of Lent next week. The children measured out the ingredients for the pancake batter, we watched how the mixture changed when heated and then we got to eat them with a bit of sugar and lemon.

Let's talk: Which animal won the race in the story of the Chinese Zodiac?

## Pathfinders

In Pathfinders this week in Geography, we have been learning all about the different weathers that we experience in different seasons. We are very lucky here in England that we can sometimes experience all seasons of weather in just one week, a day even! We have been researching to find out about weather and what it feels like.

Let's talk: Can you name all four of the seasons and what the weather is like in each one?

## Discoverers

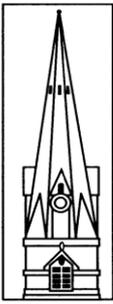
In Discoverers class, we have also been learning about weather but tracking weather throughout the week to look at how it changes from a day to day basis. We have looked at weather across the country to see if the weather here in Higher Walton is the same or different to weather in other places in the UK at the same time.

Let's talk: Can you name the different types of weather and describe each one?

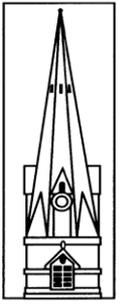
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## **Adventurers**

In Adventurers class, as part of our English topic this week we have been looking at explanation texts. We have spent time learning about the features that are included in this type of text and learning what they are.

Let's talk: See if your child can remember time conjunctions, subheadings and technical vocabulary.

## **Navigators**

In Navigators this week, we have finished on a high with a design technology lesson to start the project of building our lighthouses. We have been learning the skill set of sawing and learning how to be safe when using tools to create the pieces that will be needed to put together to make the finished article.

Let's talk: Ask your children about their designs and how they think their project is going to turn out!

## **Ethos group and our new school prayer**

Ethos group have been working with Reverend Hannah and Mrs. Clarke to create our very own special and unique school prayer. They have done the most wonderful job and thank you to Hannah for her work and input too. I'm extremely proud of the Ethos group for coming up with such a beautiful prayer which truly reflects what we are all about as a school family. The children will be bringing home their own copy tonight as a gift from the Ethos group and I hope that we can all learn it over the holidays ready for our first worship back in school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Dear God,

We are Higher Walton.

We thank you for our school family, for our children and for all of those who work here.

In this place of learning, exploring and growing, help us to always be kind and generous and to care for one another as Jesus cares for us.

Guide us as we work together to make our school a safe and welcoming place, let peace always live here.

Fill all our hearts with love and joy every day, as a family, as a school, as one.

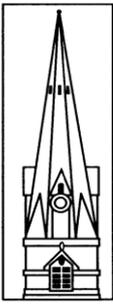
Amen.

**Well done Ethos group!**

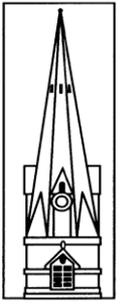
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## Well-being ambassadors

We have formed a new 'Wellbeing' group in school that includes both adults and children from Higher Walton. We have had 5 members of our school staff team who have volunteered to become ambassadors and the teachers have carefully selected a group of 4 children to play their part in supporting and promoting healthy wellbeing in school. I'm pleased to announce that the ambassadors in school are: **Mrs. Noblet, Mrs. Rourke, Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Sadikot, Mrs. Allen, Grace Perry (Y6), Teddy Elder (Y5), Sophia Hodgkinson (Y4) and Jessica Roe (Y4)**. Their first challenge is to write a school 'Wellbeing charter' that we have talked about this afternoon in worship - this is an agreement from all children to support each other's wellbeing in school. We also marked 'Children's Mental Health Week 2024' this afternoon with activities on why 'Our voice matters' and completed work on what makes us proud.

More to follow on this next half-term and the activities that the children are going to be taking part in to support both their physical and mental health!

## World Book Day

Our school will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 28th March 2024**. We are going to ask the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring a donation for the school's summer fair. More information to follow, this is just a reminder of the date for your diary.

## Parent's evening

Parent's evening is on **Monday 26th February 2024**. A form has gone out today, if we could have your reply back by Tuesday 20th February, after the half-term break. Parent's evening is a really important time to come and discuss your child's achievement and how they are getting on in school and it's also an opportune time to come and talk to us about any worries or concerns. We'll see you then!

## Kick on football

We are very lucky to be working in partnership with Coach **Dan Whitely** from '**Kick on Football Coaching**' on Tuesdays in school. Coach Dan is supporting at lunchtime, skilling up both children and staff on how support fair play and brings a new skillset to the staff team. He is also working alongside teachers in lessons, to ensure the children are receiving high quality teaching in PE and we've received really good feedback from the children and adults so far. If you are interested in any local football coaching sessions outside of school, Dan has a full programme for both boys and girls, please have a look at his Facebook page 'Kick on Football Coaching' or contact him on [dan@kickonfootball.co.uk](mailto:dan@kickonfootball.co.uk) or 07715620272 and he'll happily talk to you and pass on further information.

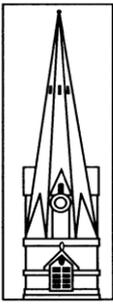
## Lego / Meccano / Building Kit Donations

We are looking for donations of any Lego or construction kits, which include instructions, to build specific items, to support some of our children's development. If you have any suitable kits, in good condition that you are willing to donate then these would be gratefully received. Kits can be handed in at the office or to your child's teacher.

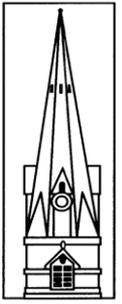
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## Attendance

We have looked at attendance over this half-term and will be inviting some families into school to meet with Mrs. Noblet to discuss ways in which we can help to support your child's attendance to school. Please be aware that punctuality can also affect attendance rates, this is something that we will also be checking and may result in a telephone call or an invite to a meeting in school after the holidays.

## Weekly awards

Week ending 2 <sup>nd</sup> February		
	Star of the Week	VIP
<b>Explorers</b>	Zander	Delilah
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Autumn	Imogen
<b>Discoverers</b>	Nicole Theo P-F	Adam
<b>Adventurers</b>	Bella-Mae	Ella-Mae Bella-Mae
<b>Navigators</b>	Bobby	Isaac All of Navigators for their class worship

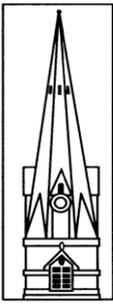
Week ending 9 <sup>th</sup> February		
	Star of the Week	VIP
<b>Explorers</b>	Arlo	Noah
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Dylan	Eli
<b>Discoverers</b>	Henry	Madyson
<b>Adventurers</b>	Millie Chloe	Sophia-Rose Kayleigh
<b>Navigators</b>	Max	Dylan

Sports certificates were awarded to Sofia, Arthur, Chloe and Eddie for the tennis competition and to Nicole P, Poppy, Heidi, Teddy, Ellivia, Coby, Molly, Grace, Jack, Daisy, Dylan B, Gabriel, Cameron, Elizabeth, Riley and Max for the athletics competition.

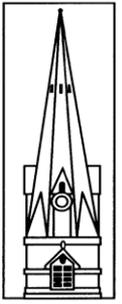
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## Attendance

Week ending 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Explorers 11 on roll	Pathfinders 15 on roll	Discoverers 22 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 30 on roll
Attendance	84%	89%	96%	92%	95%
Lates	2%	6%	3%	1%	0.5%
<b>Well done to Discoverers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!</b>					

Week ending 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Explorers 11 on roll	Pathfinders 15 on roll	Discoverers 22 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 30 on roll
Attendance	90%	91%	98%	93%	94%
Lates	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%
<b>Well done to Discoverers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!</b>					

## Weekly Reminders

**Medication:** Please can we remind parents that medication can only be given during school hours if this is prescribed by a doctor, dentist or nurse. Items should be handed in at the office and permission forms completed. We cannot accept paracetamol, ibuprofen etc. unless these accompany prescribed medication. As always, there are exceptions and in these circumstances please discuss this with Mrs Rourke.

**Mobile phones:** Mobile phones should only be brought to school by children who walk to and from school unaccompanied or where they are going to a different parent's house. All phones must be handed in at the office for locking away during the day.

**Absences:** All absences must be notified to school **on the day**. ParentMail or email ([bursar@walton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@walton.lancs.sch.uk)) is the quickest and easiest way to report an absence and provides a written record. We must ask that full reasons for the absence is given, particularly where this is illness related. Just stating 'not well', 'ill' or unwell' does not allow us to monitor illness absences and in particular infection control.

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