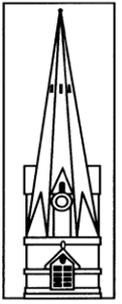


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



'Life in all its fullness'

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

Friday 15th March 2024

Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, another week is done! Over the last couple of weeks we have invited families into school for a class worship and learning workshop about phonics. It has been great to have had support at both of these events and are looking as a school to ensure that this continues with even more events added to the school calendar next year.

We have been continuing to learn about the values of peace and hope in the lead up to Easter and the children enjoyed a worship with Mrs. Noblet on Tuesday about Easter celebrations around the world. All of our school leaders are busy working on developing projects such as the school garden, our school environment, saving water, charters and much more. We are very proud of the roles they are now playing in school.

We have got a busy couple of weeks leading up to the Easter break, please come and support the events that we are busy planning in school.

Explorers

This week, Explorers have been watching our caterpillars growing bigger! They are starting to move towards the top of their house where they will soon hang down and then they will each turn into a chrysalis. In literacy this week, Nursery children have been creating story maps for The Very Hungry Caterpillar and they have also been building and writing their names onto caterpillar templates. In Reception, children were introduced to our new literacy book "The Extraordinary Gardener" and designing their own unique flower. In RE, we focused on the main events of the Easter story, and we listened and responded to some "Good Friday" themed music. In investigation, we learnt where our food comes from and specifically how many animals provide us with meat.

Let's Talk: Which animal do we get sausages from?

Pathfinders

This week Pathfinders have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes and the differences between them. We have loved playing on the new laptops and have learnt to code using Scratch Junior. In DT we have finally finished our windmills and look forward to showing our families next week.

Let's talk: How do we know toys are old?

Discoverers

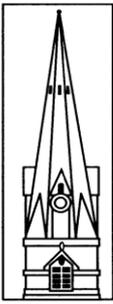
This week in Discoverers, the Year 2s have been practising our addition and subtraction skills with numbers up to 100. The Year 3s have been multiplying two 2-digit numbers together. In History, we have been using our observational skills to compare toys from the past to toys from today. In Science, we have been looking at the properties of materials. We did an investigation to test the absorbency of different fabrics.

Let's Talk: Can you find an object at home and talk about the material it is made from? Can you think of three words to describe the properties of the materials?

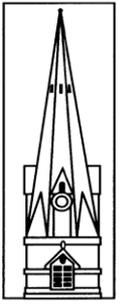
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Adventurers

In Adventurers class, the children have been writing their own stories based on 'The Iron Man'. They have also been investigating which materials are good electrical conductors and insulators.

Let's Talk: Can you tell me which material is a good electrical conductor?

Navigators

The last two weeks have been exciting in Navigators class with Year 6 bikeability, Primary Engineers competition, a Murder Mystery and Let's Go Sing. Well done to Daisy and Grace who won the Engineer award! We have really enjoyed reading our book 'The Lost Thing' and we are currently being authors and publishing our own version of this story. In History we had to solve a murder mystery and use clues to find out who had been murdered (Anne Boleyn!). We have also been looking at why Henry VIII had so many wives and which wife was the best and worst match for him.

Let's talk: why was Anne Boleyn executed? Why did Henry marry so many times?

Phonics Meeting

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the phonics coffee morning yesterday. The children and staff really enjoyed sharing with you the phonics scheme that we use in school to help our children learn how to read. It was great to see so many of the children completing the activities so confidently and showcasing the progress they are making in school.

Nursery

We currently have seven children in our Nursery class and would love for more to join us. We have the capacity to be able to have nine Nursery children at each session in school so please help us spread the word to anyone you may know who would like for their child to join us at Higher Walton. Our EYFS provision has significantly changed over the last few months and we have a thriving class of excited and happy children who would love to meet new friends.

Storage in school

We have noticed a large increase in the number and size of bags that are being brought into school. Space is very limited in the cloakroom areas and we ask that only the essential items are brought in such as lunch boxes, water bottles and reading books (plastic wallets are provided by school). A lot of the bags are actually empty once these items are removed. We are currently trying to re-organise the cloakroom and storage spaces in school and from September will be limiting the items needed to be brought into school.

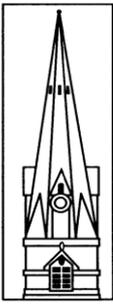
Higher Walton Book Day

A reminder that Higher Walton Book Day is on Thursday 28th March and the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on this day. The children have already been telling me about which characters they have chosen and I am now feeling the pressure to make sure my costume is a good one! I've had plenty of suggestions and 'Gangsta Granny' was one of them that I was told would suit me quite well – I'm not sure if that is a compliment or not!

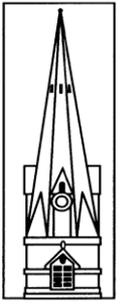
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Easter Activities

Thank you to all of the families who have donated £1 towards our Easter Egg Hunt. The School Council are planning this in support of the school's PTFA. Easter Bingo is on Tuesday the 26th March after school, please come and support this event and spend some time celebrating Easter with us in school.

Easter service at All Saint's Church

Our Easter service in church is being held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 27th March. This year, the service is being led with a special performance of 'The Three Trees' by Adventurers class. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and if you would like to walk with us to church, please be at the school reception area for 1.10pm.

Weekly awards

Week ending 8 th March		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Noah	Delilah
Pathfinders	Jamie	Amelia
Discoverers	Theo PF	Erin A
Adventurers	Chloe	Llorena and Sophia-Rose
Navigators	Isaac, Ellivia and Mia	Daisy and Beth
Additional awards	Children who took part in Let's Go Sing Children who took part in Bikeability Children who took part in Young Engineers Day	

Week ending 15 th March		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Bobbie	
Pathfinders	Mason	Jamie
Discoverers	Jennifer	Charlie
Adventurers	Ellie	Eva
Navigators	Hope and Dylan	Emily-Sue and Grace
Additional awards	Mason (from Mrs Preston) Jimmy (from Mrs Brayshaw) Amelia-Ann – Trinity College London passed pre-initial Band test (Rocksteady)	

Attendance

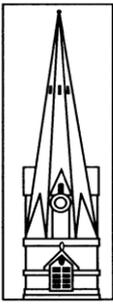
Week ending	Explorers	Pathfinders	Discoverers	Adventurers	Navigators
8 th March	11 on roll	15 on roll	22 on roll	26 on roll	30 on roll
Attendance	100%	96%	90%	100%	92%
Lates	0%	3%	1%	0.4%	0%

Well done to both Explorers and Adventurers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!

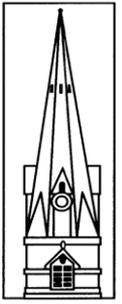
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Week ending 15 th March	Explorers 11 on roll	Pathfinders 15 on roll	Discoverers 22 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 30 on roll
Attendance	89%	94%	94%	92%	98%
Lates	1%	2%	3.5%	0.5%	2%
Well done to Navigators class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Diary reminders

W/C 18th March diary dates

- Tuesday - After school football club
- Wednesday - Navigators (Y5/6) Bike Fix – please return consent slip if you have not already done so.
PTFA raffle donation deadline
- Thursday - 2.45pm – Rocksteady Concert – Parents welcome
After school girls football club
- Friday - Decorated eggs to be in school

Messages from the school office

School milk – Nursery to Year 2: Changes to school milk arrangements must be submitted via your Cool Milk account at www.coolmilk.com. If you have not already set up an account, please do so before your child turns 5 as milk is no longer free after this age.

School meals: Two weeks' notice prior to a half term needs to be given to make changes to school meal arrangements. Children who are eligible for free school meals still need to inform us if they wish to change to packed lunches or vice versa.

Navigators' outdoor adventure days: The deadline for deposit payments to secure your child's place is 9am Monday 25th March. The remaining balance can be paid in instalments by entering your own amounts on a separate payment item. All payments should be completed by 9am Friday 24th May.

Free school meals: Information regarding eligibility for free school meals has been sent with this newsletter. If you think you may be eligible, please apply as soon as you can and inform school. Eligible nursery children can apply where they attend school for full days.

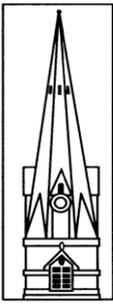
Weekly reminders

Bikes and scooters: If your child comes to school on their bike or scooter, these must be parked in the bike shelter before they go on to the playground. They must not be ridden around the school site before school.

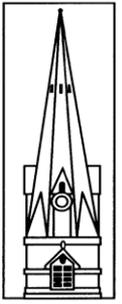
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Medication: Please can we remind parents that medication can only be given during school hours if this is prescribed by a doctor, dentist or nurse. Items should be handed in at the office and permission forms completed. We cannot accept paracetamol, 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.

Change of clothes: If your child has had to have a change of clothes at school (underwear, skirts, trousers etc) please can these be washed and returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

Absences: All absences must be notified to school **on the day**. ParentMail or email (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.

Car park: Now that the builders and contractors have left the school site, please can we remind parents that the car park spaces along the fence adjacent to the footpath are for **staff only**. This applies to drop off time when staff are arriving at different times as well as at pick up time when after school staff are arriving. Please pass this message on to other family members and friends who bring/collect your child. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Attachments

With the newsletter, you will find the following attachments:-

- Relevant to Reception and Year 1 parents – phonics resources referred to at the meeting.
- Easter Holiday Club poster
- April Book Fair poster
- Free school meals information

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