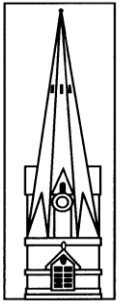




Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



'Life in all its fullness'

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

15th December 2023

Head Teacher's Message

We are in full Christmas spirit in school at the moment and celebrated two wonderful performances of the 'Midwife crisis' nativity play yesterday afternoon and evening. The children looked amazing in their costumes and we are very proud of how they remembered their lines, songs, actions and when to come on and off the stage! Thank you to all the family members and friends who have supported this and came to join us in school so that they could showcase their amazing skills. We will continue to celebrate Advent next week by sharing the true Christmas story in Worship, whilst focussing on the values of 'hope and joy'. It is a real privilege to be in school during this build up - a magical time that we get to spend together as a school family. Everyone is welcome to join us at **All Saint's church on Wednesday 20th December at 1.30pm for our Christingle service**, we look forward to seeing you there. This is the last school newsletter of 2023 and so can I take the opportunity to say thank you for a wonderful half-term, I am very lucky to be part of such a caring and kind school community. I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and the very best for whatever 2024 holds for you and your loved ones.

With love, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Explorers

This week, Explorers have been continuing with our current Literacy text, Ning and the Night Spirits. The children have been learning about parades, we watched some real parades and then we designed our own flags. In maths, we have been learning about the number 7 and making our own collections of 7. We have also been very crafty this week, making cards and ornaments ready for Christmas.

Question: This week the children have been learning about the digraph qu. Can they tell you which letter "q" is nearly always next to?

Pathfinders

In Pathfinders this week, we have been working super hard on our Christmas performance of 'Midwife crisis...'. The children all did an amazing job making our families and our teachers very proud! We have still been working hard in lessons and have read the exciting book 'Billy and the Beast' in English. We then wrote some recipes for 'Terrible soup' which included us adding lots of disgusting things!

Let's talk: Can you children tell you what they included in their 'Terrible soup'?

Discoverers

In Discoverers class, we have been practising hard in the final rehearsals for our school nativity that was a brilliant success. The children have been absolute superstars during every practice and have worked hard learning lines and singing songs. In our maths learning, we have been exploring 3D shapes, counting their edges, vertices and faces. In our English lessons we have read a poem called, 'The colour of Christmas' and had a go at writing our own version using similar features.

Let's talk: Can you remember how many edges, vertices and faces a cube has?

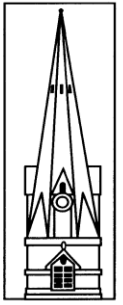
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Adventurers

Adventurers have been learning all about shapes and how to draw and measure them accurately using a ruler to the nearest millimetre, a tricky skill indeed! They have also been designing and writing leaflets about the mythical land of Narnia that included detailed written descriptions and a map to inform someone of what to expect if they were to visit.

Let's talk: Can you give a list of adjectives to describe the land of Narnia?

Navigators

In Navigators, we have consolidated all of our learning about Philippe Petit and his high-wire feat between the Twin Towers. We have written his full biography thinking about how the use of our language makes our writing effective for our audience. In Maths we have been tackling fractions and converting numbers – not the easiest of skills but we persevered and cracked it!

Let's talk: Can you find out about any other of Philippe Petit's daring stunts?

School council

The School Council have had their first meeting with Mrs. Plowman this week and they discussed many things that they think would improve our school for the better. They had a discussion around rewards and we are now in the process of setting up school 'House teams'. This will add to the rewards system that we already have in place to recognise children for their behaviour and super work. The classes had a vote and have chosen to name the houses after 'animals' that fit in with our outdoor areas around school. This was then fed back to myself and we look forward to launching the house teams after the holidays and have some house team events throughout the school year! Well done School Council ☺

Behaviour

We are currently trialling a 'stepped traffic light system' when dealing with instances of unacceptable behaviour in school, in line with the school's current Behaviour Policy. As a school, we follow our rules to be, 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' and learn about the importance of 'Restore, Redraw and Repair', through reflection time and answering restorative questions (examples of these can be found in the school's Behaviour Policy on the school's website). We are now recording behaviour in school using a card system to monitor certain types of behaviour with opportunities for discussion about why the behaviour took place and how we learn and move on from it. Parents will be informed by class teachers of these recordings that are referred to as a 'White card' in school. We are trialling this system until the end of Spring term when discussions will take place with the children, staff and governors to see what is working and if there is anything that can be improved. This system allows us as a school to set the expectations for behaviour and also supports a consistent model when dealing with incidents should they arise. School is a very calm and happy place where children respect one another, the behaviour in school is good but we are currently reviewing procedures for consistency.

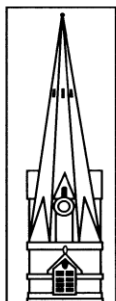
Attendance

In light of the school's most recent Ofsted inspection, we have reviewed and updated the school's Attendance Policy. Good attendance in school is vital for children to thrive and succeed in life and learning and we will offer our full support to those who struggle with attendance issues – keeping in contact with us is key. You will have received an 'Attendance leaflet' that has been sent home with children this afternoon, that summarises the expectation for attendance as set out

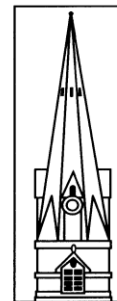
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by the government and their guidelines. The new policy has also been sent via ParentMail and will be uploaded onto the school's website. Holidays during school time cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances and fines will now be issued in line with government recommendations and Local Authority guidelines.

Weekly awards

| Week ending 8 th December | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| | Star of the Week | VIP |
| Explorers | Jorgie | Bobby |
| Pathfinders | Jimmy | Jamie |
| Discoverers | Brooke | Billy |
| Adventurers | Bella-Mae | Lilith |
| Navigators | Teddy | Hope |
| | | |

| Week ending 15 th December | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Star of the Week | VIP |
| Explorers | Whole class | Raine |
| Pathfinders | Autumn | Dylan |
| Discoverers | Charlie and Theo | Cienna |
| Adventurers | Tilly | Reuben |
| Navigators | Out on school trip | Out on school trip |
| | | |

Attendance

| Week ending 8 th December | Explorers 8 on roll | Pathfinders 15 on roll | Discoverers 25 on roll | Adventurers 26 on roll | Navigators 30 on roll |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attendance | 91.89% | 93.57% | 96.67% | 95.38% | 93.67% |
| Lates | 0% | 1.43% | 0.83% | 1.15% | 1% |
| Well done to Discoverers Class, with the highest percentage attendance this week! | | | | | |

| Week ending 15 th December | Explorers 8 on roll | Pathfinders 15 on roll | Discoverers 25 on roll | Adventurers 26 on roll | Navigators 30 on roll |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attendance | 93.39% | 93.81% | 94.87% | 93.85% | 92.82% |
| Lates | 1.14% | 1.11% | 2.15% | 1.18% | 1.21% |
| Well done to Discoverers Class, with the highest percentage attendance this week! | | | | | |

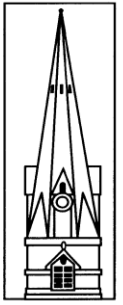
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Weekly Reminders

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) 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.

DIARY DATES

December 2023

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mon 18 th | Christmas craft afternoon – all classes (all resources provided by school) |
| Mon 18 th | PTFA discos |
| Tues 19 th | Christmas Dinner and Christmas party day – all classes |
| Wed 20 th | Christingle service at All Saints Church 1.30pm – all welcome |
| Thurs 21 st | Games day – all classes |
| Thurs 21 st | Forest School day |
| Thurs 21 st | Rocksteady concert 2.45pm |
| Thurs 21 st | School closes for the Christmas break, usual end of day arrangements apply. |

January 2024

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mon 8 th | School re-opens for the spring term |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|

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