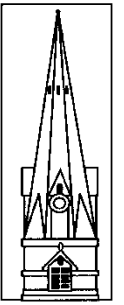


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'



Friendship ● Forgiveness ● Creativity ● Courage ● Respect ● Responsibility ● Trust ● Tenacity

Friday 17th January 2025

Head Teacher's Message

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope that you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and new year, spending quality time with family and loved ones. It was fantastic to have snow on the day before we returned to school and hope that lots of our families took advantage of playing out in the cold and enjoying something that we aren't guaranteed to see each year! Thank you to our super site supervisor Mr. Oli for making sure that school remained accessible and safe – we really appreciated the positive feedback from parents about how well our school site had been gritted.

We have had a great start back to the new term and will be learning all about the Christian value of courage in school worships. There are lots of other words that the children have associated with courage in our worships so far, such as bravery, determination, resilience and perseverance too. Courage can be displayed in many types of behaviour and we look forward to sharing stories from the Bible that we can use as examples in our own lives.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday, Mrs. Clarke ☺

New telephone system

We are very lucky to have been able to start the new year with a new digital telephone system. Please note that currently when any of our staff call you from one of the extension telephones this will show up as a different number from the usual school number. These numbers are for internal use only and cannot accept incoming calls. We are still learning the system set up and working out how to hide these numbers! We would be grateful if you could bear with us in the meantime.

Class News

Explorers: Explorers class have been busy investigating the wintery weather for the last fortnight. We looked for signs of winter in our outdoor classroom and discovered snow, ice, frost and hail. Today we took part in 2 experiments to learn more about freezing and melting. In our first experiment we found out that wrapping an ice cube in fabric made it melt more slowly. In our second experiment we discovered chocolate melts the fastest if we hold it in our hands.

Let's talk: Look around your house and find some items that are frozen or can melt.

Discoverers: This week Discoverers have settled back into their learning. We have started our topic on life cycles in science and have been naming the different stages of human and animal life cycles. In Geography, we have started our topic on climates. We have identified all the continents and have looked closely at the coldest places on Earth. Our new text in English is *'The Bear and the Piano'*, which we have really enjoyed and look forward to writing our own versions next week.

Let's talk: What is the coldest continent?

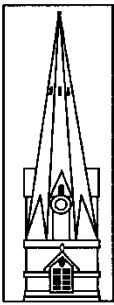
Address:
Rosewood Avenue
Higher Walton
Preston PR5 4FE

Headteacher:
Mrs V Clarke B.A. (Hons)

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

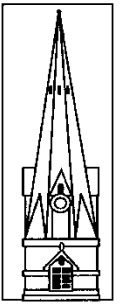
Telephone:
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Navigators: This week we have started a new book in English. It is called *'The Arrival'* by Shaun Tan, and is a book with no words so children have enjoyed making inferences about the events in the story so far. In Geography, we are looking at where energy comes from. We have discussed the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. In Science, we have been making and drawing circuits using symbols.

Let's talk: Can you name 2 renewable and 2 non-renewable energy sources?

Pathfinders: This week Pathfinders have been translating and reflecting shapes using all four quadrants. We have been using our inference skills to identify emotions as we read *'The Arrival'* and are looking forward to the next mysterious gift in *'Fly Me Home'*. In Geography, we have been comparing the positives and negatives of different energy sources eg natural gas and biofuels.

Let's talk: Ask your child to name the five renewable energy sources that we have been researching?

Welcome Mrs. Greening

We have welcomed Mrs. Greening to Higher Walton since returning after the Christmas break and she has settled in well getting to know the children in Explorers class and the rest of school too. Mrs. Greening is a big fan of being outdoors so we look forward to having some adventures with her this year! Mrs. Brayshaw is now resting and awaiting the arrival of her new baby – we will let you know as soon as we have any news!

Mrs. Devlin and baby Bertie!

Mrs. Devlin and her husband have welcomed a little baby boy into their family, Albert to be known as Bertie. Weighing in at 8lbs he is healthy, happy and we can't wait for the children in school to meet him soon to welcome him into our school family too.

Uniform

We are so proud of our school uniform and it is wonderful to be seeing so many of our children looking smart every day. Can we kindly request that hair of below shoulder length is tied up and that haircuts continue to be of an appropriate style, as in line with our school uniform policy. School shoes are to be worn on non-PE days but if there is ever a problem please let a member of staff know in school and we will do what we can to help.

Attendance

Good school attendance is of vital importance in order for children to be able to thrive and flourish in school. Good school attendance is 96% and above and our school policy is in line with government guidance to help us achieve this target for our children at Higher Walton. If your child is struggling to come to school for any reason please do speak to us in school and we will do what we can to help and assist.

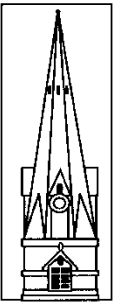
PTFA News

Our PTFA have generously given the children a £100 Amazon voucher which is to be spent on wet play games and activities for the classrooms. As much as we want the weather to stay fine for as many outdoor playtimes as possible, it is great that we can replenish and renew our indoor resources so that children can play together inside too. Thank you to our dedicated PTFA!



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Playground and field safety

The children have been reminded today about not playing on the trim trail equipment and field before and after school. This is for their own safety. Please could we ask that you reiterate this with your children and ensure they follow this school rule. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Weekly awards

Week ending: 10.1.25			Week ending: 17.1.25		
	Star of the Week	VIP		Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Eligh	Bobby-Jo	Explorers	Noah	Elsie
Discoverers	Imogen	Arlo	Discoverers	Mason	Jorgie
Adventurers	Theo	Nicole & Jude	Adventurers	Max	Madyson
Navigators	Willow	Sophia-Rose	Navigators	Rueben & Bella H	Llorena
Pathfinders	Teddy	Ethan	Pathfinders	Coby	Emily-Sue
Times Table winner	Reeva				

Attendance

Week ending 10.1.25	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	90%	90%	93%	97%	85%
Lates	11%	4%	3%	1.5%	0%
Well done Navigators class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 17.1.25	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	92%	92%	96%	97.5%	92%
Lates	8%	3%	3%	1.5%	1%
Well done Navigators class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

This week's reminder

On each newsletter we will now focus on a specific reminder which is having an impact on school or our children, and would ask for your support in helping with the smooth running of our school.

Payments: Please ensure that you use the correct item in the shop for your payments as using other items causes errors on our finance system. Payments for breakfast and after school club, school dinners and nursery should be kept up to date and not allowed to fall into arrears.

ParentMail app: Our ParentMail account statistics show that only 89% of parents are using the mobile app. We would like to get this to 100% to ensure you do not miss important messages and emails. The app is free to download and we would encourage you set up notifications so you never miss a message from school!

