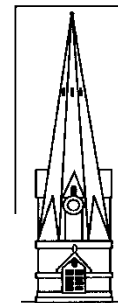


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'



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

Friday 21st March 2025

Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, I hope you have all had a good couple of weeks and are enjoying the official start to the spring season. In whole school worship, we have been learning about the different Easter traditions that happen around the world, for example flying kites in Bermuda as a symbol to represent Jesus ascending into heaven. The children were also given the opportunity to share their own Easter experiences and traditions – I think a lot of our families are in for a busy couple of weeks when we finally break up for the Easter holidays! One of the ways that you could start off the Easter celebrations, would be to join us in the school hall for Easter Bingo next Wednesday at 3.40pm – this is a lovely family event and many children have said that they are coming already! We hope to see you there. We also have the 'Mother's celebration' at All Saint's Church next Friday morning at 9.15am – please feel free to join us at the school entrance at 9.00am to walk with us to church. The Mother's Union are kindly donating gifts that will be shared at the end of the service.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, see you on Monday, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: The Explorer class have been enjoying the warmer Spring weather and have planted seeds in our garden. Fingers crossed they soon show signs of life. We have continued to learn about animals and how we can sort and classify them into different groups. We have started to read new books in Literacy by the author Eric Carle. Reception are reading '*The Tiny Seed*' and Nursery are reading '*The Very Busy Spider*'. We have also been learning about the Easter story.

Let's talk: What plants are growing in your garden or on your walk to school?

Discoverers: In Discoverers class we have been writing sequels to 'The *Minpins*' by Roahl Dhal. We loved reading this book in class and picking out all the interesting vocabulary he uses. We worked hard on making sure our ideas were in the past tense all the way through. In science we have been looking at minibeasts and last week built a wormery as our class investigation. We are looking forward to our woodlice investigation next week.

Let's talk:- How many facts can you remember about earthworms?

Adventurers: This week Adventurers have been working hard doing their final piece of work linked to our book all about the Windrush generation. In science this week we did an investigation to see if all things that are metal are magnetic. The children have been to Church this week, practising for our Easter performance. We very much look forward to seeing so many of you coming to church soon.

Let's talk: What difficulties did the Windrush face when first coming to England?

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Navigators: In Navigators we have been looking at the circulatory system. They have learnt about the job of the heart as well as what can be found in our blood. In history we are exploring the Ancient Greeks and have begun comparing the lives of citizens in Athens and Sparta. In guided Reading we have started reading '*The Little Match Girl Strikes Back*', which is a story inspired by the famous story written by Hans Christian Anderson. We have explored the jobs done by children in the Victorian Era.

Let's talk: Name 3 things found in your blood and explain what they do.

Pathfinders: This week Pathfinders have been working on drawing nets and solving problems in geometry. We have been revising adverbials and pronouns in SPAG and enjoying reading the final chapters of our class novel. In History, we have been finding out about the differences between Sparta and Athens.

Let's talk: Ask your child to explain what a city state means?

Late Collection Policy

Please read the letter regarding the school's revised 'Late and Non-collection of Children Policy' attached with this newsletter.

Parent's evening

Thank you to all of the families that attended last week's parent's evening. We had another very good turn-out of **95%** of parents. We really value the home and school relationship and hope that you again found the report cards an informative and useful update on how your child is achieving in school. If for any reason you were unable to attend and your class teacher has not already made contact with you – please feel free to get in touch so that a conveniently mutual meeting time can be arranged.

Science Week

During science week the whole school took part in different activities linked to the theme of adaptation and change. Our KS1 and KS2 children got the chance to video link to a farm and see how adaptation and change is affecting farmers and their livestock. Adventurers class even got the opportunity to see a calf being born live on the video. The video links were interactive and children had opportunities to submit their questions, thoughts and answers to questions asked by the presenters.

Let's Go Sing

Last week the choir had an exciting trip out to the 'Let's Go Sing' concert at Blackpool Winter Gardens. They sang alongside 600 other children on the stage. The choir have been practicing their songs since October and were very excited to share what they had learnt in front of a live audience. Well done choir!

Cricket Workshops

On Wednesday 19th March, the children from Year 1 to Year 6 had a great time taking part in a cricket workshop led by a coach from the Lancashire Cricket Foundation. They learnt a range of different cricket skills like bowling, batting, and scoring runs.

If your child is interested in playing cricket, here are some links to local clubs that offer teams for different age groups.

Allstars: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/58e9271f-f681-4324-949a-dfba22ac6ea5?venue=waltonledale>

Dynamos Girls: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/cbfaefa7-4c66-49a5-b0be-f66ade8a7011?venue=waltonledale>

Dynamos Boys: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/ec004c13-a1f0-4f78-90e4-0cf4f4af7e97?venue=waltonledale>

PTFA Easter Bingo and Raffle

Thank you to everyone who has sold and returned raffle tickets. If you need any more books there are some available at the school office.

If you have not already purchased your bingo entry tickets, please speak to one of our PTFA members who will be available on the playground before and after school.

Weekly awards

Week ending 14 th March 2025		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Jack	Eligh
Discoverers	Isaac	Mason
Adventurers	Freya	Billy
Navigators	Lilith	Rueben
Pathfinders	Max	Rhiona

Week ending 21 st March 2025		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Louie	Elsie
Discoverers	Delilah	Imogen
Adventurers	Madyson	Adam
Navigators	Eddie	Ella-Mae
Pathfinders	Dylan	Riley

Attendance

Week ending 14 th March 2025	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	98%	94%	92%	96%	96%
Lates	7%	2.5%	2%	0%	0.5%
Well done Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 21 st March 2025	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	95%	93%	94%	98%	91%
Lates	5%	1%	4%	0%	0%
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.

Diarrhoea and vomiting - We follow the Health Protection Agency guidance with regard to infection control in schools. Therefore we must insist on the '48 hour rule' regarding diarrhoea and vomiting. This means that children should not return to school until a clear 48 hours have passed since the last episode.

Newsletter attachments

The following documents have been included in the newsletter email:-

- Late collection letter and policy
- Pharmacy First Scheme poster
- PTFA Family Bingo Night poster
- Aspire Education Academy poster - fully funded **Online School Support** courses available to parents. **EXTRA spaces available** for the next course starting on **22nd April** (after the Easter school holidays). Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
- South Ribble Borough Council low-cost school holiday provision, Active Camps poster. From as little as £13 per day, children have access to fun, safe, high quality sport and physical activity as well as a healthy lunch! Book through www.southribble.gov.uk/activecamps. Free places available for children on benefit related free school meals through HAF Funding with LCC. We have submitted our list of eligible children and emails have been sent giving you further information on how to book places.
- Flyers coming home with children tonight are First Kick Easter holiday club and Absolute Futbol holiday club.

Diary dates to the end of the school year

You can now find all the diary dates and holiday lists on our website. Reminders and updates are as follows:-

Wednesday 26 th March 2025	PTFA Easter Bingo – poster sent with newsletter
Friday 28 th March 2025	Mothers' Day Service 9.15am All Saints Church
NEW: Tuesday 1st April 2025	'This Girl Can' event – invited children
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Easter performance – details to follow
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Rocksteady Concert 2.45pm – parents welcome
Friday 4 th April 2025	Higher Walton Book Day
Friday 4 th April 2025	End of term
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Summer term 1 begins
Friday 2 nd May 2025	PTFA wear own shoes/trainers day – please donate board games/crafts for prizes – details to follow
Monday 5 th May 2025	May Day bank holiday
Thursday 8 th May 2025	PTFA movie night – details to follow
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Sports Day – details to follow
Friday 23 rd May 2023	School closes for half term break
Monday 2 nd June 2025	Summer term 2 begins
Friday 6 th June 2025	PTFA wear own clothes day – please donate chocolate items for tombola prizes – details to follow
Thursday 5 th June 2025	Sports day reserve date
Monday 9 th June 2025	Tempest – class photos
Thursday 12 th June 2025	Year 1/2 class worship – parents welcome
Friday 13 th June 2025	Fathers' Day breakfast – details to follow
Monday 16 th – Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Borwick Hall residential – children not taking part should attend school as normal
Friday 20 th June 2025	PTFA funky hair day – please donate a bottle for tombola prizes – details to follow
Friday 27 th June 2025	Dance from the Heart roadshow – details to follow
Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Parents' lunch – details to follow
Wednesday 9 th July 2025	School reports sent home
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Year 5/6 performance – details to follow
Thursday 17 th July 2025	EYFS class worship – parents welcome
Friday 18 th July 2025	Year 6 leavers service 9.30am All Saints Church - details to follow
Friday 18 th July 2025	School closes for the summer break
Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Autumn term 1 begins