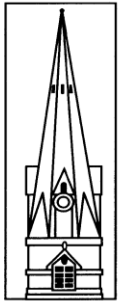




Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



'Life in all its fullness'

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

Friday 22nd November 2024

Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, I hope that you have all had a good couple of weeks, managing to navigate the colder weather that has been thrust upon us. The frosty mornings allow us to see our world in a different light and it has been lovely to hear the children sharing their ideas about 'Jack Frost' and talk about the changes that we see around us when winter finally makes its appearance. In whole school worship, we have been learning all about facing challenges and how this makes us feel on a daily basis. We all have different levels of 'resilience' and it is important to remember that what can sometimes feel easy to one person, can seem like a mountain to climb for another. The children shared ways in which they can not only work on their own resilience but also how they can help others to feel more resilient too. The weeks are going quickly now and we look forward to many exciting events coming in the rest of this half-term. Please keep your eye out for communication from school, so that you don't miss out on any important dates or events.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: In Explorers class, our Nursery children have been introduced to their second text of this half term, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, and they have enjoyed making shopping lists for the hungry tiger. Reception children have been applying their phonics knowledge to write informative "How to Think Well" leaflets, enhancing both their writing and critical thinking skills. In RE, we have begun exploring the true meaning of Christmas, focusing on its connection to the celebration of Jesus's birthday. The children are also learning about the key characters in the Nativity story, and they are very excited for our upcoming Nativity performance!

Let's talk: Can you name some of the characters in the Nativity story?

Discoverers: This week Discoverers have been looking/ tasting different fruits so they can write their smoothie recipe next week! In PE they have worked hard with Dan on their gymnastics skills and can now balance using apparatus. In English we started looking at the text '*Lubna and Pebble*' thinking about what the meaning behind the text is.

Let's Talk: How many different ways of saying sad/ happy can you think of?

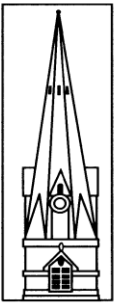
Adventurers: Adventurers have had a busy learning week. In geography they have been learning how to read a map and plot four figure grid references. This is in preparation for next week when we follow an Antarctic adventurer. We have also enjoyed reading our guided reading book and the emotional rollercoaster that the main character Sol has been on; losing his mum at a young age, struggling at school, feeling isolated, yet learning how to sculpt like his mum under the guidance of his grandmother. In science we have been learning about shadows and how they are formed. The class have begun to prepare their own shadow puppets ready for a class show in the following weeks.

Let's Talk: Talk to your child about the surprise we learned about Sol's Grandma and Grandad.

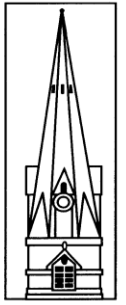
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Navigators: This week in Navigators, we have been using our knowledge of times tables to find and compare fractions. In music we are learning how to play a chord on a glockenspiel and have enjoyed learning how to sing a Blues song. In R.E we have been thinking about Advent, focusing on what each candle of the Advent wreath represents. Children have also enjoyed looking at computers from the past.

Let's talk: What does the Advent wreath symbolise, and what do the candles represent?

Pathfinders: In Pathfinders this week we have been finding missing angles in maths and enjoying reading our new novel which is called '*Some Places More Than Others*' by Renee Watson. We had fun in music learning the blues scale on the glockenspiels and improvising when we became more confident. We have been investigating the sea serpents of the deep in our Guided Reading book, which is called '*Real Life Mysteries*'.

Let's talk: Ask about the different sea serpents that have been spotted around the world.

News to share

We are happy to share with you the news that two of our members of staff in school Mrs. Brayshaw and Mrs. Devlin are expecting! I am sure that you will join us in wishing them both to be healthy and happy for the remainder of their pregnancies and we look forward to hearing all about their new arrivals in the new year. Mrs. Brayshaw will be returning to school for one week in January to handover to the new Explorer's class teacher Mrs. Greening, who joins us with a wealth of EYFS experience and we are very excited to be welcoming her into the Higher Walton team. Mrs. Devlin will leave us at Christmas and we are really looking forward to be working with Miss Parker, who will be working with us during her maternity leave.

Anti-bullying week

Last week, we focused in on personal development celebrating the National Anti-Bullying Week in school. The children were very knowledgeable about the difference between bullying and other one-off incidents that can sometimes happen in schools and it was very interesting to listen to their ideas about what they can do when either should occur. The most wonderful thing to hear throughout the week was that all children feel like they have someone to be able to talk to in school should they ever have any worries. The people named ranged from teachers to the cooks in the hall at lunchtime, play buddies and our Year 6 prefects. We also raised £105 from the sale of the 'Choose Respect' wristbands and we thank you for your support. **CHOOSE RESPECT!**

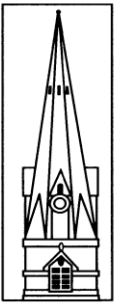
Parent's evening

Thank you to all of the families who attended parents evening last week. We had some classes with 100% attendance from parents and carers which really shows your commitment to supporting your child's education at Higher Walton. If you were unable to attend for any reason, please make a call to the school office and we can arrange for an alternative time to see you child's class teacher – home and school relationships are very important to us.

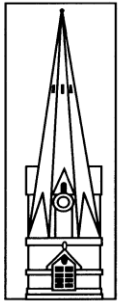
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Remembrance in school

We were very grateful to Reverend Hannah and Reverend Danny who led school in a Remembrance service last Monday. The children were very respectful and shared thoughts about what it must have been like being a soldier during the war. We took time as a school, to think of those in conflict today and shared in silence and reflection together. Thank you to those families who also contributed to the poppy sale in school.

Winter weather

As winter approaches, we do everything that we can to ensure that school is a safe environment for everyone. In the instance of snowfall with sustained coverage it may be necessary to keep the school car park closed. The pedestrian paths will be swept and gritted as necessary but as you can appreciate, the car park is a large area and even when cleared, the slope causes a significant risk. All information regarding a car park closure will be sent to parents first thing in the morning via text message, so that you can plan your journey accordingly using the surrounding roads.

PTFA Christmas Fair

Saturday 30th December is fast approaching and the PTFA are busy planning our annual Christmas Fair. We hope that as many of you as possible are able to come and visit! Thank you so much for your kind donations of sweets and chocolates so far. The next **non-uniform day** will be **Friday 29th November** when we are asking for donations of prizes for the tombola. This is an extra-special day when we will be having a 'Neon light dodgeball event' running in school so any fluorescent or glow in the dark clothing can be worn.

Weekly awards

Week ending 15 th November 2024		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Jack	Elsie
Discoverers	Blake	Mason
Adventurers	Madyson	Luna
Navigators	Sophia-Rose	Eva
Pathfinders	Karis	Teddy & Gabriel

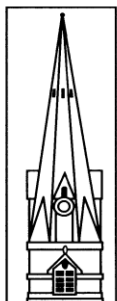
Week ending 22 nd November 2024		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Olivia	Thomas
Discoverers	Arlo	Dylan
Adventurers	Mischa	Nicole & Olivia
Navigators	Chloe	Ellie
Pathfinders	Poppy	Girls Football Team
		Molly & Rhiona

TT Rockstars Awards			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Discoverers	Amelia		
Adventurers	Luna	Mischa	Cooper
Navigators	Tilly	Eddie	Chloe
Pathfinders	Riley	Emily-Sue	Mia
Class	Navigators	Adventurers	Pathfinders
Across school	Tilly	Luna	Eddie

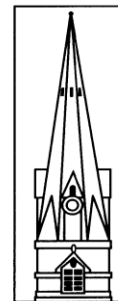
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Attendance

Week ending 15th November 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	89.4%	90%	95.7%	97%	99.4%
Lates	7.7%	3.5%	3%	0.5%	1%
Well done Pathfinders class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 22nd November 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	97.1%	93.3%	94.6%	87.5%	97.6%
Lates	6%	1.5%	2%	1.5%	2%
Well done Pathfinders class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Diary dates to the end of the year

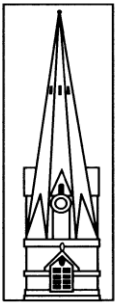
You can now find all the diary dates and holiday lists on our website. Reminders and updates are as follows:-

Friday 29 th November	UV dodgeball day and non-uniform day – details above
Saturday 30 th November	PTFA Christmas Fair 11am – 1pm
NEW Friday 6th December	Year 5/6 STEM challenge – details to follow
NEW Wednesday 11th December	Whole school visit to Aladdin on Ice – details on Parentmail
NEW Thursday 12th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 2pm and 5pm – details to follow
Tuesday 17 th December	Santa Dash – details to follow
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle Service at All Saints Church 1.30pm – details to follow
NEW Thursday 19th December	Rocksteady concert 2.45pm
Thursday 19 th December	School closes for the Christmas break
Monday 6 th January 2025	School re-opens – spring term
NEW Wednesday 8th January 2025	Year 3/4 continue swimming until February half term

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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.

ABSENCES: It is very important that you state the full reason when reporting your child's absence from school. For illness absences we cannot accept the reason as 'unwell' or 'ill' and need the **full** details of the illness for recording and monitoring purposes.

If an acceptable reason is not provided, the session(s) will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. An accumulation of unauthorised absence could result in the use of legal sanctions, including penalty notices, being used. It is therefore important that absences are recorded on the day using ParentMail or by emailing the office - bursar@walton.lancs.sch.uk.

Newsletter attachments

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

1. Christmas HAF vouchers information
2. Multiplication Tables Check – information for Year 4 parents
3. PTFA non-uniform day poster
4. Get ready for winter – information from Lancashire County Council

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