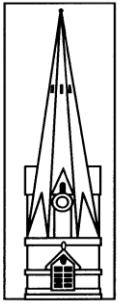




# Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



**'Life in all its fullness'**

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

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

## Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, it's Friday again! The children have been learning about some interesting topics in school (see below) and I've seen first-hand some excellent research about planets in Navigators class and interesting information about where food comes from in Adventurers.

We have welcomed Y3/4 teacher Mrs. Cookson into school this week, who will be teaching in Adventurers class whilst Mrs. Clayton is recovering from her operation. We have been told that everything has gone well and we wish Mrs. Clayton a speedy and pain-free recovery.

In worship this week, we have been learning songs and hymns in preparation for our Easter service in church, whilst learning about the value of 'forgiveness' as one of our school values and how it goes hand in hand with friendship.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday, Mrs. Clarke ☺

## Explorers

This week in Explorers, the children have been learning about their new literacy texts "I Will Not Never Ever Eat A Tomato" for Reception and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" for Nursery. The children in Reception talked about foods they would "never ever" eat and have started to make their own books, putting themselves as the main character. We have also got our own class caterpillars! At the moment they are really small, and we are waiting for them to get big and fat like in our story before they create their chrysalises. Our sunflowers are starting to grow, and we are checking on them daily and watering them when needed.

Let's Talk: What do plants need to grow?

## Pathfinders

This week Pathfinder's have been investigating the difference between objects and the materials they are made out of. They have been working really hard in Maths on working with numbers to 50 including adding and subtracting 10 from a number. Pathfinders are continuing to link their learning about the Easter story to thinking about new life in spring.

Let's talk: Can you retell the Easter story?

## Discoverers

This week in Discoverers, we have been putting the finishing touches to the dumper trucks we have been making in our DT lessons. We have also started thinking about the Easter story in R.E, looking at artwork and coming up with emotions for each of the main events. We have been doing some creative writing in English, creating our own fantasy worlds.

Let's talk: How many adjectives can you come up with to describe a tree?

**\*\*Make sure to come along next Thursday to our class assembly to catch up on more of the interesting things we have been doing\*\***

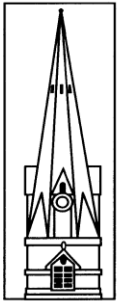
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## Adventurers

This week, Adventurers have been learning about the Amazon Rainforest. They talked about the different layers. In English, children wrote a letter to Hogarth trying to help him deal with The Iron Man.

Let's talk: Can you talk about the different layers of the rainforest.

## Navigators

This week in Navigators we have been busy engineers! We have been measuring, sawing and constructing light houses. We have used reinforcements to stabilise our structures – it has been difficult but we have shown tenacity and we are looking forward to creating circuits and adding a light. We finished our Grimm Tales English book and have now started The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan, it is a very interesting book with amazing illustrations.

Let's talk: Which was your favourite Grimm Tale and why?

## Well-being ambassadors

Our group of KS2 well-being ambassadors have been working together to come up with a whole-school charter that makes everyone in school 'feel great!' We talked about what makes the charter different from our school rules and that it creates a supportive culture, where everyone can be the very best version of themselves. The next step is to have individual classes having their own charters to ensure that everyone supports this ethos in school and our young well-being ambassadors will help them with this!

## Higher Walton Book Day

Due to already having things booked in our school diary, Higher Walton will be celebrating our own **Book Day on Thursday 28th March 2024**. We are going to ask the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring a donation for the school's summer fair. More information from the PTA to follow, this is just a reminder of the date for your diary.

## New classroom

We are now able to share with you the exciting plans for our new classroom. Discoverers class (Y2/3) will be moving into the new classroom as soon as we have had the handover meeting - we are just awaiting confirmation of the final date for this at the moment. The children have been waiting to find out very patiently, so we thought that with the move being hopefully only a couple of weeks away we could let them know. Pathfinders class (Y1) will be moving into Discoverers old classroom, meaning that the smaller room that they are currently being taught in can be used as a nurture facility in school that all children will benefit from. We look forward to sharing more news with you about this in the near future.

## Parent's evening

Thank you to all of the families who came to our parent's evening last Monday. It was very well attended and we got to see so many smiling children after receiving good reports about what's been happening in school. If you weren't able to make it, please get in touch with your child's teacher to arrange a time to chat - home and school communication is very important to us here at Higher Walton.

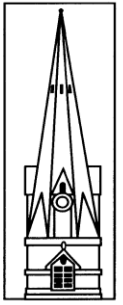
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## Attendance

We continue to monitor attendance on a weekly basis and have been having a few enquiries about taking holidays during term time. Our attendance policy was updated this year and leave of absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more in a term or 14 sessions (7 days) or more over two terms will not be authorised and will result in a penalty notice. There are exceptions to this and if you require further information, please contact the school office.

## Parenting smart

As part of our well-being focus in school, we have been using resources and ideas from the website [www.place2be.org.uk](http://www.place2be.org.uk). Place2Be offer support for school and families and have a number of free resources that you can tap into at any point. There are some really simple ideas and one that we'd like to signpost parents to is the [www.parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk](http://www.parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk) for really simple tips and hints on resilience, problem solving and listening to name but a few. Have a look - the 7 minute workshops are really useful and can be accessed from smart devices.

## Weekly awards

Week ending 23 <sup>rd</sup> February		
	Star of the Week	VIP
<b>Explorers</b>	Raine	Thomas
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Vanessa	Isaac
<b>Discoverers</b>	Theo B	Erin F and Erin A
<b>Adventurers</b>	Ava	Nicole and Max + Whole class
<b>Navigators</b>	Hope	Rhiona

Week ending 1 <sup>st</sup> March		
	Star of the Week	VIP
<b>Explorers</b>	Elsie	Jorgie
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Louie	Eli
<b>Discoverers</b>	Madyson	Freya
<b>Adventurers</b>	Oliver	Millie
<b>Navigators</b>	Ethan	Bobby

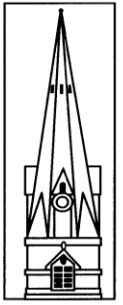
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## Attendance

Week ending 19th February	Explorers 11 on roll	Pathfinders 15 on roll	Discoverers 22 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 30 on roll
Attendance	98%	96%	93%	94%	91%
Lates	1%	4%	2%	0%	1%
<b>Well done to Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!</b>					

Week ending 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Explorers 11 on roll	Pathfinders 15 on roll	Discoverers 22 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 30 on roll
Attendance	96%	95%	89%	90%	94%
Lates	0%	4%	3%	0%	1%
<b>Well done to Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!</b>					

## Diary reminders

W/C 4<sup>th</sup> March diary dates

- Tuesday - Morning - Young Engineers visit (invited children) – 8.30am departure  
Afternoon - Let's Go Sing – 1.15 departure. No school bags needed, just a light tea in disposable packaging  
After school - football club
- Wednesday - All day - Year 6 bikeability. Bikes and helmets required  
After school – Year 6 booster classes
- Thursday - Discoverers class assembly 9am – parents welcome  
After school - girls football club  
**Not** World Book Day in school!

## Weekly Reminders

**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.

**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.

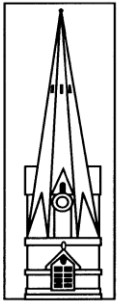
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**Mobile phones:** Mobile phones should only be brought to school by children who walk to and from school unaccompanied or where they are going to a different parent's house. All phones must be handed in at the office for locking away during the day.

**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](mailto: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:-

- NHS information sheet regarding measles and vaccinations.
- Invitation to Reception and Year 1 parents to a coffee and phonics morning on the 14<sup>th</sup> March (9am). We look forward to seeing you.

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