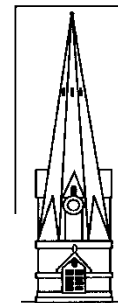


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'



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

4th April 2025

Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon, thank you for another wonderful term - it has been filled with much learning and lots of super opportunities for our children too. We have been worshipping together to celebrate the time of Easter in whole school worship and focussed on the value of community to think of ways in which we can turn to one another for support when we need it most. Just like Jesus had his disciples, we have friends and family around us that love us too. Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday, finding time for peace, relaxation and a bit of fun too!

See you all back in school on Tuesday 22nd April, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: For the past 2 weeks, we have been busy finding out about our local area as part of our history lessons. Last week we went on a hunt with our Year 6 buddies to find the church, houses, the school, the park, the post box and the bus stop. This week we visited the park with Coach Dan and Coach Kory. We have also enjoyed making lots of Easter crafts in Art and DT, taking part in an Easter egg hunt in our garden and learning about the Easter story in RE.

Let's talk: Ask your children about the Easter story

Discoverers: This week in Discoverers class we have been busy finishing off all our topics. We have written our own poems based on the story '*Julian is a mermaid*' by Jessica Love. We loved looking at the illustrations and thinking about how animals move in their habitats. We have finished off the week by looking at the role of a botanist in science by becoming plant detectives. We used lots of super science skills such as observing, recording and researching.

Let's Talk: Can you tell someone in your family what the time is?

Adventurers: This week Adventurers did themselves proud by sharing '*A Donkey's Tale*' performance in church. They shared the Easter story from the view point of the donkey with songs and acting. Great work everyone! On Wellbeing Wednesday the children produced some excellent artwork outside in the style of Mandala patterns.

Let's Talk: What equipment did they use in science to see what gravitational pull objects have?

Navigators: The Navigators have had an exciting week! We started a new book, '*The Lost Happy Endings*', and have been exploring alternative endings to well-known fairy tales. In maths, we have been learning about statistics, analysing data, and finding the mode, mean, and median of different sets of numbers. In P.E., we have been developing our hand-eye coordination in tennis, working towards completing rallies with a partner.

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We also learnt about the French tradition '*Poisson d'Avril*' and had lots of fun making paper fish to secretly stick on each other's backs as part of this playful April Fools' tradition!

Let's talk: what is the mode for this set of numbers: 3,7,8,3,1,3,2

Pathfinders: Pathfinders have been really busy all week solving problems with measure, including area, volume and time. We enjoyed reading the book '*Hidden Figures*' by Margot Lee Shetterly which tells the story of how four women played such a vital part in the space race. On Wellbeing Wednesday we had fun designing and testing our paper aeroplanes.

Let's talk: ask your child about the characters in the Hidden Figures book?

AIM High Robotics Day

On Wednesday this week, four of our children across Year 5 and Year 6 took part in an AIM High Robotics day along with children from other local primary schools. The workshop was led by Ian Botwright who had one of his robots selected for the TV series Robot Wars.

The workshop, based around the Knex construction system, saw pupils assemble and build remote control fighting robots from scratch using a mix of Knex and Ian's own customised electronics (as used in Ian's own Beetleweight robots) and parts. They then modified their robots to compete in a range of challenges such as Skittles, Football (fouling allowed!), and of course battling it out to the finish sumo style!

The children had a fantastic day and lots of fun along with learning a host of science and engineering concepts including: electrical circuits, batteries, friction, levers, ratio, materials, radio, uses of microprocessors and of course safety!

Easter Performance

Thank you to our wonderful Adventurers class for their Easter performance of '*A donkey's tale*' at All Saint's Church on Wednesday. The children had worked so hard to learn their lines and sang beautifully. It was lovely to see so many families attend to see their children perform. Also thank you to Mrs. Clayton and Mrs. Sadikot for helping the children rehearse and sorting the great costumes too!

'This Girl Can' event

On Tuesday 4 girls from Year 5 represented our school in the 'This Girl Can' event. They went to Lostock Hall High School and took part in different sporting activities including Cheerleading, Football, Dodgeball and Tennis. All the girls demonstrated an excellent sporting attitude and had a great time too.

Mothers Day Service

On Friday 28th March, we held the school's first Mother's Day service in church. We had over 50 people attend which is the most we have ever had at a school celebration in church – thank you! Being able to say thank you to all the wonderful mums, and other women in the children's lives who help them every day, was a privilege and we hope that you liked your little treat of a bunch of flowers too. Thank you to All Saint's Church and Rev. Hannah for organising the service with Mrs. Noblet and for the kind donation of the flowers too.

PTFA Easter Bingo

We had a great turn out for this year's Easter bingo event in school. Thank you to the PTFA for organising this and for providing the extra treats and refreshments too. The feedback from the children was that they thoroughly enjoyed it and we are very lucky to have great support from parents to help organise these fundraising activities in school.

Rocksteady Concert

We had another great performance from our Rocksteady bands yesterday. The children's confidence has grown so much and well done in particular to the newer members of the bands too. If you would like your child to be part of a rock band, there are positions that can be filled so please see the attachment to the newsletter for more information or get in touch with the school office.

Higher Walton Book Day

What a way to end the term – with our very own Higher Walton Book Day! Thank you to everyone for dressing up and making the day as wonderful as it was! We've shared stories, had character battles, completed treasure hunts and had our own fashion show in celebration worship too. We hope the children come home with ideas on how to continue to develop their own pleasure for reading – the holidays are a great time to get into a good book and even go and visit a library if you get the chance to.

Parent Governor Elections

Our governing board has provision for two parent governors who are elected by the parents of pupils at this school to serve a 4 year term of office. There is currently one vacancy which we would like to fill as soon as possible as we work towards the school's next Ofsted inspection. You may, if you wish, put yourself forward for election, using the nomination form on ParentMail or request a paper copy from the school office. The deadline for nominations is noon on Tuesday 22nd April. See the attached Governors Newsletter for further details and a report from one of our newer Parent Governors about her role on the Governing Board.

Uniform

We are very proud of our uniform at Higher Walton and talk to the children regularly about what it represents and how it gives us a sense of belonging to school. We have noticed in the last couple of weeks that children are wearing footwear that is not in line with our school policy and hope that after the holidays we can work once again to make sure that we are all in the correct school clothing. This also applies to PE uniform too. If you would like to have a look at the school's Uniform Policy, you can find it on the school website.

Weekly awards

Week ending 28.3.25		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Olivia	Whole class
Discoverers	Vanessa	Blake
Adventurers	Theon	Max
Navigators	Bella-Mae	Arthur
Pathfinders	Isaac	Mia

Week ending 4.4.25		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Bobby-Jo	Hallie
Discoverers	Autumn	Teddy
Adventurers	Skylar & Willow	Evie
Navigators	Eva & Ella-Mae	Eddie
Pathfinders	Teddy	Dylan

Higher Walton Book Day	
Explorers	Bobby-Joe
Discoverers	Raine
Adventurers	Jessica & Theo
Navigators	Millie
Pathfinders	Rhiona & Max

Attendance

Week ending 28.3.25	Explorers 11 on roll	Discovers 20 on roll	Adventurers 27 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	97%	92%	93%	83%	91%
Lates	5%	1%	1.5%	0.5%	2%
Well done Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 4.4.25	Explorers 11 on roll	Discovers 20 on roll	Adventurers 27 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	90%	88.5%	92%	92%	95%
Lates	9%	4%	3%	0.5%	0.5%
Well done Pathfinders 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.

Communications from school – our preferred method of sending out information to parents is via ParentMail email or text and we would strongly recommend parents download the free ParentMail app and set notifications so you do not miss anything. Please ensure that you keep up to date with what is happening in school via the calendar on the newsletter or on the school website.

Newsletter attachments

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

- All Saints Church Easter activities posters
- Leyland Warriors Rugby poster
- Governing Board Newsletter – Spring 2025
- Rocksteady information

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 4 th April 2025	End of term
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Summer term 1 begins
NEW – 30.4.25 – 6.5.25	Scholastic Book Fair – details to follow
NEW – 1ST May 2025	AIM High Writing day – invited children – details to follow
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
NEW – 12.5.25 – 16.5.25	KS2 SATs week
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
Thursday 5 th June 2025	Sports day reserve date
Friday 6 th June 2025	PTFA wear own clothes day – please donate chocolate items for tombola prizes – details to follow
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
NEW – 15.7.25	Drop in parents evening (report discussions only) 3.45pm-4.15pm
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