



As we come to the end of a busy half term, I wanted to share some of the things which have been happening around school this week.

I was invited to a Y3 gallery and saw artwork inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and Beatrix Potter – the children acted as curators and were very proud of their art pieces – what a treat for me!

As you may know from your children, we had a visit from a beekeeper who told the story of Norris the ladybird and Delilah the bee – well Norris made a return visit this week (ask the children in Reception!) and I am *tickled pink* with the writing they have done around this impromptu visit.

Y5 had an afternoon of Roman activities, following on from a virtual visit from an expert in all things roman from Vindolanda.

Y6 have completed their work on David Hockney and I am awaiting a response from the Royal Academy of Arts where he opened his most recent exhibition this month; and with whom I have shared some of the children's pieces. I am sure you agree this work is certainly worth celebrating...



Just a small selection of the work that Y6 have completed over the last few weeks...inspired by David Hockney.

The other year groups have been working on reaching their goals at the end of their topics – it has been a fact packed time – ask the children for their top 10...and moving forward you will be receiving a knowledge organiser today to support the work we will be doing next half term.

Well done to **Archer & Tom in Y6 and Oliver in Y5**, who were part of a team raising money for Motor Neuron disease, who completed a 20 mile walk at the weekend. We have celebrated their achievement in school and wanted you to know about it too. Tremendous effort boys!

The **tea party** went well last week, and we are therefore thinking that an outside tea party/garden party lunch might be a lovely way to end the school year – more details to follow. Thank you to the kitchen staff for their hard work. And FYI we had our inspection of the kitchen premises last week (it was a busy time!) and have retained our 5-star rating...

The children continue to astound me in so many ways, and whilst we can all celebrate their resilience, after everything they have experienced (and continue to experience) over the last 18 months it is only to be expected that sometimes a little extra support and consideration is needed. Please contact me if you want to talk about your child's needs around their **emotional well-being**. I have also added to the resources on the website around mental health & emotional well-being – I hope you find them useful.

FOYPS have managed to obtain some free seeds for us in school – we are delighted; as Mrs Meek & Mrs Grey are working hard in the allotments and polytunnel with groups of children to **get some growing going**. If like me you are potting up some seedlings or planning a trip to the garden centre, we would be thrilled if you could add a little something in your basket for us – thank you.

As we are almost at the start of our final half term of the academic year, staff are working on the **annual report to parents**, which this year will be circulated via class dojo – if you are a parent and do not access this, please let us know and we will arrange another means by which to deliver the report. As we are planning on still not being able to work as we would normally, I want to draw your attention to the invitation on the bottom of the report which asks you to contact us for a telephone follow up if you want to...The reports will be circulated during the week beginning 28th June.

I am delighted to announce that **Mrs Besterfield** has been successful (after a VERY long recruitment process) in fulfilling a long-held ambition to join the police – she will take up the post shortly after the holiday. Whilst this will be a loss for us at Yarm Primary, we are also very happy for Mrs Besterfield – we know what an asset she will be to our local constabulary. Thank you and Good Luck!

We will be recruiting in the coming weeks.

From **this weeks DfE guidance** - *where pupils, students or staff test positive having developed symptoms within 2 days of being in school or college, you are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school or college.* To this end, as we have done all year - over the next 48 hours, we need to keep in touch with any COVID related news in our local community.

Please use the information only email account: covid@yarmprimary.org.uk to inform us if a pupil tests positive between the end of today and Sunday morning. We will then take any appropriate action.

Please only use the email for COVID related information and be aware that it is a 'receive only' address, therefore you will not get a response.

Thank you for your co-operation.

REMINDER - Please note – changes to the academic year 21/22

Due to an additional bank holiday, which has been granted by the Government in order to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, the local authority has amended the academic calendar for 2021/2022. The new calendar means that schools will return to school on 2nd September 2021 – which would mean that if we take the planned PDDay that children would be due to return on the Friday – not an ideal situation. Therefore, we have reorganised the scheduled PDDays to allow for children begin on a Monday. The PDDays for next year are therefore:

1. Thursday 2nd September 2021
2. Friday 3rd September 2021
3. Friday 3rd December 2021
4. Monday 6th December 2021
5. Friday 1st July 2022

The academic year begins for the children on Monday 6th September 2021.

The academic year closes on Thursday 21st July 2022.

School **closes today Friday 28th May and reopens on Monday 7th June.**

Whatever you do over the break I hope you have a great family time. I am keeping my fingers crossed for some lovely weather and that we all return to school rested and happy.

Please keep safe.

Mrs Wood