



Henshaw CE Primary School

Newsletter

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West Tyne Federation of Schools

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A Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year Everybody! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and are looking forward to the opportunities and excitement that 2024 will bring. The children have come back to school after the Christmas break eager to learn and full of energy, it has been lovely to see them enjoying their new learning focuses within the classroom.

We continue to have many ways for parents to contact and discuss anything they need to with school, via contacting the class teacher (in the first instance) either by email, phone or catching them on the yard/arranging a meeting after school. Please can I ask that if parents need to contact myself, this goes through the office so that emails to the head teacher are not 'lost' and messages can be passed on effectively or meetings arranged.

This half term sees lots of clubs starting up as well as swimming for Year 5 and 6 and educational visits to the Laing Art Gallery and Great North Museum; we know the children love these learning experiences and the opportunity to take their learning outside the classroom. I know there is often a charge for these activities and we really do appreciate you supporting them. The school always subsidises the cost of these in regards to transport and entrance or activity charges, but we would not be able to offer them without your kind support.

Best wishes, Mr Glenton

New School Drivers

Those of you with eagle-eyes would have spotted a change to our school drivers last week, when the curriculum grids were sent out by teachers to inform you what your child is learning this half term.

After a collective meeting with teachers across the Federation, we felt that adding 'Legacy and Making a Difference' to the core drive of our curriculum would be an effective way to teach children about role-models who have changed the world in their own way. Already, Year 5.6 have been learning about Katherine Johnson, the mathematician whose calculations sent the first astronauts into space. We feel that including this focus in our curriculum will not only teach children about these important people but will instil in them the idea that they too can make a difference.



Class News

Tyne Class

Tyne Class have had lots of fun over the last few weeks learning about night and day. We have been thinking about who works at night and which animals come out at night. We enjoyed reading the story 'Whatever Next!' the children have used props to act out the story in the role play area. The children were fantastic at asking who, what, how and why questions when hot seating the character Baby Bear. Someone asked, "why didn't you take your mum to the moon with you?" In maths we have been mastering the number zero, the children can represent, identify and write the number zero. We linked this to capacity exploring full, half full, half empty and empty. At home can your child pour full glass of water and then tell you how much is left when they have drank some?

Thames Class

Thames class have enjoyed being back at school. We have been exploring the properties of shape and using 3D shapes to make a tower for Rapunzel. In English year 1 have been turning words from singular to plural. Year 2 have been using commas in lists. Perhaps the children could write their own shopping list to go to the supermarket? In Art we have been using the colour wheel and practised mixing colours. In PE we have continued to practise our gymnastic skills and started to practise skipping. They have definitely shown resilience with skipping.

Rhine Class

This week, we have done some very exciting things. The toothpaste investigation is complete. The children were amazed at how the sugary drink attacked the shell even though it was regularly brushed with toothpaste. They have enjoyed writing their own plays and acting out. We had a thought tunnel in guided reading where we gave the thoughts of Leila and Lachland. All that and a visit to the Hancock Museum where we consolidated our learning about the Stone Age.

Nile Class

The children in Nile class have covered two topics already in English. Last week, the children used the computers to learn about a special mathematician called Katherine Johnson, ready to write a biography of her life. This week they have started to explore how to write a nonet. Ask your child if they can explain what a nonet is and how it is set out.



Our School Promise

Our School Promise reminds us of our vision and values that we hold dear at The West Tyne Church Schools Federation.

Well done to the following children for achieving their awards:

Learning Award - Billy

Resilience & Teamwork Award - Chloe C

Etiquette Award - Ivy

Kindness Award - Alex, Eva G

Friendship Award - Evie

Role model Award - Ollie C



Attendance: Every day is important to give children their full entitlement to an exciting learning journey

Tyne - 100%

Thames - 92%

Rhine - 96.5%

Nile - 91.5%

Whole School - 93.4%

Our target for attendance is 96%

Reading Buddies at Henshaw Primary School

On Monday, we will be starting up our Reading Buddies provision at the school. Every fortnight, children from across the school will buddy up with a child from another class to share a story, discuss the book they are reading and work on descriptive writing with their partner. This was a very effective way of sharing a love of reading throughout our school and a great way for children to make friends with children from other classes. Look out for pictures on Facebook and our next newsletter!

Thank you to Mrs Jameson who takes a lead on this wonderful activity for our children across school.

Our New Learning Lab and Art Area at Henshaw Primary School

We are very lucky at Henshaw to have areas of the school that can be used for small group work, outside of the classroom. One of these areas that needed developing were the learning lab (the creative area between Mrs Olsson and Mrs Clarke's room) and the Reception Art Area. Over Christmas, these were stripped out and brand-new cupboards, chairs, sinks, taps and worktops were put in (the latter was lowered in the Reception Art Area to allow them easier access to resources and materials).

What a difference it has made and the children love these new areas to develop their creativity and teamwork.



Dates for the Diary

Friday 19th January - Year 3.4 visit to the Great North Museum

Wednesday 24th January - Gill Booth, Diocese Director for Education, visiting the school

Friday 26th January - The Big Garden Bird Watch

Tuesday 30th January - Year 5.6 visit Laing Gallery as part of their Cultural Capital project

Wednesday 31st January - NHS dental check for Reception

Thursday 1st February - Fly tying workshop from the Angling Society for Year 5.6

Tuesday 6th February - Year 3.4 at HBHS for DT workshop

Tuesday 6th February - Art afternoon - Day of the dot

Tuesday 13th February - Year 5.6 visit Laing Gallery as part of their Cultural Capital project

Wednesday 14th February - Workshop Wednesday - All parents welcome into school to share in their child's learning 9am - 10am

Monday 19th to Sunday 25th February - Half Term week

Monday 26th February - Teacher Training day

Tuesday 27th February - School reopens to the children

Year 5 and 6 will continue to attend swimming lessons on a Monday until the Easter holidays.

A final thought...

It's easy to judge. It's more difficult to understand. Through judging we separate, through understanding, we grow.

Doe Zantamata