



October 2019

Newsletter

Macmillan Fund Raising



A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and attended our Macmillan Coffee Morning. The Year 6 children who are part of our Rights Respecting Group had an important part to play serving the delicious cakes. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying a coffee and a cake whilst raising money for such an amazing charity. With the collective efforts from our community, we were able to raise:

£200.39

We know that there are many people within our school community who have experienced the work of Macmillan and we can all understand how important this donation will be to support many more.

INSET Day Reminder & Term Dates



Please remember that Monday 28th October is a teacher training day and children will return to school on Tuesday 29th October.

The term dates are available on the school website which includes all training days for 2019-2020. The term dates for 2020-2021 are set but do not yet include all training days.

As a result of the way the term dates fall over the next two years, this has resulted in the summer holidays, this summer, consisting of 7 weeks. Please be assured that, regardless of how the holidays are structured, children are always in school for 190 days.

As a positive, we hope that parents/carers may be able to take advantage of booking cheaper holidays in the first week of September as a lot of schools in other Local Authorities will have returned and holiday companies may have their usual September reductions.

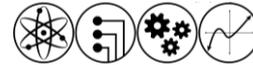
Parent Information Sessions



Over the first weeks of term, year group staff have arranged various sessions for parents/carers in order to give information regarding key areas of the children's new curriculum. Sessions have focused on aspects such as reading and maths whilst introducing strategies and programmes which are in place to support children's progress.

It has been brilliant to see so many parents/carers being able to attend, which we understand can be difficult for some. However, the chance for family members to come into school during the day and see the classroom environment as well as work with the children is always something the children love as well as providing a clear context for the messages being shared.

STEM Week



During the last week of the half term, the whole school has been involved in a week of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities.

From Nursery through to Year 6, children have had the chance to use computers for programming, build structures, investigate and solve problems amongst other tasks.

To support this special curriculum week, we have had access to some experts in their fields who were able to use their expertise to teach children in a way that we couldn't. Children across the school have had the opportunity to work with fire officers, members of the library service with IT expertise, a real-life scientist and the police in relation to forensics. Some Year 6 children even had the chance to visit Nissan.

We hope that this will enable children to see the possibilities out there for them in relation to applying STEM skills in the future through a range of various roles and careers.

Harvest Collection



Due to the kind contributions from parents and carers, we were able to collect a variety of food for Harvest. This food has now been collected by The People's Kitchen in Newcastle to help those in need. The school received a thank you letter from The People's Kitchen thanking us for our kind donations. A big thank you to everyone who donated food to such a worthwhile charity.

Parents' Meetings Feedback



We would like to thank all parents/carers who have taken time to meet with teachers to discuss how children are settling in and to talk about targets for the early part of the year. Working with families is an essential part of our provision as we can only achieve the best for the children by working together.

We would also like to thank all who provided written comments about the evenings. The feedback was extremely positive with it being stated that children had settled in well, teachers explained clearly how they were supporting children and that it had been a great start to the year. Additionally, it appears that our 'Next Steps' record was useful for those who wanted to know how to help their children linked with what they were focusing on in school. This was very much implemented because of comments from the last parent/carer survey regarding information about school so we are pleased it has been received so well.

Nursery – Old Bear Stories



Recently, Nursery have been reading Old Bear stories by Jane Hissey. The children have enjoyed getting to know the characters and have thought about the problems they have encountered in each story. After reading Old Bear, the children tried to make their own towers that were as tall as the ceiling. They also measured different objects to find the longest items just like in the 'Jolly Tall' story and cut paper to different lengths to make collages. After reading Old Bear's 'Surprise Painting', the children explored printing with different materials.

Reception – Junk Modelling



As children have begun to get used to the routines in Reception, they have been exploring the junk modelling area. The children have been thinking really hard about what they want to build and have chosen their materials carefully. They have explored different ways to cut, stick and decorate as they have brought their designs to life. There has been some brilliant creations, including a robot, a boat and a tower. Visit the website to see some of the children at work.

Article 29 : We all have the right to develop our talents and abilities.

Year 1 – Erupting Volcanoes



In Year 1, the classes have been learning all about volcanoes. During the sessions, each class had the opportunity to make their own volcano eruption. To do this, they used washing-up liquid, vinegar, baking powder and red food colouring. The results were explosive! By experiencing the process, the children thought of a wide variety of words to describe the sound, colour and action of the volcano such as: boom, smash, ferocious, exploding and thundering.

Article 28: We all have the right to a good quality education.

Year 2 – Teepee Building



Making teepees is a fantastic skill that encourages children to understand strong structure. Working out how best to interlock the branches gives stability and coverage to the outer walls of the teepee. As the children become master builders, they can develop those skills to work on a much larger scale.

In their Forest School sessions, children were given access to a variety of materials to enhance their builds. This inspired some interesting ideas which can be seen in the pictures on the school website. Giving children 'free' Forest school sessions like this helps them to develop their problem-solving skills and to experiment. They can work imaginatively and without too many constraints, enabling them to increase in self-confidence and resilience.

By observing the children as they work, we can then ensure future activities are led by the children's interests and learning styles, all whilst enjoying the great outdoors.

Article 3 – Everyone who works with children should always do what is best for the child.

Year 3 – Dribbling & Passing



In PE, Year 3 have been developing their ball-handling skills. They have been specifically working on bounce passes and chest passes. During sessions, they have been introduced to dribbling which led to the children completing a circuit using these skills. They all particularly enjoyed working in small teams to complete each activity.

Year 4 – Viking Homes



In Design Technology lessons, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed making 3D models of Viking homes. The brief was to design and build a model that showed some of their key features. From their research, the children identified that Viking homes were constructed from either mud or wood, were single story, had thatched or turf roofs with a hole in and had up to two doors but no windows. They chose materials that would effectively replicate these features and could be easily used in their construction. Their final designs and models varied greatly in shape and size but all featured corrugated cardboard walls, a door and roofs covered with real hay. The children were extremely proud of their creations.

Article 29 – We all have the right to develop our talents and abilities.

Year 5 – Batik Art



In Year 5, for their Art unit of work, the children have studied batik. They looked at different artists' examples of batik before creating their own design. The children thoroughly enjoyed applying wax or glue to material before using 'brusho' paint to dye the fabric. The results were fantastic – please, go and have a look!

Article 6 – We all have the right to live and succeed at whatever we do.

Year 6 – Harlow Does STRICTLY!

Year 6 parents, guardians and friends had the opportunity to visit their children in school during one of their dance lessons. Health is one of the key drivers of the school's curriculum and P.E. is an essential part of the school week. The children have been learning the Jive and the Jitterbug, dances that were enjoyed during the Second World War and, during this session, they taught their parents some of the moves whilst choreographing their own routines to perform. A fun, and sweaty, time was had by all concerned. Thank you to all of the adults for their participation which made it such an enjoyable experience.

Article 24 – We all have the right to be healthy and happy.

Diary Dates

October

Last day of the half term	Fri 18 th
INSET Day	Mon 28 th
Pupils return to school	Tues 29 th

November

Choir performance at Grace College	Wed 13 th
Year 5 Parents' Session	Tues 19 th
Individual Photographs	Mon 25 th

December

Reception Vision Check	Tues 3 rd
Year 2 Parents' Session	Tues 3 rd
Flu Nasal Sprays	Wed 4 th

Christmas dates will be given after half term.