



November/December 2019

Newsletter

Remembrance Events



Last month, members of our Year 5 and 6 choir visited Grace College to perform some wartime songs at a 1940s 'Tea Dance'. At the event, they were joined by other local schools and residents from local care homes as well as some war veterans. The children sang songs including well-known classics such as, 'We'll Meet Again' and 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'. This was a fantastic community event to commemorate Remembrance Day which our children learned a lot from as well as contributing to.

Another important remembrance event attended by a group of Year 6 pupils was the official memorial service in Low Fell. Our children joined the Deputy Mayor, community members and children from other schools to pay their respects to those who fought for their country and those who serve today. As part of the activities, our Year 6 children had the chance to write a message of remembrance and lay their wreath at the war memorial.

Mission Christmas Appeal



A huge thank you to all who have donated gifts as part of our Mission Christmas appeal. The response has been amazing, and the generosity of our community will go a long way to helping other families have an enjoyable Christmas day.

All of the donations will be collected on Monday 16th December so anyone who still wishes to donate can do so.

Staffing



After seven years at Harlow Green, Mrs Carr will be leaving us at the end of term to take up other exciting opportunities. Having been a teacher and senior leader in charge of Mathematics, Mrs Carr has had a strong impact on the provision of pupils across the school and will be a huge miss in many ways. However, we know that parents/carers will join us in wishing her all the best in the future.

In addition, Mrs Williams will also be leaving us at Christmas to take up a new career opportunity. As many parents/carers know, Mrs Williams has been a valued Teaching Assistant who has supported countless children, particularly in their early years at our school. Again, we wish her all the best in her new adventure.

Although some parents/carers will be aware, we would like to officially share the lovely news that Miss Coatsworth is expecting her first child. She will return to teach her class as normal after Christmas and will begin her maternity leave sometime in the Spring term. A new teacher, Mrs Ong, will be working alongside Miss Coatsworth in preparation for the transition this year.

Carol Singing at St Ninians



On Tuesday 2nd December, our school choir performed at St Ninian's church. This was part of an ongoing community project to help increase dementia awareness and share the energy of youth with local residents. 'Singing for Happiness' is an initiative that aims to bring joy to those experiencing dementia and offer support for families.

The choir sang traditional carols and also some festive favourites, which gave everyone the opportunity to sing along and join in with the actions.

After the church service everybody was invited into the church hall for more music and refreshments. It was heart-warming to see the children and members of the Singing for Happiness group chatting, singing and even dancing. What a lovely way to bring Christmas cheer!

Health & Safety- Water Bottles



We have become aware that some of the children's water bottles are not being cleaned on a daily basis and, consequently, they are building up with a considerable amount of dirt on the inside. This means that the children will be potentially drinking dirty water which will make them unwell.

It is essential that water bottles are washed daily with soap and water. Additionally, parents/carers should monitor whether the bottle is still appropriate to use as they can get to a point where the dirt is collecting in areas that cannot be cleaned.

Winter Illnesses



This week many children received the flu vaccination which has been recognised by the NHS as the best form of protection that we have against the spread of influenza (flu). There are several strains of flu and even if people have potentially had flu, the vaccine may offer further protection against other strains of the virus.

In school we have been encouraging good hand hygiene, encouraging all pupils to frequently wash their hands with warm water and soap, particularly after using the toilet, after using a tissue to catch a cough or sneeze, and before eating. There is also an anti-bacterial hand gel unit outside of the dining room which children are being encouraged to use.

Nursery – Gardening and Cooking



The Nursery children have been very busy harvesting the vegetables that they planted in the garden last spring. They were amazed to find that they had grown carrots, turnips, potatoes and parsnips of all different shapes and sizes. After the vegetables had been dug up, the children helped to cut off the green leaves with scissors after which they scrubbed and peeled them. Mrs Anderson then used them to make a pot of delicious pumpkin and vegetable soup that the children enjoyed at snack time.

Article 24: We all have the right to nutritious food.

Reception – Librarian Visit



The children in Reception class enjoyed a visit from a Gateshead Librarian who sat and spent time sharing a book with them. The story was about a small creature in a cave entitled 'The Cave', by Rob Hodgson. It was fantastic that the children even got to take a copy of the story home with them, in a story-time pack, to share with their grown-ups.

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

Year 1 – Questions and Answers



In Year 1, the children have been learning to ask and reply to questions in their English lessons. They all participated in a hot-seating activity where they were able to ask their friends and teachers various questions. During the session the boys and girls attempted to start their questions in a variety of ways. Some children made their own question booklet and had to recognise whether a written sentence was a question or a statement.

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

Year 2 – Great Fire of Gateshead at the Discovery Museum



As part of their history studies, The Year 2 children had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Discovery Museum and take part in a workshop all about the Great Fire of Gateshead and Newcastle. The children learned lots of interesting facts about the Great Fire of Gateshead and Newcastle and about the Victorian times, which is when the tragic event happened. The children tried guessing the purpose of each Victorian object and labelled them. Then they all worked together to retell the main events using puppets and costumes.

During the visit, the children were also able to explore all the different exhibits the museum had to offer. The children really enjoyed the practical activities within the museum, especially within the science maze!

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

Year 3 – Geology Rocks!



Within their geology work in science, the children in Year 3 have been studying rocks. During lessons, the children used criteria to group various rocks according to their properties. The boys and girls then had fun carrying out investigations to answer questions about their uses. To end the unit of work, the children took part in a quiz to show their understanding of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.

Article 13: We all have the right to share what we think with others.

Year 4 – Exploring Maps



In geography, the children in Year 4 have been learning about how land use changes over time and they were fascinated to look at maps of Harlow Green in the present day and 100 years ago. During this work, the children could not believe how much had changed and how many pits there used to be.

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

Year 5 – Rivers Studies



The Year 5 geography topic this term has been focused on rivers. Firstly, the children researched the significant rivers in the world. The children were surprised to learn that although the Amazon is the largest, it is in fact the River Nile which is the longest. Once they had identified the names of significant rivers in the world, they used an atlas to locate them. The children were then able to identify the continents and countries these significant rivers were in and label them on a map of the world.

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

Year 6 – Fraction Mystery



Over the last couple of weeks, Year 6 have been working hard to learn how to add, subtract, multiply, divide and simplify fractions. The work has been challenging as they have had to learn and remember various strategies and lots of vocabulary. At the end of their fraction unit of work, the children were given a murder mystery activity, where they had to apply all of their skills to solve different clues. Everyone has worked very hard on this important part of mathematics and have found that, like everything else, hard work pays off!

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

Diary Dates

December

Please see our website for a full list of our Christmas events.

January

School closed staff INSET day
Children return to school

Mon 6th
Tues 7th