

KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

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November 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year, and what a busy year it has been so far!

Our recent 'Taste of Asia Day' was a great success. I hope the children were as enthusiastic when they got home as they were when they were in school. One visitor to school brought animals from Asia (not the lion that was rumoured to have escaped in Shepley last week!), there were snakes, tarantulas and giant millipede, we had henna painting, Asian cooking, Bollywood and traditional Indian dancing, Chinese origami, Chinese dragons, Asian board games, taipai drumming, Japanese cartoon drawing and taekwondo to name but a few activities. It was truly fantastic and we hope helps our children appreciate, understand and enjoy and celebrate cultures very different to our own!

HADRIAN'S WALL

Mr James and Mr Townend returned from the recent Hadrian's Wall trip with nothing but praise for the children who had walked with them for the four days they were away. The weather was very kind and the children took a real interest in Vindolanda and the Roman Museum, both of which had undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment. The children were treated to a 3D reconstruction of the wall, a talk by members of the Ermine Street Guard and learned a great deal about Roman life on the wall.



The group also visited Housesteads Roman Fort, narrowly missing Jedward who seemed to be following them around! The walks along the wall were exhilarating – all pupils coped well and we enjoyed bright and breezy autumnal weather. Judge for yourself by the pictures which will shortly be posted on the school website. Another great experience for our pupils and a big thank you to the staff involved.

SNOW ARRANGEMENTS

It's that time of year again I'm afraid! This is just a note to remind parents that now we have the GroupCall texting service parents will be informed of any changes to the opening of the school by text between 7.15 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. on any morning of severe weather. It is therefore vital we have up-to-date 'first contact' mobile telephone numbers. Please be assured that any decision to close the school is only made if the health and safety of all pupils and staff cannot be guaranteed and is never taken lightly as I am acutely aware it can have a significant impact on work, salaries, child-care arrangements etc. Any decision to close will also be advertised on the school web-site and Radio Leeds.



In the event of the school having to close during the day please ensure we have up-to-date information regarding who your child is able to travel home with other than yourself as we cannot allow a child home with anyone else without your permission.

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Point of note – Mrs Jackson, Assistant Head with responsibility for Pastoral Care and Inclusion is our Designated Senior Person for Child Protection. If you ever have any queries or worries regarding your own children or other children within our school please do not hesitate in contacting her at the earliest opportunity with any worry, however big or small it may feel.



POTENTIAL STRIKE ACTION – NOVEMBER 30TH

Upon completion of this newsletter I have had no official correspondence from unions or the Local Authority regarding any planned strike action on November 30th. I will contact you at the earliest opportunity should disruption to be school be unavoidable.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS . . .

CHILDREN IN NEED 18TH NOVEMBER

As in previous years we are supporting Children in Need. Each class is currently planning fund-raising activities for the afternoon. The day will be a non-uniform day (50p) with lots of exciting (and no doubt messy – why do I always get wet-sponged?) activities taking place in the afternoon.



WINTER FAIR SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

We will be holding our Winter Fair from 2-4p.m. on the 19th November. The format will be as in previous years with stalls selling a variety of goods, games for adults and children to play, a raffle for a superb Christmas hamper (on display next week for parents and pupils to purchase a ticket - £1 each) and a refreshments room selling tea, coffee and cakes etc. As always we are trying to include the children as much as possible in organising the event. A number of children, and some adults, have offered to help with the stalls on the day. **However we do need a number of donations.** If you have any books, items for the colour stalls, mince pies, cakes and buns, bottles or chocolates for the tombola or Christmas decorations for sale they would be greatly appreciated.

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT EVENING

On Thursday 24th November we will be holding an information evening for all parents of all year groups. The purpose of the evening will be to explain what we are trying to achieve as a school, what National Curriculum Levels and Targets mean and how we assess the children's work and performances. There will be talks at specific times in the Large Hall by Mr Clay (Deputy Headteacher) and myself. Many staff will be available for you to speak to around the school regarding how we assess in each subject on the curriculum. A more detailed letter will follow.

CAROL SERVICE

All parents, pupils and friends of the school are warmly invited to our Carol Service at All Hallows Church in Kirkburton, 7 p.m. on December 7th – and we are assured that with the new heating system it will be WARM in church this year!



VISION FOR EDUCATION FIREWORK COMPETITION

Before the half term holiday, Year 6 children were given the challenge of creating a Fireworks Poster to be entered into a Huddersfield wide competition. As we write this Newsletter, we have been informed that one of our pupils, Danielle Lambe, has been the overall winner from 200 entrants. She is going to receive a £25 voucher and has also won £100 for school. We will be liaising with our Year 6 School Councillors to improve our indoor activity provision for wet breaks and lunchtimes. Congratulations to all the children who took part, they will be presented with a Certificate in an Assembly in the near future.

UNIFORM

We have an increasing number of children, particularly in Year 8, who are wearing non-uniform jumpers and cardigans to school instead of a school sweatshirt. Could I please ask that pupils wear a school sweatshirt only. If pupils need further clothing to keep warm I would ask that they wear a coat or jacket and not sweatshirt-type tops or hoodies. PLEASE COULD WE ALSO MAKE A PLEA THAT ALL CLOTHING, INCLUDING SPORTS GEAR, IS NAMED! It is then always returned when found.

Similarly we seem to be speaking to girls and boys frequently about earrings. These should be plain studs, not coloured 'buttons' or shiny diamante or glass. Your support with our simple uniform is always greatly appreciated.



LOST PROPERTY

Once again, our lost property is building up – again, all items are unnamed and therefore we are unable to return these to the children. Items include sweatshirts, PE bags, pencil cases, purses, glasses, coats, hats etc. Please ask your child to come to the office if they have lost anything – you never know it may be one of the items being held. As always, if lost property is not claimed within the term, all remaining items are taken to the Hospice shop.



I AM LEARNING

Many parents will be aware of this new home / school software package that has been launched to support pupils' homework and revision. The use of the system is still in its early days, however we are very encouraged by the speed and quantity of pupil take-up. The site can be reached via: www.iamlearning.co.uk

School ID is: KIH8D

User name: pupil's full name, lower case, no spaces; i.e. robertsmith (rather than bob smith)

Password: pupil's eight digit date of birth; i.e. 3rd of May 1999 would be 03051999

There are a lot of aspects to the programme that are not fully operational at present and will be brought into use as the year progresses. One key point to note at present is that during this launch period, the only teacher responding to messages is Mr Clay.

PUPIL VOICE/ BURTON BISTRO



It is important to us that our pupils are involved as much as possible in the decision making process of the school. This is encouraged in the work we are currently doing with the children in 'Investors in Pupils', the 'Inclusion Mark', re-accreditation for our 'Healthy Schools Award' and in our 'Community' lessons. Building work has started on the development of our kitchens, server and eating spaces within school. Our School Council have chosen new chairs and tables and decided upon a colour scheme for the small hall. Over the next few weeks they will also be involved with the creation of menus. We will keep you up-to-date as the project develops. We are still on schedule to start with a new cafeteria system using a cashless payment scheme in January. Details to follow.

ANTI BULLYING

Next week 14th - 18th November is Anti-Bullying week. The theme this year is " Stop and Think words can hurt". We work hard to ensure that bullying is rare in our school and we are continually trying to develop new ways of supporting pupils with any bullying issues that might arise. This year we are pleased to be launching our "Anti-Bullying Button" on the school web-site homepage. When a pupil clicks on the button it links to a page that has Anti-Bullying tips and information for pupils and parents, E-safety games and a pad that pupils can open up and send messages about Bullying to Mrs Jackson.



To show our support for the right of children worldwide to be safe from bullying we have also been selling Anti-Bullying wristbands with the words " I have the right to be safe" written on them. PC Cockroft will be coming into assembly on Tuesday to talk to the children about Cyberbullying. The following week pupils will participate in a Community Lesson about the hurt that harmful words can cause and how together we can make our school an even safer and happier environment in which to learn. Befrienders will also be working with Mrs Jackson, learning how to support their peers as well as helping us review our Anti-Bullying Policy.

ENGLAND STAR AT KMS

Congratulations to our Educational Teaching Assistant, Mr Shane Killick, who has been chosen to represent the England Football 'C' squad in Gibraltar! Good luck Shane.



SPORTS NEWS

YEAR 8 BOYS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the team for a great season so far. After a slow start (1 loss and 1 draw) the boys really found their form to win their last four games, scoring 33 and conceding 1! It must be a school record. An outstanding season from an outstanding group of lads who are a real pleasure to coach – win, lose or draw.

MARATHON EVENT

Congratulations also to our Year 8 athletes who competed in a World Relay Event at Leeds Road. With a team made up of runners from our school and Scissett Middle School, they ran in relay, 200m at a time, for 26.2 miles to try and beat the current world record of 2:03:38 held by Patrick Makau. Not only that but they were also competing against teams around the world simultaneously - and how well they did. They smashed the world record by nearly three minutes and were fourth IN THE WORLD against teams from Mexico, Kenya, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, Spain and Norway. Amazing!

BIKEABILITY

A number of Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a two day Bikeability Course. Despite the horrendous weather the children really threw themselves into the days, learning about cycling safety and road safety. All the children involved received a Certificate for their outstanding participation.

YEAR 7 AND 8 NETBALL

Thanks to all girls who are attending Netball practice each week. We have over 40 girls each week. Our girls recently played against All Saints and Colne Valley, with our Year 7 team winning 9-3 and 6-3 respectively and our Year 8 girls winning 15-5 and losing 7-16 respectively. Well done girls!

YEAR 7 RUGBY

During the last half term the Year 7 girls have been developing their rugby skills with Mrs Procter and Steve Beatty from The Huddersfield Giants. A squad of ten girls (Lucy Blackburn, Anya Barclay, Stef Heath, Emily Tinsley, Millie Briggs, Florence Cooper-Smith, Tillie Partridge, Danielle Bligh Smith, Alicia Bowdell and Keelan Fitton) were then invited to play in the first ever Year 7 Kirklees Girls' RL tournament. The girls played exceptionally well, showing great flair in attack and working soundly in defence which resulted in us winning all of our matches and not conceding any tries. The girls played against teams from Scissett Middle, Salendine Nook, All Saints and Holy Trinity Trust School from Halifax. We are now waiting to find out when we compete for Kirklees in the West Yorkshire stage of the competition!

MUSIC NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Sascha Eskreet who passed Grade 1 Keyboard with MERIT and Florence Cooper-Smith who has passed her Grade 2 piano exam. Well done girls, keep up the good work!



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Welcome back to our existing members and to six new additions who have made a great start! We started the year harvesting our bumper crops of onions and potatoes which will be used by Year 7 pupils making soups. We have also made jams and jellies, over several lunchtimes, from fruits collected in the summer e.g. blackcurrants and our own autumn crab apples. Jars of blackcurrant and apple jam/jelly were sold in the FT room over lunchtimes. Our next projects will be strawberry jam and chutney making. We will keep you posted.



We have now completed our Level 1 'Campaign for School Gardening Benchmark Scheme' sponsored by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and supported by Waitrose, receiving a collection of seeds for our efforts. Happy Gardening! *Mrs Seed and the 'Gardening Gang'.*

MORRISON'S VOUCHER COLLECTION

The closing date for collection of vouchers is the 30th November 2011. If you have any vouchers and would like to send them in before this date it would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

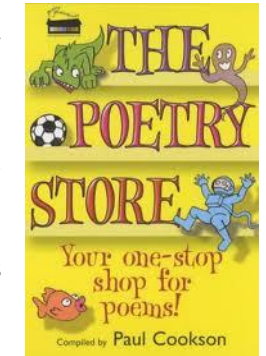


BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Our Year 6 pupils worked very hard at the end of last half term on a community project for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. The pupils worked in small groups to organize a set of presents that will be sent to children and adults less fortunate than ourselves. Each class also had to raise money to send the shoeboxes and we had bun sales, raffles, art competitions and many more fundraising activities. In total the Year 6 pupils and staff raised a total of £167.83. Thank you to all pupils, parents and staff involved for their enthusiasm, generosity and support.

REFURBISHED COMPUTERS

I thought it might be useful to bring to your attention the 'Get on-line at home' scheme which provides low price, refurbished desktop computers for families to purchase. A desktop computer is available for £165 (or £95 to people on selected benefits) and runs Windows 7. Word and Excel come as part of the package. There are also internet packages for £10/month available. This is a bone-fide private scheme promoted by the Government to provide low-cost computers for families and children. Full details are available at: <http://www.getonlineathome.org/default.aspx>



VISITING POET

Mrs Jewitt writes: We were very fortunate to have the poet, Paul Cookson, visit our school. Paul travelled from his home in Preston to start the day with a Year 7 Assembly followed by assemblies with Year 8 and Year 6. There is only one word to describe Paul's assemblies and that's FANTASTIC!

All years thoroughly enjoyed Paul's wacky humour and entertaining poetry. Audience participation was high on the agenda with fun and laughter all round. Paul signed a number of his new books as prizes for our Poetry competition. Winners will be announced in the next Newsletter. If you would like to know more about Paul and his work, please visit paulcooksonpoet.co.uk.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

To celebrate NPD, our visiting poet Paul Cookson, was kind enough to sign copies of his latest books as prizes. The entries were all based on the theme of 'games' and wow did we have some imaginative and creative entries. It was a difficult decision to make but finally six winners were chosen. Well done to Lucy Metcalf, Oscar Stonehouse, Ellie Fosbrook, Ellie Burgin, Sam Hudson and Leo Corley. All the winning poems plus many others are included in the library's new poetry anthology.



PUFFIN BOOK CLUB

Everyone in school has received a copy of the Puffin Book Club Christmas Brochure. Please take a look through at the very reasonably priced books suitable for all ages. Our school receives a generous 50% commission on all orders, which contributes to new stock for our school library. Orders can be sent to the school office with cheques made payable to Puffin Book Club (not KMS). Alternatively you can order on-line at puffinbookclub.co.uk quoting our school name. Please do not send cash to school. Maybe you will find that perfect Christmas stocking filler!

