

Newsletter — 19th July 2019

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

- On Monday 10th June 8 Year 6 children and 2 Year 5 children travelled to Spain to stay with families in our partner school Camino Do Ingles in Sieguero in Oroso. The children took part in classroom activities and visited places of interest to get a real feel for the heritage and culture of the area. We even completed part of the Camino de Santiago while we were there. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it was fabulous to see the friendships they had created whilst the Spanish children were here flourish as well as their Spanish speaking skills improve!!!
- Thank you to all dads and grandads who came along and supported our 'Butty & a Brew' Father's day Event on 14th June. We raised £110 for school funds. Thank you to staff who came in early to prepare for this event!
- Our violinists from Year 4, 5 & 6 performed for us on Thursday 20th June. They showed off their skills and how much progress they have made. Thank you to Miss Hodgson, our peripatetic music teacher for her hard work with them.
- On Monday 1st July, we had our annual sports day. We were lucky enough to have suitable weather conditions without the threat of rain or extreme heat. As usual, the children took part in fun activities such as: basketball shootout, water relay, skipping relay and many more. The children worked in family groups - a mix of all ages and aptitudes - to create a friendly atmosphere. Next year we are going to change the format and perhaps have Reception & Key stage 1 on the morning and Key Stage 2 on the afternoon. Perhaps in this way we can introduce a more competitive element whilst still making sure that all children are involved!
- On Tuesday 8th July I took a group of Year 6 children to present at the North East International conference. The children showed off their Spanish language skills as well as talking about the positive impact that the Erasmus+ just done neither of these but just wanted to talk about how positive the experience of having Spanish children in school had been for them.
- On Wednesday 9th July Mr Cox, Miss Roe and I were asked to showcase our approach to enquiry based learning in Year 1 at a special conference hosted by the Local Authority. It was a privilege to be invited to do this and it is real recognition of the fabulous work our staff do in our school and the wonderful opportunities it brings to our children.
- On Friday 12th July we held our induction day. We met our new children for September and the whole school moved up to their next class for the morning. Year 3's for September also got another induction morning on Tuesday 16th July when they worked with Miss Richardson as she couldn't make Friday due to other teaching commitments.
- Last night (Thursday 18th July) Year 6 performed 'When I grow up. . .' for their parents and, as you can imagine, it was a very emotional occasion! They were all absolutely fabulous and showed what a wonderful bunch of young people they are! They also performed for the whole school during the day.
- Today (Friday 19th July) we have enjoyed hosting Louisiana Funky Butts Brass Band as part of the Durham Brass Festival. We had a fantastic time in school. The children joined in, sang along and danced around the school grounds. Brilliant! Hopefully through giving children experiences like these, we encourage and motivate them to want to play a musical instrument or even to just listen to and appreciate a wider variety of music.

CLASS NEWS . . .

Reception:

We have had a fantastic year in Reception! We have done lots of exciting things throughout the year. We were very excited to have some eggs arrive in May and were fascinated to watch chicks hatching out of them. The children cared for the chicks and enjoyed completing lots of work around the chicks. We went minibeast mad and have seen caterpillars change in to butterflies and tadpoles transform in to frogs.

In July, we went to Preston Park and had so much fun. We started the day visiting Butterfly World and learning all about butterflies. We were then given the opportunity to explore the enclosure and observe butterflies up close in their environment. After this, we had a lovely picnic and played in the park. We were even lucky enough to have an ice-cream to finish off the day! This trip was a perfect way to end our year together.

CLASS NEWS . . .

Year 1:

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to butterfly World on 2nd July. We got to see lots of wonderful creatures up close. There were so many butterflies and exotic plants to observe. We saw a family of meerkats and enjoyed sharing all of the knowledge we knew about meerkats with the owners. We had a great guided tour around and were told lots of interesting facts. We were so lucky that the weather was lovely and sunny. First we played with the parachute then then played in the adventure park next door and even had an ice-cream with yummy sauce on!

Early this year we also visited Ushaw College with Year 6. This was amazing! We got to celebrate our special bond with them and we laughed, danced and sang together. We played some traditional playground games and impressed everyone there with our enthusiasm and excitement!

All the children have loved their time in Year 1 and both Miss Roe and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of them! We wish them the best and will look forward to hearing about their time in Year 2.

Year 2

On Tuesday 9th July, Year 2 visited Saltburn as part of our Learning Challenge 'Why do we like to be beside the seaside? The children had a fantastic time on the miniature railway, waving at people as we passed. We had our lunch in the park together and laughed our socks off when a naughty dog came running through our picnic. Afterwards, we walked along to the beach where we had a super time making sandcastles, rock pools and dipping our toes in the little puddles of water. Everyone enjoyed this part even though we got a bit wet! A delicious lemonade flavoured lolly was just what we needed while we were looking out to sea. Finally, we were lucky enough to take a ride on the cliff lift up to the top so we didn't have to walk up lots of steps. The man told us all about the history of the cliff lift and how it worked. At the top, the bus was waiting for us; we were very tired and some of us even fell asleep on the way home. The children were amazing throughout the day. Miss Clifford, Mrs Turner, Mrs Meadows and Miss King were all very proud of their behaviour, they were a credit to the school. We wish them all the very best as they move into Year 3 and hope they all have a lovely summer break!

Year 3:

On Friday 28th June 2019 Year 3 visited Beamish as part of our Learning Challenge. We all had a fabulous day learning about what life was like in Victorian times. They visited a Victorian school room, looked inside the mine and viewed mining banners. The children took part in an Investigation where they had to find out who had stolen the silver spoons from Joe the Quilter. The children had to ask the suspects lots of open questions to solve the crime. We all had a wonderful day! We wish them all the best and hope they have a happy summer holiday.

Year 4:

We have had a busy but fun half term in Year 4. On the 19th June we were invited to a Bible Exhibition where we learned about the world's smallest bible and other interesting stories. As well as this, we have also had a lady called Alice come into school to help us achieve our John Muir Award where we had an opportunity to explore Witton Castle Country Park. This will be continued into Year 5.

We finished the year with an exciting trip to Sunderland Glass Centre on 10th July, where as well as taking part in activities based on our Science topic, we were lucky enough to see a glass blowing demonstration and to look around the galleries. The children also designed and made their own beautiful pieces of glass artwork based around landmarks in Sunderland. Class Four really enjoyed their trip and were fascinated especially by the demonstrations we saw. Overall, the year has flown by; the children have worked incredibly hard we have made some great memories together!

Year 5:



Year 5 have had an action packed term full of exciting learning opportunities. Year 5 Leadership programme delivered by Education Enterprise (ran over 4 weeks starting May 17th) involved exploring the qualities of being a good sports leader. The children designed play time games and adapted them to suit a range of ages. This work culminated in a Reception and Year 2 multi – skills event where the Year 5 pupils led a range of activities. The event was very successful and has prepared the children well for future leadership roles. 24th June was ‘Curriculum Week’ where Year 5 pupils visited local secondary schools; Bishop Barrington, King James and St. John’s. The children took part in a range of activities and lessons which gave them a flavour of the

opportunities on offer in each setting. This will help the children when it comes to decision making in early autumn for their move to secondary school in September 2020. We also took part in the Young Citizens Award where we chose to support the Plastic Pollution cause. Our work culminated in a presentation event where the children shared the process and received a certificate. Our work was so well received that we have been chosen to share our work as a case study!



On the 4th July Year 5 visited the Botanic Gardens in Durham as part of our science work on flower / plant reproduction. Head Gardener Mike, gave us a guided tour of the grounds and the greenhouses and shared a wealth of information with us. Mike later sent us an email saying what a wonderful group we were!



Year 5 took part in an Arts Award this year through the Auckland Project and Beamish funded by the Arts Council. On the 11th of July, all year 5 pupils received their ‘Explore’ level accredited qualification. The standard of the children’s work was of a very high standard and was actually used as the benchmark for the standard! Our ‘Open Morning’ on the 11th July was also a great success. Thank you for all the support from everyone that could make it. The final art work looks spectacular!



This term has been very busy but we wouldn’t change it for the world! We’re very proud of the progress the children have made and the level of maturity they have reached. They are definitely ready for Year 6 and will be very much missed!



Year 6:

Year 6 have had a very busy Summer Term– visiting places and taking part in a variety of enrichment activities.

The Basketball Team had a ‘bouncing’ time on the 11th June at Bishop Barrington. They played with great spirit and showed off their skills perfectly.

On the 21st June, Year 6 came together with Year 1 to take part in the ‘Big Play’, a musical playground celebration. A wonderful time was had by all! We sang, skipped, danced and laughed our way through the day. All the children worked brilliantly together- it really did show how caring and supportive our Year 6 children are.

We visited Durham Cathedral on the 26th June, for the Durham Choristers Outreach Celebration. We took part in several rehearsals, learning an array of new songs. We thoroughly enjoyed this event and the children sang their hearts out – it was so lovely to see.

We showed off our building skills at this year’s Sandcastle Competition, on the 5th July. The theme this year was ‘Build a Better World’. The children really did take this to their hearts and decided to create sandcastle masterpieces which reflected their ideas on plastic pollution. It was an amazing day! The sun shone for us and we were even interviewed for the news! Big smiles all round!

The Netball Team took part in the Staindrop World Cup Tournament on 10th July. We took a cheerleading squad with us! To their surprise, they were also asked to take part and make a new team. Both teams played so well and were a credit to the school. It was a joy to watch them play with so much determination and pride.

On the 15th July, the whole class showed off their striking and fielding techniques at Bishop Barrington Rounders tournament. They worked as a team and achieved great results.

On the evening, we held our Pizza Party- it was a great success. The children had a lovely time and quickly polished off all those pizzas!

Our year ended with a fabulous Leavers Play. We felt so proud of them and enjoyed watching them working as a fantastic team, pulling together to produce a winning show!

Miss Potts, Mrs Sangster and I are very proud of all the children's achievements. We have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence and show a determination to succeed. Wherever their new adventures take them, we want them to dream big and never give up!

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Star of the Week Award
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15th July 2019
Class Nominations
 Reception Lucas
 Class 1 Whole Class
 Class 2 Mason T
 Class 3 Max A
 Class 4 Kiera B
 Class 5 Jayden B
 Class 6 Brianna T
Superstar of the Week!
 * **Brianna T** *
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As you know we are saying farewell to Miss Burlison and Miss Hodgson. We wish them both good luck for in their new ventures!

I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing our Year 6 children all the very best as they move to their new secondary schools—I know that they will continue to be successful! Thank you to all year 6 children for everything you have contributed to our school and for being a super Year 6!

Thank you to all our children for coming to school, working hard and sharing their smiles and enthusiasm with us—you are fantastic! Thank you to parents and grandparents for your support throughout the year. It is the whole team ethos and approach that makes our school a special place to be.

We hope that you all have a fantastic holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on
Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Thank you for your continued support



*Wishing you all a
 Happy and Safe Summer*