



News Bulletin

April 2022



Headteacher's Update

As the spring term comes to an end, we have had a fantastic run up to the Easter holiday. Once again, it has been proven that we certainly have many talented children and parents/grandparents/carers in our school community and thank them all for their support with the fabulous entries in our Easter challenges (Easter Bonnet Parade for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children and the traditional Blackfell Egg Competition in Years 1-6). The standard of all entries were very high and congratulations to our winners. Wendy, our school cook, had the difficult job as 'head judge' to choose first, second and third winners linked to the theme for this year 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'.

It was a fantastic to see so many family and friends of Year 3 and 4 joining us today for my first Headteacher's coffee afternoon. The children in Year 3 and 4 performed some Easter songs with such confidence and a lovely end to the spring term.

The children in Year 6 will be taking their statutory assessment tests w/c 9th May and have all worked very hard. Breakfast Club will be free for all Year 6 children for that week: please sign your child in at our community room anytime from 7.45am (no need to book). Championship Sports support our breakfast club every day and there is a wide selection of breakfast items.

We have many exciting plans for next term that includes educational visits, Jubilee celebrations, coffee afternoons, sports days and a Be Safe, Be Fit, Be Healthy week. Further details to follow. Dates can be found on our school website calendar.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter holiday and we have many sunny days.

With very best wishes

Julia Watkins

Attendance - March 2022

Nursery - 93.2%

Reception - 96%

Year 1 - 95.2%

Year 2 - 92.6%

Year 3 - 93.9%

Year 4 - 93.9%

Year 5 - 92.3%

Year 6 - 92.5%

Well done to Reception class on achieving 96% attendance for the month of March. The whole class will be rewarded with a fun afternoon one day this week.

Overall attendance for the whole school this academic year is 93.6%

A reminder of the importance to arrive on school on time. Children who arrive late into school miss out on vital early morning activities.

Vacancy

We are currently looking to employ a flexible, reliable enthusiastic and hardworking person to join our team as a cleaner. The post is 12.5 hours per week term time only plus one week. Further information and application forms can be downloaded from the school website. If you would like any further information please contact Mrs Reynolds in the school office.

Staff News

Goodbye and Good Luck

At the end of term, we say goodbye to Mrs Reeves. Mrs Reeves has been a valued teacher at Blackfell for the past 7 years and has decided to transfer her skills into a new venture. Toni has launched her own franchise of 'Baby Bloom' classes for babies 0-14 months. She will lead multi-sensory baby classes in the local area. We all wish her every success with her new business, www.bloombabyclasses.com/washington-and-gateshead-south.

Retirement

Lorraine Searle, a member of our cleaning team, will be retiring at the end of this month. Lorraine has helped keep our school clean and tidy for the past 6 years. We all wish her a happy and healthy retirement walking her dogs and enjoying a well-deserved relaxing time.

Marriage

Miss Henderson will be getting married over the Easter holidays. We all send our very best wishes to the happy couple. Miss Henderson will be known as Mrs McMeiken when she returns after the holidays.

Rotary Club Writing Competition

We are delighted to have been invited to take part in the Washington Rotary Club's young writer's competition once again. Over the years we have had lots of success in this competition and hope for continued success this year. In school, children will be completing an independent piece of creative writing around the theme 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. School will send the entries for each class to be judged and we will be notified of our successes by Friday 10th June. The prize for the winner is £100 and the runner up will receive £50. We look forward to supporting children in their creative writing.

Increase in school meals and breakfast club

A reminder that when we return to school after Easter the price of school meals will increase to £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week). Breakfast club will increase to £3 per session.(£15 per week). Please pay online and book in advance where possible so we can ascertain numbers.

Diary Dates

Date	Event	Details	Year Groups
25th April	School reopens Summer term	All children return to school	Whole School
2nd May	School closed	May bank holiday	Whole School
5th May	Community room to be used as polling station	Community room opens at 7am and closes at 10pm	Community
5th May	School visit	A visit to Safety works Newcastle for a 2 hour visit	Year 3 and Year 4
9th - 12th May	Sat's	Year 6 end of year Statutory Assessments	Year 6
11th May	School visit	Invited to meet Mayor of Sunderland at the City Hall Sunderland	Year 5
13th May	Residential stay	Year 6 to visit Lake District for a 2 night stay at Derwent Hill Outdoor Activity Centre	Year 6
19th May	School visit	George Stephenson Museum	Year 3
25th May	Celebrate Queen's platinum anniversary	Children to wear red, white or blue	Whole School
27th May	School closed to children	Inset Day	Whole School
6th June	School reopens	All children to return to school	Whole School

All future events/dates are on the school website

EARLY YEARS

Over the past couple of weeks, the children in Foundation Stage have been busy learning about a range of traditional tales. We have enjoyed role playing various characters from The Gingerbread Man, Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack in the Beanstalk. Some of our local fire fighters were in school last week and we were given the chance to go outside and see the fire-engine. The fire-fighters also let us have a go at spraying their water hose, which was so much fun!



Nursery

In Maths the children have been using 2d shapes to create their own Gingerbread Men and have been busy making some super Easter cards using a range of techniques and materials. In PE, the children have been practising and developing their ball skills.



Reception

In Literacy we have thoroughly enjoyed retelling stories in our reading area. We have been covering the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and planted our own runner beans. We discussed what resources we used to plant the bean and then wrote a list of them. We talked about what our plant needs to help it grow. Every day we have been watching our beans grow and we are looking forward to find out which one of our beans reaches the castle first! They truly are magic beans! We have also been doing some observational drawings of some daffodils. We certainly have some budding artists!



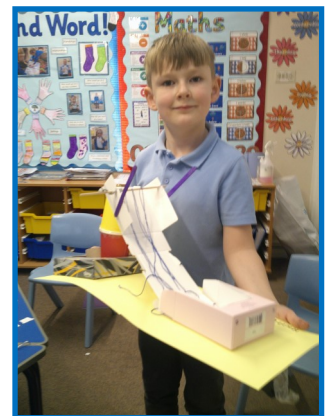
We are all busy practising our Easter songs and look forward to showing off our Easter bonnets as we share our singing with you.

We need your help!

We are wanting to replenish our resources for our mud kitchen and are hoping you can help. We need pans, cooking tins, muffin and pudding trays, baking trays, bowls, wooden/metal utensils and colanders. If you can spare any equipment that is in good condition please drop it off at our Nursery or Reception class doors. Many thanks.

KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

Year 1 have been learning about structures in DT this term and have been working on designing and making our own piece of playground equipment. We discussed our favourite playground apparatus and created sketches of them. Then, we spent some time learning about how to make structures stable and sturdy. After that, we designed our own piece of playground equipment using labelled sketches, and decided on tools and equipment we would need to use. Finally, we built 3D models of our playground structures using junk modelling. We spent a lot of time carefully considering which materials to use, and reflecting on our learning about how to make our structure stable.



KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

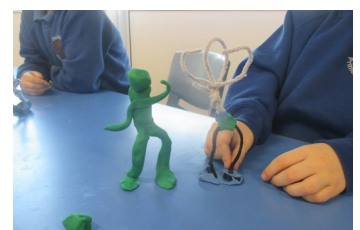
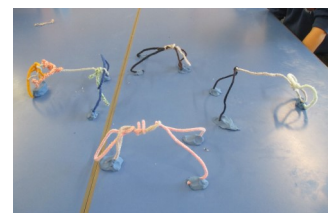
DT - Fire Engines

What a wonderful morning the children had last week! The children in Year 2 have been designing and making fire engines in DT. Thanks to Mr Clark, the children had the opportunity to explore a real fire engine and it's features up close. The children all had a turn to sit in the driver seat, wear some of the kit, explore the compartments and inner features of the vehicle and most exciting of all they all had a turn to squirt the hose – even some of the staff had a go! Children discussed and asked lots of questions about the purpose of a fire engine and how the different features are used and also received some safety tips from the fire fighters. It inspired us and gave us many ideas for our own fire engine designs. Thank you so much to firemen Scott and Andy for taking the time to spend the morning with us!



Art – Super Sculptures

In art, Year 2 have been doing some 'Super Sculptures'. Looking at the works of Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. They identified the human form within sculptures as well as inside and outside spaces. The children then used pipe cleaners to make their own sculptures, portraying meaning. We then used plasticine to recreate our life sculptures. Once we created our individual sculptures we grouped them to develop a scene of sculpture with meaning. We had a story to resemble each masterpiece. For example, children created sculpture groups called 'the family' and 'yoga'. To complete our unit of 'Super Sculptures' we designed and made clay sculptures with inside and outside spaces. We all got very creative when making them. Once dry, we primed and painted them with metallic paint to represent the industrial life of the North East. I am very proud of Year 2 for their imagination and attention to detail in their sculpture masterpieces! Well done!



LOWER KEY STAGE - YEAR 3

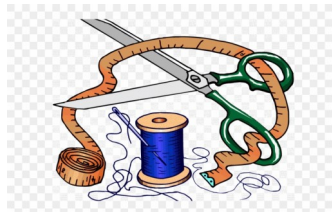
Year 3 have been developing ideas for creating their very own mini greenhouse. We looked at the different features, tested our ideas for the structure then designed our own. With our friends, we created our own greenhouses. We might even plant some seeds.



You may remember in our last newsletter we were creating our own logo inspired by Vivienne Westwood. We have been looking at recycled fashion! We took a plain white T-shirt and created our very own design with our band logo on. We all had very different ideas but we have created some amazing end pieces!




**Vivienne
Westwood**



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant month and have thoroughly enjoyed their learning about the Anglo-Saxons. We visited Jarrow Hall on Friday 1st April where we learnt about farming, Anglo-Saxon houses, medicine and clothing and textiles. We even enjoyed creating our own textiles through weaving and our own wooden good luck rune!



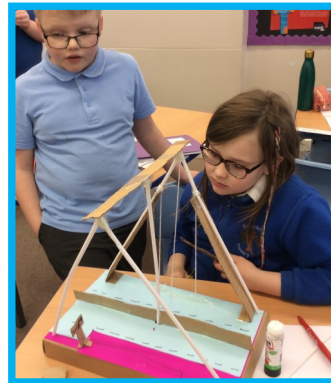
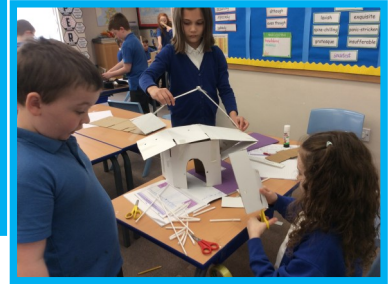
In science we have been conducting an experiment where we have investigated the impact different drinks have on our teeth. We used boiled eggs which allowed us to see how our enamel is damaged by different drinks. We investigated with lemonade, coke, orange juice, milk and water. We were shocked by our final results and definitely agreed to think about the drinks we enjoy in the future!



Our DT unit has been all about light up boxes. To begin with we have learnt about how circuits work and then we have spent time thinking about what components we will need to include in our box. We have designed our own light up boxes and created different patterns on our cubes. Our next step will be to create our circuit to go inside and think about what we might have done differently if we were to complete the design process again.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS - YEAR 5



For Design and Technology this term Year 5 have been looking at 'Bridges'. This week was our final lesson where we had to design a brief to make a prototype of our bridge. The bridge had to be 50cm wide and have a height of 20cm to enable ships to go up the river. It also had to be strong, support cars going both ways and be decorative. We worked as a team to discuss and plan our ideas. We then used the resources available to use to create our bridge using our knowledge and skills. Everyone worked well in their team and were super supportive. Some groups created an arch bridge whilst others created a suspension bridge. It was great fun! Well done Year 5!

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS - YEAR 6



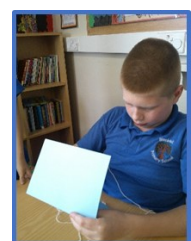
Design Technology - Tie-Dying

As part of our Design Technology this term, we have tie-dyed our material ready for sewing. We will be using the material to create our own mini draw string bags. We discussed different tie-dye techniques to create stripes and spiral effects and ensure colours were contrasting to create an eye-catching design. Over the coming weeks, we will be using needles and threads to sew our bags using a range of stitch types.



P.E- Volleyball

In P.E this term, we have covered Volleyball. We have learnt different attacking and defensive hits. We have begun some mini games including 2 vs 2 and 4 vs 4. Our high catches and sets are developing well and children have thoroughly enjoyed their volleyball sessions.



Easter Cards

We hope you all liked receiving our Easter Cards which we have created using our developed sewing skills. Some of us created bunnies and others chicks. Thank-you to all families for supporting your children during this term and we hope you all have a fantastic Easter break enjoying time with family and of course, chocolate eggs!

