



January/February 2019

Newsletter

New School Rules



As part of our drive to support children to develop personally and socially as well as academically, we have spent time this half term working with the children on new school rules.

It is essential that children remember the rules and are able to explain what they mean for them and their behaviour. Therefore, we have reduced the rules to only three which we feel children can remember but which encompass all that we ask of them in order that they can do their best.

- Ready:** Being prepared for school and being ready for whatever activity they are involved in.
- Respectful:** Showing respect to each other, to adults, to other people and to the environment around them.
- Safe:** Keeping themselves and others safe.

We will continue working with the children day-by-day with these rules so that they understand what is expected of them within school and beyond, in order for them to be successful.

Safer Internet Day



In the first week of February, there was a whole-school focus on learning about how to keep ourselves safe online, using this year's theme '**Together for a Better Internet**'. In particular, the children explored how they ask, give and receive consent online and the importance of how they take and share images and videos. The children have also talked about the use of secure passwords and some pupils created their own avatars to keep themselves safe. As part of the programme, children in Year 5 and 6 had a visit from the police, who talked to them about how to keep their private details safe.

Further information is available for parents at: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Rights Respecting School



As a school, we are working hard to achieve our Rights Respecting School Silver Award. As part of this process, we are looking forward to our 'Health and Well-being' week in March where we will be taking part in a range of activities to promote healthy lifestyles. The week will involve varied sessions and will also include some special visitors who will work with the children. We will give further information closer to the time.

World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March**. This year, we would like to ask all children to come to school dressed as a character from a book they have read or from any popular children's book. We would ask that the children bring in their favourite books from home to share in class, during the week. As always, we look forward to seeing your fantastic ideas.

Website Posts and Comments

There is now the facility to comment on the information we post on our website. We try to keep regular updates on what the children are doing in their classes in order to ensure parents/carers know what learning activities are taking place, which can then be discussed at home. We would love it if family members, including children, made comments about what everyone has been working hard on as this will hopefully become an important part of our communication with home.

Coming to School Every Day



Since returning to school after the Christmas holidays, the children have been able to stagger in between 8:45am and 9.00am. This has enabled everyone, including those at Lamesley and who attend a club before school, to come in calmly and speak with their teachers as they enter the classroom. Feedback from our School Council and Rights Respect group has been extremely positive. There are always adults at the door every morning; this may not always be your child's class teacher, but messages will always be passed on. If you wish to speak specifically with your child's class teacher, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see them at a suitable time.

So far, this term's attendance has been positive; we would like to thank parents/carers for sharing our expectations of children's attendance and supporting them to be in school daily. Currently, the attendance is above 96% but it is important for us to improve this even further especially now that we are moving out of the flu season!

Sports Update



As always, we have been busy keeping active (this includes the week when we had great fun on the school field playing in the snow!). In January, ten pupils travelled to South Shields to take part in the TOP Sportsability regional finals, representing our school with pride. Our Year 6 basketball team competed in a tournament at Joseph Swan against other local schools and were commended by others for their attitude and behaviour. A large number of children are preparing to take part in the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival in April and our Cheerleading team are looking forward to performing at a Newcastle Eagles match in their new stadium in March.

Nursery – Being Healthy



In Nursery, some of the children have recently become big brothers and sisters and many received doctors sets and new baby dolls for Christmas. This has inspired the children to help to set up their own doctor's surgery in the role play area, where they have been writing prescriptions and appointments as well as making each other and the dolls better. The boys and girls have really enjoyed bathing and dressing the babies and learning about keeping clean and healthy. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed playing with the giant teeth in the water tray which led to discussions about tooth-brushing and visiting the dentist. Linked to the theme, the staff have shared stories with the children such as 'Wiffy Wilson the Wolf Who Wouldn't Wash', 'Rapunzel, Rapunzel Wash Your Hair' and 'Alan's Big Scary Teeth'.

Reception – Getting Active



The children in Reception have been having lots of fun in PE since Christmas by trying to complete an obstacle course. Initially, they had to travel with a beanbag on their head around some cones, without dropping it. When they reached the end of the course, they had to jump in a hoop and then run back to the beginning. The best bit was using the hoops as steering wheels in and out of the cones. Fantastic teamwork everyone.

Year 1 – Handa's Hut



As part of their topic on 'Where We Live', the children have been looking at houses around the world. They have read 'Handa's Surprise' and enjoyed designing their own African mud huts. Please visit the website to see what the creations looked like.

Year 2 – Africa



In Geography, Year 2 are currently learning about Africa. After locating the continent on a world map, the children had the opportunity to look at images of places and people in Kenya and Uganda. They were very inquisitive and came up with lots of questions about what they could see. They worked as a class to answer some of these and will return to the remainder of the questions throughout the topic as they compare life in these countries with life in the UK.

Year 3 – Colour Mixing



The boys and girls in Year 3 have been investigating mixing colours in their Art lessons. They began by mixing two primary colours together to create secondary colours and then explored what happens when you mix a combination of these together to create tertiary colours. The children had great fun making their own colour wheels to show this. They then made colour strips to discover what happens to a primary colour when white is added.

Year 4 – Puppet Making



The children in Year 4 have had an exciting (yet challenging) time making puppets. They researched, designed and made their very own puppet which was great fun. They also practised their own sewing technique to make some puppet pals, examples of which can be seen on the website.

Year 5 – Times Tables Practise for Parents

$$5 \times 6 = 30$$

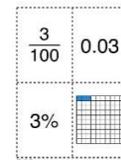
$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$4 \times 9 = 36$$

$$2 \times 6 = 12$$

The Year 5 teachers: Mrs Chapman, Miss Alexander and Miss Middleton invited parents and grandparents into school to learn about the different ways to practise and recall times-tables and division facts. The pupils, parents and teachers enjoyed playing bingo and other games with dice and counters, as well as playing maths games on the iPads. Hopefully, families will try these ideas at home for some mathematical fun!

Year 6 – Maths Puzzles



Fractions and decimals are hard enough but throw a Tarsia puzzle into the mix and they become even more difficult. Year 6 have been working extremely hard on fractions, decimals and percentages and their equivalents, over the last few weeks. The children worked in small groups to try to solve a puzzle by matching up the relevant pieces. It certainly took some thinking!

Visiting Places of Worship



It's been a busy few weeks in school especially for some year groups who have enjoyed visiting different places of worship linked to their RE topics, this term.

Year 1 braved the cold weather and walked to St Ninian's Church at the beginning of February where they were met by Reverend Mark. They looked around different parts of the church and some children tried on the priest's vestments. Year 2 travelled to Newcastle Central Mosque, where they found out about Islamic prayer and worship. Year 4 visited the Iskon Hindu Temple to learn about Hindu Beliefs and culture from Gods & Goddesses to clothing and food.

Diary Dates

February

Half term

Mon 18th - Fri 22nd

March

World Book Day
Parents' Evenings

Thurs 7th
Mon 11th, Tues 12th

April

Year 1 Parents' Workshop
Last day of term

Tues 2nd pm
Fri 5th