

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th May 2016

Dear all,

If you've tuned in to the media this week, (or are simply a Year 6 parent!) you'll know that this has been the week of the KS2 SATs tests. Perhaps more than ever this year, these tests have featured in the news and come under scrutiny, and I for one feel rather sorry for our children who are the ones truly in the midst of all this. However, here at Leeming, I'm delighted to say that they have been absolute 'troopers', they have knuckled down to the work, concentrated, done their best, remained positive and given their all. We really can't ask any more of them.

We've tried really hard to make the SATs process as easy as possible and keep them reasonably 'chilled' – I certainly think their daily breakfasts have helped! A huge well done to them for getting through the week, and a massive thank you to our Key Stage 2 team for all the hard work they put in to prepare the pupils. Thanks also to the rest of the school, for their quiet, calm conduct around the hall while the tests have been going on.



The other classes have also been busy in the last few weeks. Reception have been continuing with their story work and have recently been looking at the Gingerbread man. They've been doing some great 'baking' in their role play areas, as well as learning all about spices and flavours. They've also been looking at sharing, and how they can work really well together. In Y1/2, the children have been doing some traditional tales as well. I've been very impressed by some great sewing that they've done of puppets for the characters from Little Red Riding Hood. Next time I lose a button, I know who to ask to stitch it back on! In Y3/4, the children have been baking chocolate muffins this week – the sweet aroma has been drifting into my office and making me very hungry. Allegedly this was part of their maths learning about capacity, weights and measures, but I'm not convinced that they weren't simply a little peckish! Year 5 have been busy with their learning too, doing some assessments of their own whilst the Year 6s were otherwise engaged...

Service Pupils' Champion – just to flag up to all the work of Annabel Hall. Annabel works in this local area to support service children *and their families* in a wide variety of ways. She is always happy to meet with families who need support, have concerns, are new to the area, or simply need a bit of advice. Annabel herself is from a service family, so she really understands and has experienced the impact that the military lifestyle has on children – both the positives, and the challenges. She also runs the HMS Heroes initiative in this area, a great supportive group for service children.

To find out more or to contact Annabel, please either call 07816 648163, email her at Annabel.Hall@northyorks.gov.uk, or grab a leaflet from outside the office.

NSPCC – we recently had NSPCC in to school to deliver assemblies and teaching to our pupils on how to keep themselves safe in this ever changing world. They have produced some really helpful guides for parents of primary school children to help you speak to your child about keeping safe – such as the Underwear rule and Share Aware.

www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear / www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

Swaledale Teaching Schools Alliance – not a ‘new’ development, but just to let all parents who may be unaware know of our school’s work and partnership with the Swaledale Alliance. The Alliance is a group of over 60 local schools who are linked in a network; this involves a whole variety of collaborative work – such as shared staff training, joint practices, or initial teacher training. The work of the Alliance has lots of influence in school (e.g. staff attending or running courses and training, moderation of results etc.). Leeming RAF is an increasingly active member of the Alliance, and this gives us a great opportunity to share a lot of the ‘best practice’ that we have in our school with others in the area, offering support to them.

Dinner Money – a plea from the office: could all school dinner money please be paid in advance on a Monday. Please place all cash in a named envelope, rather than providing loose coinage. Many thanks.

Service Family Transitions Survey – please see an additional letter regarding this. Although the letter implies a paper copy will be sent, we have been asked whether parents would, instead, complete the survey online at <http://bit.ly/sfts2016>. It’s very short, and should only take a couple of minutes; your responses will help improve the County Council’s provision for other service families.

Lost Property – the ‘pile’ is building up somewhat, please do come in and have a look through for renegade jumpers etc.! Which links to...

Uniform – please do ensure your children are coming to school in correct uniform. We’re seeing an increasing number of pupils pushing the boundaries with this – trainers instead of school shoes, patterned leggings instead of plain tights etc. If you do have a specific issue with providing uniform, please notify us of this in writing; we fear that sometimes pupils are casting the blame on their parents where this isn’t entirely truthful! (“Oh, mum told me I should wear this today...”!)

Coffee Morning – our next coffee morning will be 23rd May. We’re hoping to have some input on first aid at home – we’ll confirm this closer to the time. Hope to see you there!

Friends of School – many thanks to the Friends who have sponsored our new playground chalkboards – the children are already enjoying expressing their artistic talents!

Dates for the Diary: [see separate list for full term]

Thurs 19th May – Friends of School Disco; KS1 17:15-18:15; KS2 18:30-19:30

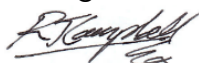
Fri 20th May – Class and Group Photographs

Fri 20th May – Mrs. Calvert’s Class Assembly, 2:30pm, all welcome.

And Finally...

I was chatting with CJ in Y6 yesterday just after he finished his final SATs paper: “so, how have you found things this week then?”; his response - “it’s been fine. Pretty good fun really.” Well, we must be doing something right!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell