

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



October 2017

Dear All,

It's hard to believe we've already flown through one of our half terms, but the year is well underway and life at Leeming is busy as ever. A particular welcome to any new families who have joined us in the last few weeks.

Last half term saw a wonderful variety of activities, events, and, of course, lots of learning! I'll walk through a few of the highlights here, but I trust that you are all getting your most relevant updates through See-Saw and Tapestry. The newsletter feels a bit 'outdated' these days – the digital world is so instantaneous! If any of you are having issues accessing See-Saw or Tapestry, do just have a word with your child's class teacher.

The half term started with a fantastic residential visit for Y5/6 to Low Mill. The children spent their days really pushing themselves – learning to abseil, gorge walk, zip-wire and cave, as well as trying their hand at archery, bed-making and the washing up! I visited for a night walk and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children in a different context – learning life skills and pushing themselves to overcome their fears. Many thanks to the staff who attended, particularly Mrs. Halliwell, Mrs. Davies and Miss Jones who gave up their nights and stayed throughout.



We've also had some other amazing trips and events. Some of our Y4/5 pupils had an activity day at Trollers' Ghyll, again, learning in the outdoors and studying our environment. Reception had a lovely autumn walk, looking at the colours, textures and changes of the season. They also put together a tasty Harvest soup which they shared with parents and friends! Years 3 and 4 had a trip to the Life Centre in Newcastle, exploring Science and a variety of fascinating facts, whilst Key Stage 1 took to the high seas (figuratively) on board HMS Trincomalee as Pirates! I told you'd we'd been busy... Here are a few photo highlights:



So, looking ahead, a few practical items and reminders to all.

Staff updates – many of you will know that at the end of this term, Mrs. Calvert will be retiring and enjoying a well-earned rest! Obviously, she will be a real loss to our school; however, I'm very pleased to inform you that following two rigorous days of interviewing, we have appointed a very strong replacement for Woodpeckers' class. Mrs. Laura Holland will be joining us in September, and we look forward to welcoming her onto the team.

We also say farewell this term to Mrs. McClements who is going on the next stage of her career at a local special school – congratulations! On a celebratory note, I'm delighted to share the news that Miss Robinson is expecting a baby next year, and we wish her all the best.

Start of Day – please can we remind parents of a few points about the start (and ends) of the school day.

- Children are unsupervised by school staff on site before 08:50, please ensure that behaviour before and around the gate is appropriately supervised before this point.
- Please do not drive into the car park unless you / your child has a disability. The car park is for staff and disabled users only and we wish to minimise vehicular traffic for pupil safety.
- Please supervise your children on the way in and out of school very closely. This is particularly applicable to younger toddlers etc., who tend to play with resources laid out for learning in the Reception area, or even stray into classrooms and up corridors.
- We are always happy to talk with parents if you have any concerns; however, it can be very difficult first thing in a morning. If you only need a very brief exchange with a class teacher, please approach them via the *playground doors* (not through the school); for longer discussions, please call the office to arrange an appointment or phone call with the teachers.

Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances – please can all parents who wish to request LoA pick up a form from the lobby outside the office. These forms are also available on the website. We really want to stress the importance of children being present in school; leave requests can only be granted (by law) in exceptional circumstances.

We do recognise that in our military context, there are certain specific challenges that you face that others do not – the need for a family to spend time together following a deployment for example. We cannot, however, authorise absences for avoiding traffic, saving money on holidays, going on 'once in a lifetime' trips etc. – these are not rules set by school, but at a national level. Please do endeavour to avoid any time for your children out of school if possible. If however, you do wish to apply for LoA in exceptional circumstances and have any questions, please ask Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Shaw in the office. Thank you.

Clothes and Kit – a reminder that all children need a PE kit please, and that all clothes should be labelled! All children now need to remember to bring coats to school, and Reception pupils are encouraged to bring wellies too so that they can continue to enjoy their outdoor learning.

Friends of School and Governor Updates – I'm delighted to announce that the FoS committee has reformed this term, with our new chair, Mr. Kyle Jordan. If you wish to be involved with the work of the friends, please contact the office and we can put you in touch with the email group for this. I'm also pleased to announce the election of Mr. Philip Perry as our new parent governor, and to share with you that Mr. James Stewart has been appointed as Chair of Governors. We are very grateful to our outgoing chair, Mrs. Jayne Rosamond for all her service leading the governing body.

Helpers and Recruits – we are looking to recruit some additional relief personnel, both as Relief GTAs and Relief Mid-day Supervisors. We're ideally looking for those who are already experienced / qualified at working with primary aged pupils - this may be in a variety of capacities (e.g. voluntary sector). Please speak to the office or Mrs. Wiltshire if you are interested. We are also always looking for parent helpers in school to listen to readers, work in the library or help in classes. If you are interested, again, please speak to the office team. Finally – Mr. Fenn is looking for a couple of parent volunteers to help him run an after school fitness club ('Box2bFit') for families to attend together. If you could help, please contact him. Many thanks!

Dates for the Diary:

[See separate list for full term, in parents' secure area on website (password available from office)]

And Finally...

We look forward to seeing you all at PTCs next week; while you're here, please take some time to enjoy the Book Fair – discounted Christmas presents await you!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher

Some smiles
from Low Mill!

