

# Leeming RAF Primary School

## Newsletter



Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear All,

I can hardly believe that we are already in the run up to Christmas, but the dulcet tones of Key Stage 1 practising their play next door is just one of the unmistakable signs that we're almost into December...

Before we get there though, there's still lots going on, and, looking back over November, there has been plenty to keep us busy. The last few weeks have seen a diverse range of topics being studied across the school. Bumblebees and Ladybirds have been looking at outer space, and planning adventures through the stars! They are about to begin a topic all about letter writing - perhaps Father Christmas will be getting some written requests this year. In Nightingales, Woodpeckers and Skylarks, the children have been looking at the topic of 'Home and Away' - I've seen some brilliant digital non-fiction books all about Australia, created by the children, with sections on animal life, geography, cities and fun facts! They have also been studying other cultures and festivals, such as Diwali and Hanukah, and looking at the similarities and differences between these. Meanwhile, Key Stage 2 are drawing their work on 'Who Built the Pyramids?' to a close, with some amazing Egyptian masks and Cartouches on display around the school!

We've also had some brilliant visits and visitors for the children to enjoy. On Remembrance Day, we were involved in no less than 3 separate services; our younger pupils attended a service held at school, in which Mrs. Whitworth played a moving rendition of The Last Post. A group of our Y4 pupils attended the station's Remembrance Day parade and service on base, conducting themselves superbly throughout. Finally, our oldest pupils attended a special 'Service Pupils Celebration' at Ripon Cathedral on the 11<sup>th</sup>, coming together with schools across the County to reflect on military life and all that this means.

Last week, we welcomed a cast of colourful characters to school in the form of the pantomime 'Aladdin'. This was organised by the RAF, our thanks to Dean Bradley for his part in co-ordinating this for us - the children certainly enjoyed it, even if Widow Twanky got a little carried away with the male members of staff!

I do hope everyone found the 'parent teacher consultations' helpful, many thanks to all who left feedback, this was really positive. Do let one of the Senior Leadership Team know if you can think of ways that these PTCs can be improved, we're always looking for things we can develop. My thanks to the Governors who were on site to serve drinks and biscuits, hopefully parents had a chance to chat to some of them and learn a little about the Governors' work in the leadership of the school. We hope you also found the Maths Morning useful and enjoyable - thank you to all who attended; again, we got lots of great feedback from this event, it's lovely to see parents experiencing a little of what the children get to work on each day!

We've been reflecting on some wider issues this month, in the form of Anti-Bullying Week and Road Safety Week. The children have been learning about how to keep themselves and others safe from harm - do ask them about what they've been discussing. Parents may also have seen the e-safety display Mrs. Calvert put together for the PTCs, please do ask us if you want any input on how to keep your children safe online. Information is also available on our website at: <http://leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk/policies/e-safety/>.

**Homework** – those of you who chatted with Mrs. Wiltshire at the PTCs will have picked up that we wanted to do a brief survey of parents' views on homework. We are currently reviewing our homework practices and expectations in line with recent guidance, but we also wanted to get your thoughts as our immediate community. We asked 125 parents at the PTCs as part of our 'quick survey', and we're breaking down your responses. However, the headline question "should primary school pupils receive regular homework?" elicited an overwhelmingly positive response, with 76% of parents saying that yes, *homework was a good idea*. More information and feedback will follow!

**Charitable Donations** – many thanks to everyone who has been supporting the school's various charitable endeavours in the last few weeks. We were able to send almost 50 shoeboxes away filled with gifts for children less fortunate than our pupils. We also raised £194 for Children in Need; again, many thanks for your donations and contributions.

**Wet weather** – with winter well and truly here, please could you ensure your children always have appropriate clothing (including coats and good footwear) for the conditions. A particular plea for parents of *Reception* children to ensure they all have wellies in school for use in the outdoor area. Thank you.

**Book Fair** – our thanks to parents who purchased books at the Scholastic book fair; I'm pleased to say we've raised about £250 (final figures are coming in) of match funded books to enhance our library and class collections.

**'Parenting Puzzle' Course** – running out of Northallerton Children's Centre, and commencing on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January (12:30-2:30pm), the Parenting Puzzle Course aims to help parents understand and manage feelings and behaviour to contribute to improved relationships within the family. Further details available from Mrs. Wiltshire or the office.

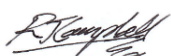
**Sickness** – there are several very nasty sickness bugs around at the moment. Please can we remind parents that children are to be kept off school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness. This is not a rule we have created ourselves, but follows the recommendations of the NHS and the government. We had a class reduced to 9 pupils on Friday due mainly to sickness; please help us to prevent the spread of these illnesses by following the above guidance, along with teaching your children about the importance of hand washing and hygiene. When your child is off, please ring the school and leave a brief message first thing in the morning for every day that they are not in; we have a duty of care to follow up all absences, so this helps us immensely. In addition, *please ensure your child has a water bottle in school*; we have witnessed pupils sharing drinks with their friends who are thirsty but haven't got a bottle, and thus exposing one another to risks of contracting illness. Thanks for your support.

**School Christmas Fair** – a brief reminder that the Christmas fair will be taking place on Thursday, 3:00pm-4:00pm. There will be a range of stalls, including some businesses, alongside some crafts that the children have created, the Military Wives Choir, and even a performance by our very own School Choir to start off the festivities. We hope to see you all there! (Also, raffle prize donations are still being gratefully received; many thanks.)

### **And Finally...**

Particular mention must go to Lucy Archer and Skye Dickerson who gave a reading at the Service Pupils' Celebration at Ripon cathedral. They read beautifully in front of hundreds of people – no mean feat I'm sure you'll agree! Well done girls.

Best regards,



Rob Campbell

