

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



Wednesday 13th July 2016

Dear All,

The term is flying by and there's a lot to catch up on as we draw towards the end of the year. Much of what has been going on has been in preparation for next year; last week, we had our 'class swap' in which the pupils spent time in their new classes and, where possible, with their new teachers. Our Y6 pupils have been visiting their new schools, whether up and down the country, or over in Bedale, and have enjoyed getting to know a bit more about the prospect of the new challenges and opportunities that secondary school brings.

In school, we've had some exciting events – not least of which was our sponsored 'skipathon'. Linking in with healthy living week, and some of our previous PE work on skipping, the children all took part in a week with a number of skipping challenges and tutorials. We were visited by Sgt Mason and some of the servicemen from RAF Leeming who came in to demonstrate and compete with the children in some skipping competitions. I'm pleased to say however, that the children of Leeming won the day, and proved to be able to skip faster than their adult challengers!

Part of the purpose of the skipathon was to raise money for an AED Defibrillator device which can be stored in school but also be used by first responders in the community. Our thanks to Jenny Ford who came in to talk with the pupils about this vital piece of kit. I'm delighted to tell you that we have raised enough money to buy this (£1169!), thanks to the hard work of a small number of our children and families who sought sponsorship. A huge well done to them.



In other news, our pupils in year 3 and 4 have been working this half term on a musical production – *Kofi's Journey* tells the story of boy who reflects on his family's past, moving from slavery in Africa across the globe to the USA, and into the present in the UK, exploring the musical influences of these diverse cultures. A smaller group of our pupils took part in the 'cluster musical' performance of this at Northallerton Forum, along with 15 other local schools – this was a brilliant event, and Leeming children shone!



We have also had 'Armed Forces Day' recently; our service pupils champions Annabel Hall and Nickie Young organised a great day over at Catterick and a group of our 'Always' children attended, celebrating military life, and their identity as service pupils. We ate ration packs, operated huge machinery with the REME troops, clambered aboard tanks and even got strapped onto stretchers by the medical corps! A brilliant day had by all.



The children have also enjoyed a creative 'world week', celebrating the diverse cultures of the globe. Reception learned all about India – I saw some beautiful 'henna' style drawings and some great collages of Indian elephants! Y1-4 were looking at Rio and South America, tying in with their work on the Olympics and Rainforests – there were some rather colourful carnival headaddresses produced, along with a lot of detailed research! Meanwhile the Y5 and 6 children continued their study of Greece, particularly tying in with the upcoming Year 6 play about Callipateira and the early Olympics!

Last week, we also had two fantastic sports days. Many thanks to all who came to cheer the children on – they had a great time, and I'm sure you'll agree that good sportsmanship was evident (along with a healthy degree of competition!) throughout the events.



Level 3 Netball – huge congratulations to our Netballers who made it through to the County level competition across North Yorkshire. They played brilliantly, and had amazing team spirit, but were pipped to the medals by some really strong teams. Well done to all, and thanks to Mr. Fenn and the parents that supported them.

Notification of Absence – can we please ask that you phone school if your child is going to be off sick by 09:30 at the latest. We have had a number of parents who have not contacted us, and this can lead to unauthorised absences on pupil records, which we obviously wish to avoid. Thank you.

Summer Fair – a quick reminder that, weather permitting (!), the Friends of School Summer Fair is taking place tomorrow, 3:15pm-4:30pm. Lots of stalls and fun to be had, and all in a good cause! Many thanks to the team who have organised this.

Postings – there is a huge amount of mobility at this time of year, but a plea to all parents to notify us immediately of any postings please. We work very hard to keep abreast of all the pupil movement in the school, and this is made very difficult if we don't have information well in advance, so please let us know!

Bikes, Scooters and Safety – please can we request / advise that all children who bike to school wear helmets. We have had incidents where children have had an accident on their bikes, and helmets in these cases have proved vital.

In addition, please can we ask that all scooters and bikes be carefully parked in the proper racks upon children's arrival at school – a member of staff observed one being (somewhat dangerously) hung in a tree the other day!

Finally, could we please request that parents keep a close eye on their children at start and end of day, particularly around the gate whilst waiting to come in. Children have been climbing fences, gates and even the school walls during this time, which is both dangerous and also sets the wrong tone for what we consider to be acceptable behaviour. Thank you for your support.

Pupil Reports – just a note to say that these will be coming out on Friday. They also include the 'statutory information' which the government requires us to report:

- Reception – Early Years Profile Scores
- Year 1 – Phonics Screening Test Scores
- Year 2 – Teacher Assessment
- Year 6 – Teacher Assessment and SATs results

We hope you enjoy reading about all your children's successes!

End of Year – we have received a letter from the base regarding 'Families Day' which coincides with our last day of term, and overlaps school hours. In order to show our support for this event, and to allow as many of you who wish to be able to attend, we are happy for you to pick up children early at 2pm on the 22nd. The leavers' assembly will take place in advance of this, starting around 1:15pm. If you have children who normally walk home alone, they will leave at the usual time unless collected at 2pm. We hope you have a wonderful time at the families day, celebrating life at Leeming.

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

Thursday 14th – Friends of School Summer Fair, 3:15-4:30pm

Friday 15th – Mrs. Halliwell's Class Assembly, 2:30pm

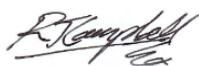
Monday 18th – New Entrants' third school visit

Friday 22nd – Leavers' Assembly 1:15pm

And Finally...

One of the Reception pupils, on their way to the Wensleydale railway trip this morning told me that "we are on our way to Rome on the bus this morning, then we'll catch a train from there to Wensleydale!"... I'm rather hoping that this was a mistake for 'Romanby'?! Otherwise – Italy to Wensleydale – HS2 eat your heart out!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell



Our fantastic netballers!