

# Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



January 2017

Dear All,

It seems a long time since we returned from Christmas, complete with all its festivities. The term has already seen wide variety of activities at Leeming, musical, sporting, and, of course the continued lessons and learning.

We had a brilliant time when 'Music for Life' visited the school a couple of weeks ago. Our Year 4 pupils spent the day in a brass workshop and formed the scratch band 'The Funky Fours'! Jim Stretton, the professional musician who ran the day for us, told me that, without a doubt, our children had been the group who made the biggest improvement during the day of any school he's worked with. This fact was borne out when the pupils performed a concert for the whole school at the end of the day, and had 200 people literally dancing to their tune!



Last week also saw some real sporting action with the Box2Bfit day. A coach came and delivered a gruelling (but incredibly fun!) day of circuit training for all our pupils, culminating in a parent workshop after school. Many thanks to all of you who attended, there was a real 'buzz' and the children were so excited to have you join in with them for their activities.



There are also lots of 'practical' items to let you know about, please see below:

**Walking Home** – we've had a few questions raised about this recently. Obviously, many parents, particularly of our older pupils, are happy to let their children walk home on their own. This is something we are happy to support. However, we do have concerns, especially with younger pupils, that camp can sometimes feel 'deceptively safe'; please consider carefully whether it is appropriate for your children to be walking home alone, particularly in winter. We will be sending out a consent form in the near future, and ask parents to return this to ensure pupils are kept appropriately safe.

**Governor Updates** – a brief note to let you know that there have been some changes made to the information on the website regarding school governance. We now have a lot more information about our governor team, in the form of 'pen portrait' style profiles, along with a new document detailing some of the ways in which governors and school will communicate with parents and the community.

**The HIVE, Family Support Workers and Service Pupils' Champion** – a reminder to all about the great facilities on base to support families. Obviously many parents are very familiar with all of these resources, but new arrivals may not be aware of 'who is around' to support them. In addition, school may sometimes offer support through the Local Authority Prevention Team who employ Family Outreach Workers to assist parents. If you would like any information on any of these services, please just contact the school and we'll be happy to signpost you.

**Start and End of Day** – a quick reminder about start and end of day procedures; please don't allow your toddlers to bring scooters etc. in to school, we've had a few 'near misses'! Also, please note the blue gate will be locked at 9:05am, and 3:20pm; we're always happy if parents want to catch class teachers for discussions after school etc. but, if you have been delayed in this way, please just head out through the school rather than via the side gate. Thank you!

**School Blogs** – we are retiring the individual class blogs this year, and they will be replaced with a new 'whole school' tracking some of the different things we have been getting up to, giving parents the chance to see the view of learning throughout the whole school. In the meantime, we'll be posting some videos on the main page (see below!).

**Parent Forum** – one of the things we are keen to do at Leeming is to hear parents' views. There are obviously lots of different avenues for this, including questionnaires, parent / teacher meetings, informal discussions at end of day, governor liaison etc. However, we would like to offer a forum for discussions between parents and the school on particular issues, to see how we can improve and develop our practice. We propose to host the first of these at:

**9am on 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

We'll meet for no more than an hour, and would like to discuss your views on how the school deals with transition and transfer – obviously a particular issue for our military community. Please do come along, it will be informal and won't commit you to attending any future meetings! We just want to be able to listen and respond to the community we serve.

**E-Safety and Computer Games** – a request to all parents to please monitor children's internet usage and online access very carefully. Many of our pupils refer to playing games which are totally inappropriate for their age; even if these are 'muted' or bad language turned off, research has shown that violent games can have really damaging effects for pupils. Please obey the age guidance (18 etc.) on the computer games that your children access.

In addition, a recent North Yorkshire survey indicated that nearly 20% of Year 2 children say that they have friends online *who they have never met*. This is a very disturbing statistic; we have e-safety as a constant part of our computing curriculum, but would ask for your support in monitoring pupils' online activities, and abiding by social media age rules. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss with Mrs. Calvert (our Computing Lead) or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

**Concerns** – just a reminder that we offer an 'open door' policy in school if you have any issues or concerns relating to your child. Our full policy is online; however, we ask that parents would initially share any concerns with a class teacher; most issues are swiftly resolved at this level. If, however, the concern relates to that teacher, or if an issue remains unresolved, please feel free to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team: Mrs. Nuttall, Mrs. Wiltshire or myself and we will work with you to provide a solution. Please do not approach governors outside of school, or friends who may also be staff members, to raise issues. This can be counter-productive, and can put others in difficult situations; we would much rather hear your concerns and act on them through the correct channels. Thank you for your support.

**Volunteer Thanks** – a quick note just to express our appreciation to all the parents who are in school volunteering each week. It is so lovely to have support like this from our community, and we really value everyone who gives up their time in this way. Mrs. Nuttall has asked me to thank those who have stepped forward to help with reading and the library; she is still looking for one or two reading volunteers if anyone else is interested. But to all those who are already involved, thank you for the work you do.

**Recruitment – Relief MSAs, Relief GTAs** – we are looking to recruit some new relief mid-day supervisors and teaching assistants. A number of our current MSAs and GTAs are anticipating postings in the near future, and we're always looking for people who might be able to support our team in school to cover staff absence etc. In addition when permanent vacancies come up, we are often able to offer these to our relief pool. If you are interested, please pick up an application pack from the office.

**Reading Award** – just to say that a few of our older pupils are currently taking part in the Cumbria Library Book Award scheme. Please encourage your children to engage with this – there are some great books involved so it promises to be a fun project!

**Box2bFit After School Club, Volunteers Sought!** – a few of you commented that you'd be keen to support a repeat of the 'Box2bFit' style circuit training by helping to run a few after school sessions. We would love this, and the pupils would certainly enjoy a chance to continue their training; please contact Mr. Fenn or the office if you would be interested in helping to run something like this after half term. Many thanks!

**Dates for the Diary:**

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

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Ladybirds' Class Assembly

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Bumblebees' Class Assembly / School Closes for Half Term

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – School Reopens

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – 9am, Parents' Forum.

**And Finally...**

We've got a new and updated 'Videos' tab on our website. This feature a range of fun films showing our children busy with all sorts of activities – check out the 'Funky Fours' entertaining us, or look for yourself busy at the 'Box2bFit' after school workshop!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell  
Headteacher