

# Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



March 2018

Dear All,

Firstly – my apologies – such is the pace of life at Leeming that February came and went and I completely forgot to produce a newsletter! So, this one has to pack in lots of updates! There have been a multitude of visits and visitors in school. A particular highlight was the visit from Jay's animal encounters for Key Stage 1 – Jay arrived with huge pythons, skunks, tarantulas, giant African land snails and Meerkats! I have to say that a number of the staff overcame their fears to touch the creatures, whilst the children were rather braver! We have also been treated to some wonderful performances and workshops from the Lempen puppet theatre – this is always a big hit with the pupils, and it is amazing how pieces of wood, fabric and cardboard can come to life and capture the imagination of our children. We've also had Science clubs and Rugby Tots running in school, along with a marvellous Science week, complete with Science Boffins who demonstrated some rather fantastic experiments for us!

We've been getting 'out and about' a lot too – both in small groups and on whole class trips. We've had groups of mathematicians and scientists out at Gifted and Talented days in Bedale High School, as well as some amazing musicians who have been to a composition workshop and have written a song for the 'Never Such Innocence' WW1 commemoration project. Most recently, we've had some fantastic trips out – to Grinton Smelting Mill and to Wensleydale Creamery – studying geography and history in our local environment, and even sampling a little slice of cheese (or two...Mrs. Halliwell and co.!).

Let us not forget sport either – as always, a packed sporting calendar – with Sport Relief, Cluster Hockey and Cross-Country Events in the last month. Our teams did brilliantly in the hockey, reaching the final and just missing out on qualifying for the Level 2 competition in an incredibly tense game that went to extra time and then to a nail biting 'golden goal' – congratulations to all, especially Josh Hanson who scored an amazing 14 goals! We had some amazing cross-country stars, with lots of our pupils in the top 10 for the area, and Josh Way and Lucy Boot qualifying for the North Yorkshire Championships. A spectacular performance from Lucy at these puts her as the 10<sup>th</sup> fastest girl in North Yorkshire! Well done all!



**100 Million Minutes** – a huge well done to all who are recording their minutes as part of our national reading challenge – at the last count, we had logged over 15,000 minutes of reading! We are aiming to top 25,000 this week! There's one more week to go, so please get your children reading and recording – every minute helps!

**Radical Readers** – well done to all who sent us photos for the Radical Readers competition – a video has been produced of all the entries and it can be found here: <http://leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk/videos/>. You'll also find videos from Sport Relief Week and the Wensleydale trip!

**Library** – sticking with the reading theme – I'm delighted to say that our new library is up and running. Huge thanks to the volunteers who gave many hours of their time to help us – particularly Mrs. Fortune and Mrs. Arlett who led the way. The children love the new set up, and we have had lots of positive feedback from them – thank you!

**Sports Clubs** – with summer coming, keep an eye out for information on new clubs. Mr. Fenn (and his team!) are planning on launching some new clubs after Easter: Girls' Football (Y3-6), Archery (Y5-6), Running (Y1-2) and Table Tennis (Y3-4) are all on their way!

**Safeguarding** – one of our governors recently spent some time talking to the children about safety. They gave lots of great answers about how to keep themselves safe, but a thread that was picked up involved many pupils having a false sense of 'security' from being 'behind the wire'. Children talked about being "scared" of moving somewhere that wasn't on camp - even Bedale was perceived to be 'dangerous' whilst camp was seen as 'safe'. Obviously, we want children to have a healthy sense of the risks posed *anywhere* (on base or off), but also to feel confident that it is good decisions, caring adults and appropriate people that keep them safe, not a wire fence. Please discuss this with your children, we will be developing this in school.

**SATs Week** – a quick reminder to Y6 parents that SATs week is week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> May. It is vital that no children are off during this week; SATs are an important point in their education which cannot be missed, please do avoid booking any appointments etc. during this time. A breakfast club will run all this week – details to follow. Thank you.

**School Ping** – most of you have already got our new app – I hope you're finding it useful for communication. We are really excited by the opportunities Ping brings – please do ensure you have downloaded the app to get the best out of all our communications. Many thanks.

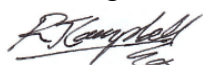
**Office Reminders** – a few things here: please could parents notify *the office staff* of any postings or leavers – sometimes, messages passed to teachers and other staff don't reach the admin team quickly and it's important that the office know asap so that they can begin to process transition paperwork etc. Secondly, the new menu for lunches will soon be published on the NYCC website – we will 'ping' this to you as soon as possible.

**Clothing** – lots of lost property is building up – please rummage through this as we will be culling it shortly after the holidays. Also, please could parents in Reception return any underwear / clothing that has been borrowed – we are running out. Finally, please ensure your children (especially in Reception) have wellies in wet weather and appropriate clothing at all times.

**And Finally...**

Have a lovely Easter, enjoy some chocolate, but don't overindulge!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell  
Headteacher