

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



May 2018

Dear All,

Although we are well into June – I wanted to share some of what we got up to in May with you – I've been waiting on the images from the Photography section for RAF 100 week (more on this below), hence the delay in getting this newsletter out to you!

The centenary of the RAF offered us a wonderful opportunity to get creative and celebrate the unique context of our school. Being 'behind the wire' and working with the stresses of a service community (deployments, postings, mobility etc.) brings a whole range of challenges for our school and pupils. However, service life is also one of opportunity – of excitement, vitality, dynamism and community. It was this that we wanted to really spotlight for the children – the great benefits of being 'service pupils' and, of course, the heroism and sacrifice of so many through the years.

From this starting point, we decided to put together a whole week of RAF 100 activities and learning. The school suspended our 'usual' timetable and we spent the whole time on project based learning around the centenary. The children produced amazing artwork, touching poetry, fantastic technical models, science investigations – all with an RAF theme. However, the greatest excitement came from our partnership with station during the week.

During the week, under the co-ordination of Sqn Ldr Shaw – one of our parents – the station supported the school amazingly. I'm sure to forget all the activities that they helped us with, but a few of the highlights were:

- Trip to 100 Sqn to see the Hawks, and receive a flight briefing
- Daily visits for assemblies and talks – the jobs of the RAF, history of Leeming, operations and tours, and the life of a pilot
- Trip to RTP hangar to examine Tornados and watch some amazing science in action (involving liquid nitrogen and marshmallows...)
- Visit from the Armourers – featuring ejection seats (in the school hall?!) and air defence devices
- Trip to ATC tower – including the threat to the headteacher to come back and clean *all* their windows...
- Drill – in which the children were marching back and forth in basic training, and I was appointed 'parade commander', then swiftly demoted when my lack of co-ordination in marching became apparent
- Trip to MT – featuring some rather impressive machinery that the children got to operate
- Visit from Medics – training our children in First Aid and staying safe
- STEM activities – taking paper aeroplanes to the next level!
- PT Challenges – putting the children (and teachers!) through some gruelling circuits
- Visit from the Fire Engine – always a source of excitement for our younger pupils...

As you can see – we really were rather busy! I'm still gathering all the photos and media, and hope to ultimately put together a full video of our amazing week which we will post online. In the meantime, please see over the page for a selection of images from the events – and I trust See-Saw will also have kept you up to date!

Many, many thanks indeed to all who were involved in helping us create such a memorable experience for the children – it is hugely appreciated, and they are still talking about it. A lot of hard work went into the week, and we are really grateful.



Of course, May wasn't only a month of fun and games – there were plenty of other things going on – not least of which were the Year 6 SAT tests. I must take this opportunity to say a huge well done to our Y6s – they worked so hard, and conducted themselves tremendously through the week (fuelled by some rather lovely breakfasts!). Thanks also to Mrs. Halliwell and the KS2 team who prepared them so well. Our younger pupils have also been busy with assessments and tests – although we work hard to ensure they feel as little 'pressure' around these as possible.

We also said farewell to some of our wonderful staff recently – Mrs. Langdale, Mrs. Mills-Moore, and Mrs. Shaw have all moved on to pastures new (what was I saying about the challenges of service life?!). We will miss their contribution to our school. I'm delighted to say that we have appointed Mrs Mather as Hawks class teacher in September and we look forward to what she will bring to the school and the team. We also welcome Mrs. Jackson to the office – I'm sure she will become a familiar face 'at the hatch' and voice on the phone in no time!

I'll save any other updates and reminders for our next newsletter which will be out soon – in the meantime, please keep your eye on the school diary dates, and, most especially on 'Ping'. All important updates will be sent via this platform. If you have any issue accessing Ping, please do contact the office.

And Finally...

Used as I am to be the one dishing out awards – at WOW assemblies, and in the form of the golden 'Headteacher's award' stickers – I was delighted to be presented with a 'Squadron Leader's certificate at the end of our day doing drill. I was, however, disappointed to discover that this had been awarded for, I quote: "nearly marching". Must try harder!

Best regards,

Rob Campbell
Headteacher

