

# Leeming RAF Primary School

## Newsletter



Summer 2019

Dear All,

Well, I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of the school year! So much has happened – September really does seem a long time ago. This last term has been jam packed, even to the very last minute with the Key Stage 1 children wrapping up their topic with an incredible trip to 'Eureka!' Science Museum yesterday!

You will also probably have noticed that we've slightly changed the format of the newsletters this year – sending them less frequently and really using them just as a bit of a chance to summarise some of the things that have been going on across the school. This is primarily because we are now using See-Saw for sharing the children's learning and achievements at a class level, and School Ping for more frequent notifications and communications. I trust this gives parents a more detailed overview of your children's specific experience / relevant information sharing / diary dates etc., whilst still offering a bit of a picture of what's going on elsewhere in the school.

I hope you have all received your child's end of year report and that this has been a helpful summary of their learning this year and how they can continue to make progress in September. I have been so impressed as I have read through these to hear of all the children's achievements. A particular well done must go to our Year 6s who have worked exceptionally hard all year and have been rewarded with a great set of SATs results. Many of our children have only been with us a short length of time, and have made superb progress during their stay at Leeming – congratulations to all for their achievements.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the parents who partner with us so effectively in your children's learning. Daily reading, support with homework, following up on things in school, and practising spellings, times tables etc. make a *huge* difference – we see the positive fruits of this all the time with the pupils. Please continue to prioritise these things in the new year, and, if you haven't managed to read regularly with your children this year, please try to make a plan to do so over the summer and into September.

So, let's take a bit of a walkthrough this term... our first trip was a rather soggy one – the Reception children headed to Monk Park Farm and, in spite of the weather, had a great day petting the animals and learning all about life on the farm (as well as enjoying a good bit of fun in the adventure barn!).

We also enjoyed a fantastic 'Health Week' led by Claire Willsher at the start of the term. We spent the whole week focussing on all the different aspects of being healthy – our diet, resilience, mind and exercise. I hope the children have been preparing their healthy wraps and smoothies at home and getting a good night's sleep – if you need to encourage an early bedtime during the summer – I recommend you remind them of what they learned about the importance of this! It might help!

The next classes to head out and about were the Hawks and the Eagles, who travelled off to a Countryside Day down at Harrogate and had a fantastic time learning all about Yorkshire, watching some incredible birds of prey and engaging in workshops doing traditional crafts. It was then the turn of the Owls and Kingfishers to enjoy a special experience – when their classes were transformed and taken back in time on their Roman day – the school was visited by a Roman Soldier who trained the children and got them organised as troops, feasting like emperors and debating in the 'Senate' (Mr. Fenn was so caught up in his character that even after the children had gone home, he was insisting on being called by his Roman name...!).

The whole school was treated to a truly inspirational visit a few weeks ago by the England Rugby player Katie Storey; Katie played 24 times for England and never lost a match, winning the women's rugby world cup and a myriad of other awards. Katie spent the day in school – delivering workshops to our gifted and talented sports leaders and working across Key Stage 1 on team building and physical skills. Katie also led

a tremendous assembly in which she shared her story with our pupils – it was truly inspirational – taking them through her process of growing up feeling like an outsider, finding her 'niche', then developing into one of the country's most successful sportspeople. She then presented a number of our children with the Youth Sport Trust Young Leader's award, recognising their contribution to sport over the year – well done to all those pupils.

Sticking with the sporting theme, we had two very successful Sports Days (in the end – apologies for the deferral of the KS1 afternoon!) which saw the children leaping, sprinting, throwing and bouncing their way to victory. Participation across the board was superb and a good time was had by all; we were particularly impressed by the great 'sporting attitudes' on display – I hope those who came along enjoyed the events!

Early Years were out again this term visiting Scruton Station and having a ride on the Wensleydale Railway – going back in time and meeting the characters who worked there long ago. I'm told by Mrs. Scott (who managed to escape the office for a few hours) that they had a marvellous time, and I think she rather fancies staying in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (though that's probably just to escape the emails and telephones...).

Of course, no summer term would be complete without the Y5/6 end of year production. This year's play, 'Alice – the Musical' saw our children deliver an outstanding musical version of Alice in Wonderland – complete with amazing acting, stunning solos, a grinning Cheshire cat, a comedic (and sassy!) king and queen of hearts, delightful duets, a marvellously mad hatter, a many armed caterpillar, and, of course, a Caucus Race! It was a brilliant production – well done to the great staff team who pulled it all together, and to the children who were all stars of the show!

All of this, is, of course, in addition to our 'regular' events – such as our kick start and after-school sports clubs, cluster competitions, cricket and tennis coaching, music lessons, guest speakers for assemblies and PSHCE lessons, and, of course a lot of transition work. We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Reception cohort, plus new starters into all year groups next year, and will be sorry to say farewell to our Year 6s, and all the other children who are heading on to pastures new.

A few specific things, looking ahead to next year...

**Holiday Homework** – a real plea from us regarding the holidays; all too often, children spend the 6 weeks forgetting all the things they've been learning in school! Please try to keep their brains sparking through the holidays – practise times tables or number bonds, write a holiday diary or the occasional story, and, most importantly, please read with your children every day if at all possible. You don't have to follow schoolbooks: use comics, novels, newspapers, web-pages – whatever the children are interested in. Get them to read to you, and read stories to them – the development of vocabulary and reading is one of the most important skills – please keep this going over the summer. The Bedale Library is also offering a **Summer Reading Challenge**, so the children can enjoy a wide variety of material through the library too. We've just bought a huge new set of books for EYFS and KS1, so look out for these lovely new resources next September!

**Staffing** – just a quick reminder of changes to staffing next year. We will, sadly, be saying goodbye to Mrs. Jones who has done such a fantastic job as Hawks teacher this year – she has secured a new job and we wish her all the best in this. We will also be temporarily saying 'cheerio' to Mrs. Wiltshire who is now on maternity leave. Mrs. Wiltshire will be off during the Autumn term, and will return, initially part time, later in the year. During her absence, I'm happy to let you know that Mr. Fenn will be taking on some of her work, as Acting Assistant Headteacher, and Mrs. Nuttall will be around more, taking a lead on SEN issues. We wish Mrs. Wiltshire all the best and are looking forward to hearing about the arrival of her little one!

**Uniform** – a quick reminder about school uniform in advance of the new year. I appreciate that at this time of year parents are reluctant to buy new uniform that children may grow out of quickly, but we have seen a bit of a reduction in standards of uniform recently. For the new year, please ensure your child has a full set of (labelled!) school uniform, including smart black shoes or sandals – not trainers, sparkly heels etc. Please also ensure that they have a full PE kit (also labelled!). A reminder too that long hair must be kept tied up please. Thank you.

