

Leeming RAF Primary School

Newsletter



Autumn 2018

Dear All,

Firstly, my apologies for not getting a newsletter out in October, I try to aim for one a month, but we have been so busy that I've not quite managed this! However, thanks to the brilliant See-Saw and Tapestry platforms, I am sure you'll have been being kept up to date with what has been going on in school.

It has certainly been a full term thus far! I am sure to forget something that has taken place (!), but I thought it would be good to share a few highlights.

Pupils in Reception have made a fantastic start to their time at Leeming. Upon entering EYFS, I'm always greeted with a wonderful buzz of energy and activity as the children learn through their play and adult led sessions. They had a lovely autumn walk and collected a plethora of leaves, acorns and conkers and loved sharing their harvest soup with you – thanks to all who came in to sample it!

Kingfishers and Owls had a marvellous trip to the National Museum for Science and Media back in October. They learned loads about light and sound, and have written some marvellous reports on the subject. I have been thoroughly instructed on the workings of cameras – complete with mirrors, lenses and some great scientific detail!

Our Key Stage 1 pupils had a lovely (if a little soggy) visit to Thorpe Perrow Arboretum recently. The children were full of stories about the owls and birds, the flying displays and their lovely walk. Of course, none of their recounts were complete without a detailed description of their lunches... Again – some super writing complete with great adjectives and evocative reports of the autumn colours, the soft grass, and the waving branches. Many thanks to our volunteer helpers who came back rather wet!

Shifting focus from Science to History, we've also had some brilliant Key Stage 2 visits to experience first-hand the realities of the past – through visits to the Oriental Museum in Durham – firstly examining ancient Egypt, and then to explore the Shang Dynasty of Ancient China. With regards to the former, the pyramids and the gory details of mummification seem to have been the focus for most of our pupils – along with handling some real artefacts from the period. With regards to the Shang dynasty – I must confess I think the children now know more about this than I do – they are veritable mines of information – so do ask them about it – from temples to artwork!

Sticking with history, we had a thoroughly poignant period of remembrance last week. Every class contributed to a beautiful 'whole-school display' based on the poppy – including artwork, design and technology projects, poetry and even mathematics. The week concluded with our participation in no less than three special services. Our whole school met for an act of remembrance on Friday, complete with the Last Post played on the bugle by Mrs. Whitworth. Meanwhile, our Year 4 pupils attended the station parade and laid crosses at the cenotaph. In the afternoon, students in Year 5 visited Ripon Cathedral for a service of remembrance and celebrating the lives of armed forces children. Particular mention must go to Niamh McGuinness, Skye Stepney, Ava Price and Finley Jones who performed a moving piece of drama – in front of over 700 people. A remarkable experience.

Parental Engagement – many thanks to all who have been engaging with the school so positively in recent weeks, through our Phonics and Spelling Drop-ins, and our PTCs. It is great to have the opportunity to share the children's learning with you and to build close partnerships about how you can support them at home. We've had some lovely positive feedback about the usefulness of these sessions – thank you for this. Please keep coming along to our drop-ins – the next is our Maths morning on Tuesday 27th.

Pupil Premium – as many of you will know, all schools receive a quantity of 'Pupil Premium' funding. This comes in two forms, one directed towards those who may have economic disadvantage (if you think you may qualify for this, please contact the office, confidentially) and one directed towards service pupils. We have frequently been cited as an example of best practice nationally for the way in which we allocate and use this funding. If you wish to find out more, the latest strategy statements can be found on our website, along with a service pupil premium promise and guide for stakeholders.

One area in which we allocate funding and have been asked about is our contribution to 'curriculum enrichment' activities. These could be trips, visitors, theatre experiences or other special events that we commission for our children. As you know, we often ask parents to contribute towards these, but you may be unaware of the level to which the school also subsidises such experiences, often through the pupil premium. To put this in context, we contribute an average of £90 per pupil to these enrichment activities every year, set against an average across other schools of just £18. Thank you to all parents who continue to contribute to visits and trips etc., permitting us to offer these valuable experiences to our children.

Sponsored Spell and Book Fair – many thanks to all the children who have joined in with our sponsored spelling event – it's been great to spot them practising their words at breaktime and chatting about their progress! To date, this has raised over £200 which will be combined with the money raised by the book fair. The total will then go towards new books and kitting out our 'Reading Shed' – available for children who would like somewhere quiet to enjoy at break and lunchtimes. Thanks to all for your support.

Parentpay and Ping thanks – a big thank you from the office for the high levels of engagement with these platforms. It has made communication and payment much smoother, and this is managed through the great uptake by yourselves. As always, if you have any issues or questions, please pop into the office and they will be happy to help.

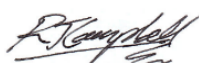
Christmas Dates – these have been published a while ago, but a quick reminder:

- KS1 Play: 2pm, 11th December, and 10am, 12th December
- EYFS Nativity: 10am, 13th December
- KS2 Carol Concert: 2:45pm, 18th December

Parent Helpers – we are always looking for parents who are willing to come in and help in school – whether volunteering in class, listening to readers, or offering specific skills. It may be that you don't wish to work with the children directly, but would be happy to help with a bit of gardening, painting or tidying – it takes a lot of hands to make a school work well – so any offers of help are much appreciated!

And finally...

I'm delighted to tell you that Mrs. Holland gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Wednesday – Mum and baby are both doing very well! Many congratulations to Mrs. and Mr. Holland!
Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher