

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



April 2018

Dear All,

April is a funny month in schools, as half of it 'disappears' into the Easter holiday. That's not to say that we haven't jammed the other half full of exciting opportunities for the children... We've already seen our pupils visiting farms, feeding animals, hosting a Viking warrior, learning to build fires, cooking stews, and even creating plans for a rocket suited to the stresses of outer space! All part of the fun at Leeming...

The Reception children had a great day at Monk Park Farm – I've already been shown some amazing writing about the "cute and fluffy guinea pigs" and the "hungry lambs"! The Bumblebees and Ladybirds are clearly really enthused. Many thanks to our parent and governor helpers who braved the cold and rain and helped out – I understand that it brightened up later and everyone got to go on the giant slide!

In Key Stage 1, the children have been very busy too. They've been studying life cycles in Science - watching the children's faces as they released 'their' butterflies into the wild was a treat! They now have a tank of tadpoles that they are monitoring closely too. In English, they've been busy with Traditional Tales. There's been some great writing about the story of the smallest hero going on. Meanwhile, in Woodpeckers, it seems that the children have received a rather mysterious letter from the giant at the top of the beanstalk. This has totally messed up Mrs. Holland's plans for the children's English lessons, as the pupils are adamant that they need to write a letter in reply...

Meanwhile, a Viking visitor to Key Stage 2 held the children spellbound with tales of the past – their weapons (including the infamous battle axe), way of life, and the laws of the land under Danelaw. I'm told that he demonstrated 'hacking' and 'slashing' and 'leg biting' (no pupils were hurt in the making of this display...) and that they named their swords. I've been discussing what the children can remember and they are full of information! Here's a few snippets from our discussions. "He told us all about their gods – like the story of Loki falling in love with the fire giant. They had a baby who was a serpent, who was thrown into the deepest darkest seas." "Their other child Hela, was despised by Odin and was thrown into the depths of Hell, she is half monster and half girl." "And don't forget their other child was a wolf! The wolf got bigger, stronger and fiercer and was tied up by special dwarf chains, from which he kept escaping!". "We did loads of acting and everyone got to dress up!". "It was really good because he showed us how they dressed, and what all their clothes were made from." "They could skin wolves for them to use their skins for tents and food." "It was awesome!"...enough said I think!

Here's a few pictures of what we've been up to!



'LORIC' – you may hear some interesting characters mentioned at home over the coming months – Laura Leadership, Ollie Organisation, Raj Resilience, Izzy Initiative and Charlie Communication! These are all part of the 'LORIC family'. LORIC is a project that we'll be running across school to extend and develop these key skills in our pupils. Learning 'how to learn' and how to use these skills is vital in helping the children to develop into individuals who are able to access all the knowledge we teach on a daily basis. Keep an eye out on See-Saw and Tapestry for evidence of these skills in action. We're particularly focussing on 'Communication' this term – please celebrate examples of good communication with your children – be that spoken, written, dramatic or any other form!

Sports Clubs – there has been exceptionally high uptake (which is great!) for our clubs. I'm pleased to let you know that, as a result, we will be re-running these again after half term – watch this space.

Car Park Safety – another reminder to all to please *not* use the car park as a thoroughfare or for dropping off children etc. We have had a number of children walking up the main car park at start and end of school, and parents bringing cars down to drop pupils off near the entrance. Please park outside of the school car park, and only use *pedestrian* access to the school for the safety of all our children.

See Saw – a brief encouragement to parents to check their 'See Saw' notifications as regularly as possible. There are hundreds of posts to See Saw every week from across our classes; teachers and pupils spend a lot of time sharing their learning with you and the children are always keen to see whether parents have 'liked' or commented on the posts. This is a lovely way to partner with the children's school experience – I hope you enjoy the process!

Internet Access and Social Media – please can we strongly advise parents that primary aged children should not be accessing social media, especially if this is unsupervised. We are aware that a number of our children are in Whatsapp groups, on Facebook, Musically, Instagram etc. and are accessing these late at night. This is not good for children's wellbeing (especially around sleep), and can expose them to safeguarding risks. For more information, please see the e-safety pages of our website.

Sleep – this links to another reminder – to please encourage your children to have an early bedtime! This is particularly important for our Y6s in the run up to SATs in a couple of weeks – but all children need lots of rest if they are to thrive in school. Thank you for your support.

RAF 100 – a quick note to say that the last week of this half term will be 'RAF 100 Week' – we will be devoting ourselves to celebrating what makes us special as a service community, and learning about the history and work of the RAF. We're even planning on getting the children to be taken through basic training 'drill' by the SWO! More information to follow.

Communication and Ping – please can all parents note that the school text message service will soon be entirely discontinued and replaced with 'School Ping'. This will therefore be our only method for text based communications, letters etc. To get the best out of this, please download the School Ping app to your phone – this will give you instant, real time information from the school. If anyone has any issues with the process, please contact the office.

Reading – a plea to all parents to read with your children at home each night. This applies to ALL ages. There is a vast amount of research that shows that this is a massive factor in improving children's learning and life chances. If you can't afford time to do this *and* the homework tasks, please prioritise the reading. In some classes, only 3 or 4 pupils have read with parents in the last week; please help us to help your children by spending this time with them. Also - keep an eye out for the Reading Competition coming up for Y3/4, all based on the world cup!

Breakfast Club – information re: the Y6 SATs breakfast club will be sent separately, but a quick reminder that this is on offer – Y6 children are welcome to come along to school a bit early to settle in, relax, enjoy a piece of toast (or even a sausage sandwich if they're lucky!) and get ready for their SATs later on.

Snacks – please do not send your children with cereal bars or similar for snack; please only allow them to bring fruit in. Thank you.

EYFS Activity Packs – a reminder to parents that the Activity Packs are to be returned each Monday please, so that they can be updated and changed. Many thanks.

Sports Relief Thanks – many thanks to all who donated for Sports Relief; I can't give you an exact figure on the amount raised since many donated directly, but there was a great level of participation!

Free Lunches – a reminder to parents that all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 qualify for free school meals. (Parents of pupils in all years may also qualify for free school meals if they are in receipt of certain benefits - please ask at the office if you wish to find out more). Our lunches are freshly prepared on site by Mrs. Taylor and follow a great menu. However, if our child does not like the menu offering one day, other options, including a jacket potato or a sandwich and salad are available (please notify the office in advance). We would encourage all parents to take up school meals, especially when these are free for so many pupils – it's saving your time and money – to coin a phrase, 'every little helps'!

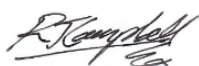
AED – many of you will recall a fundraising drive a while ago to raise money to purchase a defibrillator for school and community use. We are delighted to let you know that this is now all sorted and the device is available on the side of the school, by the main reception entrance. The code is available from the main guard room.

Parents' Survey – many thanks on behalf of the school for all the responses to our parent survey – the findings have been considered by the governors and they were really positive. As always, we will look for development areas, and, if anyone does have concerns about anything either covered in the survey or any other matter, we would encourage you to come in and talk with us – we operate an open door policy. I'm so pleased that parents feel we are serving our children well – I personally know how hard every member of staff at the school works, and it is lovely to know that this is recognised and appreciated by you. Thank you for sharing this feedback.

And Finally...

I was walking down the corridor the other day and one of our Y1 pupils grabbed my jacket sleeve most earnestly and said "I want to tell you something Grandpa..." – clearly, the stress of headship at Leeming must be taking its toll!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher

