

# Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



November 2021

Dear All,

Welcome back to the second half of Autumn term. I'm hopeful that you've all had your PTCs now, and have had a good chance to discuss with the teachers how your child has settled into their new year group – or, indeed, their new school. A particular welcome to all our new families that have joined the school over the last few weeks – it's great to have you as part of the Leeming community. As always, we are here if you have any questions, we'd be happy to help.

This newsletter will serve as a bit of a summary of last half term, and will look ahead at some of the special and exciting events planned for the next few weeks (COVID permitting). I would encourage all parents to ensure that you are linked in to your class's See Saw or Tapestry accounts, as this is where you'll keep up to date with photos and videos personal to your child's class.

One of the biggest highlights of last half term was that we've managed to go ahead with our first residential at Low Mill since COVID began. This was no mean feat in terms of logistics and organisation, and I'm very grateful to Mr. Fenn, Mrs. Holme and Miss Dickson who staffed this – also to Mrs. Scott and Mr. Fenn for organising everything. The trip was fantastic, the pupils absolutely thrived on the challenge and the chance to build so many skills beyond the classroom that support their learning and personal development. We climbed hills, navigated in the dark, explored watery caves, clambered up and down waterfalls, discovered fossils, learned about geology, hung off abseil lines and ate our body weight in warming grub! The children had a great time, and I hope it will live in their memories for many years to come – I still recall my Primary school residential – the first time I abseiled – planting a seed for something I love to this day.



Of course, the other classes have been busy too with their learning, and with some lovely experiences and adventures. We had a fantastic, whole school 'Skip to be Fit' day in which all the children took part and built their stamina and skipping skills (I even managed a few rotations – in spite of having two left feet!). Skylarks have been studying citizenship and undertook a litter pick recently and Nightingales have had a lovely autumn walk. Looking ahead, there are plans for a trip to Thorpe Perrow for KS1 and a Science enrichment day at Bedale High School for Year 4!

**Kit and Clothing** – a few reminders here please:

- Please can all children have their **PE kit** in school all week – we've had lots of issues with missing kit etc, which becomes harder to manage as the weather gets colder
- All children should bring **coats** to school please – even if it's warmish in the morning, weather turns quickly in Autumn and we don't want to send children out into the damp and cold in nothing but a jumper.
- EYFS children need **wellies** in school please, from now on – we want them to access the outside regularly, so they need to keep their feet warm and dry! Y1 need them on Fridays for Forest Schools too!
- All clothing should be **labelled** please – this really helps keep track of things!

**Remembrance** – we hope to be taking part in Remembrance activities in the coming week – in particular the station parade, and a few of our pupils will be attending the Ripon Cathedral Service (as readers), which will be live streamed back to school. For the Cathedral service, the organisers are asking for photos of either children with their serving parent or guardian (in uniform), or pictures of a relative who fought for our country in the World Wars/more recent conflicts. If you would like to contribute one of these, please send them in with your child before next Tuesday when they will be collected by our Service Pupils' Champion.

**Active Playtimes** – we are pleased to be relaunching our great playground initiatives, with the help of a dedicated team of Y5/6 leaders! At playtimes, there will be 3 groups of students working to ensure all the children have a great time. We have selected Y5/6:

- **Sports Mentors** – who run and referee games on the dedicated sports area.
- **CHIPS** – Children Helping In Problem Solving – who support pupils (particularly younger ones) with fun activities and equipment (hoops, beanbags etc.) and are there to encourage building friendships and spotting those who might be a bit lonely.
- **Playground DJs** – who curate the song list and keep the music playing during playtimes, offering plenty of opportunities to dance the day away!

We also have a lovely quiet area in our recently redesigned Sensory Garden, where children can sit and chat or read with one another.

**Snacks** – children in KS2 are welcome to bring snacks for playtime, but please these must be healthy – fruit (fresh or dried) is ideal. Please don't send in chocolate, marshmallow bars, sweets etc. Ideally, please avoid cereal bars too, as these often drift dangerously close to sweet treats...

**Reading Eggs** – a reminder that all children have access to Reading Eggs and that this forms a key part of our homework. The activities and reading texts on this platform are tailored to your children's age and stage – please ensure that they are accessing this regularly, and reading daily!

**Can you help us?** - we would really like help with the following:

- **Reading Volunteers** – could you spare 20-30minutes, 2 or 3 times a week to listen to some of our pupils read? Reading to an adult is such an important part of a child's learning, but obviously a teacher struggles to listen 1:1 to 30 children on a regular basis. We'd love your help – if you could help us by being a volunteer, even just once a week, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mrs. Wiltshire ([nwiltshire@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:nwiltshire@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk)) Training can be provided if you lack confidence!
- **Co-opted Governors** – we currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a co-opted governor. This does not have to be a parent, though it could be. Our governors are a great team who help lead the school and oversee the 'big picture' decisions – if you would be interested in joining our team, or know someone who would be, please contact myself or our Chair, Cian Gilbey ([cofg@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:cofg@leeming-raf.n-yorks.sch.uk)) for a discussion about what this could involve.

**Children in Need** – 19<sup>th</sup> of November is Children in Need – some classes will be doing individual activities to celebrate this and raise some money. In addition, all pupils are invited to add something 'spotty' to their uniform (ears, handkerchiefs, dotty t-shirt decorations etc.) on this day, and bring in a donation. (Please note, it is not a dressing up / own clothes day.)

**COVID** – please find, attached to this message, a letter from the North Yorkshire public health team. They make clear that COVID is still a very real issue and that the reintroduction of more stringent measures might still be required. Please engage with regular testing and follow all the national and local public health advice. The high absence levels (in both pupils and staff) last term show how virulent this disease still is, and the significant impact it is still having on all our lives.

**Deployments and Postings** – a reminder to please notify us asap of any potential changes to family circumstances – whether someone is going away for a deployment, on a short course away from home, or if you are moving. The sooner we know about these things the better we can plan to support the children. Our thanks to the RAF for the provision of some great Doodle Packs which our Service Pupils Support Worker (Mrs. Niblett) can use with our children when their parents are away.

**Christmas Dates** – subject to COVID restrictions allowing (and this is a big caveat), we hope very much to be going ahead with some exciting Christmas events, so please put the following dates in your diaries:

- **Reception and Y1 Nativity** – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, morning (timing TBC)
- **Christmas Jumper Day (and Christmas Lunch)** – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- **KS2 Carol Service** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, afternoon (timing TBC, likely 2pm)

We hope very much to be able to invite parents to our Nativity and Carol Service, and will keep you informed.

#### **And Finally...**

A huge thank you for the incredible generosity you have shown in the Harvest donations for the Hambleton Food Bank. There are hundreds of tins, packets, sauces, boxes and jars gathered in the hall. What a wonderful way to bless those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you all.

Best regards,



Rob Campbell  
Headteacher

