



End of Year Newsletter

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 Bill Quay Primary School

18th July 2025

The summer term this year has been unusually short at only 11 weeks duration, but it has been an incredibly busy one with lots going on in and around school. There have been many highlights, such as our VE Day Celebrations in early May, 'Sports Week' in June and the annual highlight of the Year 6 leavers' show this week. Behind the scenes, we have been busy preparing to open our Nursery and look forward to welcoming our youngest pupils into a brand new and stimulating setting in September. As you will be aware, there are some staffing changes for the new school year. We bid a fond farewell to Mr Tannahill today, who is leaving us to further his career at a school in Newcastle, and are delighted to welcome Miss Ferguson (Year 3) and Mrs Tully (who will work with Mrs Cutler in Year 4) to our teaching staff in September. We would like to congratulate Miss Jordison on her forthcoming wedding and look forward to welcoming her back to school as Mrs Wright. A round up of school news follows, and this just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday filled with some quality family time. We look forward to seeing you when the children return to school on **Tuesday 2nd September.**

Mrs T Devine

OPAL

OPAL play continues to go from strength to strength and pupils now have a fabulous array of zones in which to play in at lunch time. This term, we were fortunate to have some volunteers from Nissan come into school, and you will have no doubt spotted the new sheds and role play resources on the yards that they helped construct. We are constantly developing new play zones and have some very exciting ones launching in the new school year. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate resources - they are much appreciated.



Summer Fayre

We had a super variety of attractions at the summer fayre this year, including balloon modelling and a range of exotic animals to handle and learn more about. A special thank you to those in our school community who generously gave their time to support on the stalls. We raised a very impressive £1,340!



Music



This has been another very full year of musical activities for all our children, both within lessons and in our extra-curricular activities. All our classes have done lots of wonderful singing, and have played a wide range of instruments, including both tuned and untuned percussion, djembe drums, samba instruments, penny whistles, recorders and ukuleles. We've had some excellent compositions and improvisations from the classes, and our pupils are making great progress in understanding musical notation as well.

Our spring music showcase was superb, and saw more than half of KS2 participating on the big stage. It was a first official performance for our Bill Quay Brass Band, which saw twelve pupils playing cornets, tenor horns, baritone horns and trombones in an ensemble. It's been very exciting hearing brass instruments being played again in school, and we're looking forward to seeing how this develops next year. Our guitarists and pianists have also performed beautifully throughout the year, and we hope that all of our Y6 instrumentalists will be able to continue with their playing after leaving Bill Quay.

Our choir has shown amazing commitment to practising on Fridays after school, and showcased their beautiful and confident singing in their support of our Y6 show this week. We have some fabulous singers at Bill Quay, and are looking forward to welcoming keen singers from Y2 into our choir from September as we lose our extremely talented Y6 contingent!

We also have some budding rappers - our Y5 class worked together to create a rap based on the themes of Friendship and Sport, and this won an Award from the Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership. A group of Y5/6 pupils performed the rap on the big stage in July in front of hundreds of people and we were extremely proud of them.

It's exciting to see our pupils developing into skilled and proficient musicians and singers right from the youngest to the oldest - but even more exciting is seeing so many happy, smiling faces as they sing and play. Well done, everyone!



Sport

Pupils have participated in a variety of different sporting events this term - please see our Summer Term edition of the Bill Quay Bulletin for more details.

The whole school enjoyed a fabulous week of sport in mid-June. Each class had the opportunity to try a range of different sporting activities such as archery, cricket, Indian dance and even a climbing wall! Our first ever colour run was spectacular fun! It was great to return to Monkton Stadium for sports day and everyone had a great time despite the weather not being particularly kind at times!

This year we took a team of 17 athletes to the Gateshead Athletics Festival. The children were all amazing and a number of them made it through to the finals of their particular discipline. We even brought home four medals! Well done, everyone.



Year 6 Show

Year 6 pupils gave a fantastic performance in their end-of-year show, 'The Wonderful Land of Oz'. Their singing and acting were fantastic, and the KS2 choir provided wonderful support as the chorus. What a brilliant way to celebrate their time at Bill Quay! We couldn't be prouder of them all! 🎵



Goodbye and Good Luck

Today, we have said a fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they move on to the next exciting phase of their education. Pupils are off to a variety of secondary schools: 20 to St. Joseph's, five to Hebburn and one to Jarrow, Emmanuel, RGS and St. Thomas More. On behalf of us all, we would like to wish them good luck and every success as they continue on their educational journey.



Reception



Minibeasts was one of our topics this term. We really enjoyed looking for minibeasts in the garden and in the outdoor area. We particularly loved observing our caterpillars change into butterflies!

Year 1



Year 1 have had lots of fun this term! We have really enjoyed being outside lots and planting our own plants in Science. If you keep your eye out, you might see our sunflowers bloom over the holidays.

Year 2



As part of our seaside topic, Year 2 went to the beach at South Shields. We had lots of fun playing on the sand and were even brave enough to take a dip in the sea - it was freezing cold! Finally, we had an ice-cream before setting off back to school.

Year 3



Year 3 enjoyed a fascinating workshop from Nissan, during which we learned all about Japanese culture and traditions. We listened to stories, designed our own Pokemon character, created ideas for future cars and even designed our own Daruma doll.

Year 4



Year 4 recently enjoyed a fantastic field trip to North Shields. We travelled across the river on the Shields Ferry then explored the Fish Quay area. We saw one of the old wooden dollies that the area is famous for and chatted to a fisherman who has worked on the boats for over 50 years! We even got to see some of the langoustines and other fish that had been landed that morning, before a closer inspection of some lobsters. We finished our trip with a well-deserved ice-cream and a hunt for sea glass along the beach.

Year 5

During this term, we have enjoyed learning about our Rivers and Mountains topic in Geography. We visited Newcastle City Library to see the different features of a river and how we can help maintain them. We discovered that humans can have a great impact how a river works and can create problems such as flooding. We were even lucky enough to ride there on a new Metro carriage.



Year 6

Using a computer-aided design software, Tinkercad, Year 6 created their own key-ring designs and then printed them using a 3D printer. I think we can all agree that they have managed to produce some fantastic key-rings!



Our PTA Facebook page has now become our official school page. Please 'like' [Bill Quay Primary School](#) and keep up to date with things happening around school.