



## Spring Newsletter

### MUSIC ACROSS SCHOOL

As usual, we've had another jam-packed musical term! Our Nursery children sang very well for an audience last week, and Reception class led the whole school in singing a song in one of our Achievement Assemblies. Year 1 have learnt how to follow dot notation to play a tune while Year 2 have learnt how to play djembe drums. KS2 pupils have been playing penny whistles, recorders and ukuleles and have also composed their own tunes this term.

As part of our Family Trees day to celebrate Chinese New Year, all pupils got the opportunity to work with a partner to compose a tune on chime bars using the pentatonic scale, and it was lovely to see older pupils working alongside the younger ones.

Our school choir had a very special trip to The Glasshouse in February, where they represented Gateshead in the North East Primary Choir of the Year competition. They sang beautifully and came second; Mrs Kitson and Mrs Messenger were extremely proud of them and we know that a lot of the audience had a tear in their eyes. Our choir members continued to work hard and sang wonderfully again this week at Heworth Grange in our Spring Music Showcase. This saw half of KS2 participate in singing, playing guitar, playing piano and playing brass instruments. It was the first performance of the year for our full brass ensemble, and they were fantastic, as were all of our performers. We loved seeing the pupils on the big stage, and are very grateful to Heworth Grange for welcoming us in to use their excellent performance facilities.



## STEM WEEK

Pupils across school enjoyed participating in a range of different activities to mark STEM Week, which had a theme of 'Curiosity: what's your question?' this year. There focus on curiosity was designed to encourage pupils to ask questions about the world around them, from space to ecosystems. In addition to live lessons and interactive workshops, pupils carried out some practical investigations. Pupils in Years 2 - 6 enjoyed a fantastic forensic workshop with a real life forensic investigator during which they were tasked with using a variety of evidence from a crime scene to identify the guilty party. It was a fabulous week and great to see so much enthusiasm for science in every classroom.



## EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Pupils have had great fun in the approach to Easter! There were some wonderfully creative eggs on show during our egg decoration days. At our Easter Fun Day, pupils enjoyed a range of activities such as biscuit decorating, bowling and an egg and spoon obstacle course.



## GOODBYE TO MR STOTT

After 25 years of service at Bill Quay Primary, Mr Stott will leave us at Easter. We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement.



## STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to say that Mrs Lennon welcomed a beautiful baby boy last month. We warmly welcome Mrs Lawson, who will cover Mrs Lennon's maternity leave. Finally, we would like to welcome back Mrs Vaughan, who returned from her maternity leave last month and is now working in Nursery.

## RECEPTION

Children in Reception class have been learning about animals and growing plants this term. We have really enjoyed playing in our role play area which is set up as a garden centre. We visited Red Fox garden World where we looked at the plants then enjoyed cake and a drink in the cafe.



## YEAR 1

Year 1 children enjoyed a visit to Beamish Museum, where they took part in an infant classroom workshop and experienced what school life was like 100 years ago. Everyone had a great day!



## YEAR 2

Pupils had a great time during Science Week. They joined a live lesson where they experimented with what helps certain fruits float or sink. They also used clues and teamwork to solve a crime. Well done, Year 2!



## YEAR 3

Nissan visited Year 3 to deliver a 'Lesson in a Box' workshop. Pupils enjoyed completing the activities from the box including building their own cars and setting themselves goals for the year.



## YEAR 4

At the Centre for Life, pupils had a great time discovering what conditions in Antarctica are like. They tested materials in a real lab to determine what would be best to use there.



## YEAR 5

Year 5 had an excellent day learning all about the National life in the UK. They were able to identify prominent landmarks around the country, explore the key skills needed for various jobs and careers, budget for a BBQ and how to buy, manufacture and sell a product to maximise profits.



## YEAR 6

Year 6 had a great time at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, where they took part in a football-themed session which was planned and delivered by Year 13 BTEC students. The children developed their skills of dribbling, shooting and passing the football before taking part in a mini tournament. Not only was it a brilliant sporting event, but it was also a great opportunity to visit the school which many of our Year 6 class will be joining in September.

