



End of Year Newsletter



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Bill Quay Primary School

17th July 2026

Dear parents and carers,

It is with mixed emotions that today I bid a fond farewell to our wonderful school community that I have had the privilege to be part of for the past 3 decades. I know I leave you with a dedicated team of staff who will continue to strive to do the very best they can for every child in our school and ensure that they always feel part of the Bill Quay Family. This lovely school will always hold such a special place in my heart and I wish all our families the very best for the future. Thank you so much for all the cards and gifts.

Wishing you all a super summer break,

Mrs Devine

A round up of school news follows. We look forward to seeing you when the children return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

Sport

There has been a variety of sporting events happening this term including a Year 3/4 cricket festival and the annual bowling contest against St. Albans at Pelaw Community Bowling Club.

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 golf, yoga, cricket and a climbing wall! Sports day at Monkton Stadium was a hot one but everyone had a great time despite the heat.



VEX

Our VEX123 and VEX Go teams have enjoyed super success this term. The VEX123 team were narrowly pipped to the post in their event, but were recognised for their outstanding teamwork. The VEX Go team received not only the highest score for autonomous coding, but overall highest score at their event!

Music



It's been another jam-packed musical term at Bill Quay! All classes have done lots of beautiful singing, and lots of different instruments have been played. Nursery children have enjoyed their singing and have performed some songs this week at their graduation ceremony. Reception Class have made music inspired by Dinosaurs and The Planets, while Year 1 explored musical beanstalks and used tuned handbells to create rainbow tunes. Year 2 learnt lots of songs on the theme of 'On a Journey' and then went to The Glasshouse to sing them with a live band! Year 3 have continued to play penny whistles and also went to The Glasshouse to take part in the 'Summer Sing'. They sang two songs by themselves on the stage and were excellent performers!

Year 4 have learnt to play Samba instruments this term and also visited The Glasshouse to listen to a concert by the Royal Northern Symphonia called 'Sounds of the Deep'. Year 5 have used djembe drums to explore polyrhythms and have also learnt how to compose a Rap. Year 6 have done their final composition work and have been practising hard for their school show, which they have performed this week for everyone.

Our school choir has performed at Hebburn Comprehensive School this term in a musical showcase alongside another primary school as well as the secondary pupils and were amazing! They have been a fantastic support to our Y6 class in our end-of-year show too. Our guitarists, brass and piano players have also continued to work hard and develop their playing, and two pupils have passed piano exams this term as well. We hope that all our Y6 singers and musicians will continue to enjoy music when they move up to secondary school and beyond!

Bowling Competition

Year 6 pupils competed against St. Albans in the annual bowling contest at Pelaw Community Bowling Club. It was a very close contest with both teams winning three rinks each, but St. Albans narrowly won with a bonus point for a higher score. The Gateshead mayor presented the medals and trophy.



Summer Fayre

We had a super variety of attractions at the summer fayre this year, including inflatables 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 an impressive £1,200!

Year 6 Show

Year 6 pupils gave a fantastic performance in their end-of-year show, 'Cinderella Rockerfella'. 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!

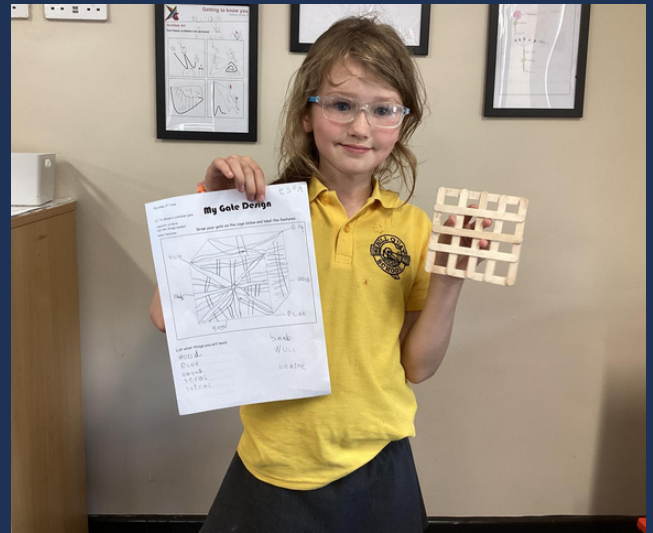


Reception



Reception class has enjoyed learning about minibeasts this term. They found lots of minibeasts in the school garden, planted flowers to attract bees and butterflies and visited West Boldon Lodge to do pond dipping and den building.

Year 1



Year 1 have loved designing and making a special crate to help an injured penguin get safely to the vets as part of this term's DT unit. They explored different materials and simple design features to ensure their penguin could travel comfortably, breathe easily and still move around.

Year 2



Year 2 recently went to the beach at South Shields as part of their 'Seaside' topic. Despite a windy day, they had a fabulous time playing on the sand and were even brave enough to go for a paddle in the sea - it was icy cold! Before heading back to school, they enjoyed a play in the park and an ice-cream.

Year 3



This term, Year 3 enjoyed taking part in a sculpture workshop, making birds out of chicken wire and tissue paper. They also took part in an enterprise workshop during which they learned about their local neighbourhood and designed a house whilst sticking to a budget.

Year 4



Year 4 took part in 'The Linking Project', a national programme that creates class links between schools. The class was paired with a Year 4 class from Heaton, Newcastle, and before meeting for the first time, pupils created bunting introducing themselves to send to each other. They met at the Laing Art Gallery, where they spent a lovely day playing a range of gallery games with their new friends and working on some shared artwork.

Year 5

Year 5 worked with staff from the Northumbrian Rivers Trust this term. They had a classroom session to discover all about the features of a river and the water cycle. They also had an excellent day at Bulby Wood, where they learned all about the river's ecosystem and were able to find a great range of species in the water. They completed their day by taking a walk to the top of the hill to view the wider valley and hill fort.



Year 6



Year 6 had a fantastic residential at Newby Wiske near Northallerton. They challenged themselves to climb high, zip down the zipwire, fence and work as a team to problem solve, plus many other things. It was a fabulous few days!

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 different secondary schools this year: Heworth, St. Joseph's, Hebburn, Park View and Jarrow. On behalf of us all, we would like to wish them good luck and every success as they continue on their educational journey.



We also bid a fond farewell to two members of staff today. After almost 25 years service, firstly in the Bill Quay Pre-School and latterly in Reception class, Mrs McVittie is retiring. We thank her for her long and dedicated service and wish her well. Miss McCulloch is moving on to pastures new and we wish her all the very best for the future. She has been a valued member of the Reception team and her creativity and sense of fun will be sorely missed by everyone.



Last, but certainly not least, we say goodbye to Mrs Devine. After an incredible 34 years at our school, 22 as Head Teacher, she is retiring, having dedicated her entire teaching career to the community she joined as a newly qualified teacher. Throughout her time here, she has led the school with kindness, determination and unwavering commitment, guiding staff and pupils through both the happiest moments and the most challenging times, including the Covid pandemic. Mrs Devine has always brought a wonderful sense of fun to school life and is renowned for her competitive spirit, particularly when it comes to sport, with gymnastics and netball holding a special place in her heart. She is someone staff have always been able to turn to for advice, guidance and reassurance, and her approachable, caring nature has made a lasting difference to so many. Countless pupils have developed a love of history through her inspiring lessons, often spending the week asking, "When is Mrs Devine teaching us history?" While she may never have mastered computers and is forever searching for a misplaced pair of glasses or a forgotten cup, these endearing traits have only added to the warmth and humour that have made her such a treasured member of our Bill Quay Family. We thank Mrs Devine for her remarkable dedication, leadership and friendship over the past 34 years, and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.