



NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Dear parents, carers and families,

After a particularly long and busy first half term, I would like to share with you some dispatches from the teaching teams in each year group as well as some additional news and reminders.

Year 3

"We have been thrilled with how quickly the Year 3 pupils have settled in at Nook Lane since they started in September!

This half term the children in Year 3 have enjoyed their historical theme, 'Pharaoh's Promise'. Using historical artefacts found on a beach, the Year 3 pupils have investigated the past, asking questions and making inferences. They have explored life in Ancient Egypt by investigating the geographical features, historical monuments and strange traditions and artefacts. They have danced like the Egyptians, mummified tomatoes and sculpted their very own clay canopic jars. Children have written non-chronological reports sharing all they have learned about life in Ancient Egypt. These have been published beautifully using their best handwriting and will be displayed in the classroom. To end the half term and celebrate all of the hard work the children have done over the past 7 weeks, we travelled back in time with 'The History Van' which arrived to take the children on an exciting journey to ancient times through a series of workshops including role play, jewellery making and Egyptian dancing! We enjoyed a fun-packed day of Egyptian antics.

In maths the children have been mastering the place value of numbers up to 1000. They are beginning to tackle addition and subtraction which they will continue with next half term. The children have also developed their big ball skills in P.E. in preparation for a benchball festival at Bradfield School. This half term the children have been introduced to the Spanish language and have been learning how to greet each other.

The R.E. learning has focused on Hinduism and we visited the Hindu Mandir and Community Centre in Sheffield. For all of the children (and adults!) this was their first trip to a Hindu Temple so there was much excitement and curiosity as we were unsure of what to expect. We all had a fantastic day and learned so much. To end our learning, together we celebrated the festival of Diwali by making Diwali lamps, cards and Rangoli patterns."

The Year 3 Team

Year 4

“The Year 4s have made a fantastic start to the school year. We have been impressed by how well they have settled into their new classes and demonstrated a superb attitude to their learning.

Our Greek theme has been a real hit with the children. In English, they have written adventurous and intriguing myths developing their use of adjectives and noun phrases. Also, we have explored different types of Japanese poetry, reading haiku, tanka and senryu poems as inspiration for our writing. The children have produced some super haiku for entry to the Nooker Prize later next half-term.

In theme, we examined and questioned the imagery on Greek vases. We discovered more about Greek gods and their relationship to one another. We completed some cross-curricular work on the impact of the ancient Greeks on the western world, and wrote the diary of an ancient Greek at the Olympic Games. As a finale to the theme, we had an enjoyable Greek Day. Dressed in the most wonderful outfits for the occasion, we made Greek theatre masks and enjoyed a fabulous banquet of the finest foods.

In maths, the children have made good progress with their understanding of place value and continued to develop their addition and subtraction skills. In other areas of the curriculum, the children enjoyed programming a game using Kodu and also learnt more about the PEGI rating system. In art, the children improved their drawing skills when sketching a scene from Theseus and the Minotaur, whilst swimming and Greek dancing have kept us active during our P.E. sessions.

The whole year group were a credit to themselves when visiting the synagogue earlier in the term as part of our R.E. theme on Judaism. The pupils were full of interest and curiosity, and asked the most relevant and searching questions to help build on the work we have covered in class.

We are now looking forward to next term when we will be discovering more about the science of sound on our topic of Top of the Pops!”

The Year 4 Team

Year 5

“Everyone in Y5 has hit the ground running in Autumn 1. It has been a hectic, fun-filled, hard-working eight weeks and all the children have been amazing! The Year 5 team would like to thank every single member of Y5 for all their hard work and enthusiasm so far this year, and the parents who have supported their children superbly.

Y5 started off the year by taking ‘A Walk on the Wild Side’ and accepting the ‘Bear Grylls Challenge’, designing, developing and building a den fit for Bear Grylls himself! The children will be putting their den building expertise to the test when they reach Thornbridge. We had some new additions to Y5 in week 3 of the autumn term when our caterpillars arrived! The children observed them closely over the next few weeks as they changed (metamorphosed) into beautiful Painted-Lady butterflies. Watching the life cycles of the butterflies complemented the children’s work on life cycles in science brilliantly. Hopefully we have a year group full of life cycle experts now!

In Literacy, the Y5s have been inspired to write some tension-building narratives based on the opening chapter of ‘A Monster Calls’. The cliff-hangers in the story left

the children “chomping at the bit” to get writing and the work they produced left us on the edge of our seats! They also became budding poets, analysing sonnets and composing their own to enter into the annual Nooker Prize poetry competition. Maths has been a whirlwind of place value, addition and subtraction with lots of problem solving and reasoning skills on show. Next up is multiplication and division so get practising those time tables, Y5!

In our R.E. work we have been learning all about Sikhism and the amazing commitments Sikhs show to their faith. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit the Sikh Gurdwara in Sheffield in the third week of the half term. We all learned so much from Professor Dhillon and were shown amazing hospitality from everyone at the Gurdwara. We were even invited to the langar hall where snacks and drinks were provided for us! Incredible generosity!

A final ‘well-done’ to all the Y5 children for a cracking start to the year. All the staff who are kindly volunteering their time to take the year group to Thornbridge are extremely excited having seen how well all the children have settled into life in Y5.”

The 5 Team

Year 6

“What an excellent start the children have made to their time in Year 6! This term’s theme is called An Important Announcement – which refers to Neville Chamberlain’s speech at the outbreak of World War Two. Already, the children have produced some very impressive writing – an instructional text on how to make a gas mask and a range of ‘thank you’ letters. These included one addressed to a relative of a Year 6 pupil for visiting Nook Lane to talk to the children about their war-time experiences as a child.

During theme lessons pupils have been making model Anderson shelters and World War II Blitz blackout silhouettes using a graduated wash as a background. The visit to Kelham Island was a huge success with the children being a real credit, as always. What was striking was the depth of knowledge that the children demonstrated throughout the day, showing how well they have understood and remembered the topic. They are looking forward to the Year 6 V.E. day party (30th November) where they will be performing their jive dance moves that they have been practising. The pupils have enjoyed a series of sessions from the Red Cross learning about migration and empathising with refugees fleeing war-torn countries.

In maths children have really improved their place value skills and many are now very confident with long multiplication and long division after grappling with some difficult concepts.

The Year 6 children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit to the Medina Mosque. Our helpful guide, Zahid, gave a very insightful presentation and tour, with regular opportunities for children to ask questions, which helped to put the learning that has taken place in R.E. on Islam into context. The children were impeccably behaved and respectful and their wonderful behaviour was commented on by Zahid and other adults at the mosque.”

The Y6 Team

INTEGRATED RESOURCE

“What a wonderfully busy start to the year! We have been delighted to welcome six new children into our school and we have been very busy getting to know each other and learning about our new classes, friends and teachers.

Children have been involved in lots of transitional work involving new classrooms, new people and new systems. We have spent time revisiting work systems, structures and routines within school. The children have been really enjoying our interventions about thoughts and feelings and have begun to develop strategies to help manage and regulate emotions. We have practised applying these skills in different contexts.

Our weekly Sensory Workshop sessions in the hall have helped to develop our skills in interaction and working with others involving waiting, turn-taking, listening and negotiating alongside investigating our sensory sensitivities.

In Maths children have been learning about place value. They have been recognising the place value of each digit in a range of numbers and have been involved in representing and estimating numbers using different representations. Pupils have enjoyed comparing and ordering numbers and using place value and number facts to solve a range of problems.

In English this half term we have been learning about a range of animals and their habitats. Children have developed a fact file linking our learning together and have really enjoyed filming a wildlife documentary in the style of Steve Backshall where they have used drama to report on their findings.”

Mrs Taylor and the IR team

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Mr Walsh led a very special assembly on National Poetry Day recently. The children and adults enjoyed reading, reciting and hearing a wide range of poetry from classical poems to tricky tongue-twisters. The children were then invited to vote for their favourite poems and to have a go at composing their own poems.

We are looking forward to reading the children’s entries at our forthcoming Nooker Prize poetry competition and announcing the winners in another special assembly next half term.

BOOK FAIR

Many thanks to everyone who supported the recent book fair in school during parents’ evenings. The total sales amounted to just over £1000. A proportion of the proceeds will be given back to the school as commission to buy more books for the children.

FRIENDS OF NOOK LANE HALLOWEEN DISCO

Much fun was had on Monday at the disco organised by Friends of Nook Lane. 159 children attended the disco and had a great time in their imaginatively ghoulish costumes! Many thanks to Friends of Nook Lane for organising the disco and for the large number of parent/carer helpers (18!) who gave up their evening to support the event. The total money raised was an impressive £540. Thank you again to our seasoned FoNL members for all that they are doing for the school.

We would like to draw your attention to a forthcoming Friends of Nook Lane meeting which will take place on Tuesday 13th November at 7.30 p.m. at Minnie's (Rose and Crown). It would be a great opportunity to come and find out more about what FoNL do in school.

Future FoNL events include a film night on Tuesday 27th November and a Christmas fair on Thursday 13th December. More details to follow.

PARENT VIEW REMINDER

We always appreciate your feedback about Nook Lane. It is lovely, of course, to receive positive feedback but we also listen to - and learn from - constructive comments about how we can further improve. Parents/carers can register their views on the Ofsted-linked Parent View by completing a short survey about the school. Thank you.

UNIFORM

We like to see all children wear their school uniform with pride every day and we really appreciate your support in ensuring that the children continue to wear their uniform for all of their time in school (except of course, for arranged non-uniform-type events). We have four remaining deadlines over the course of the academic year for ordering new uniform:

Friday 21st December 2018
Friday 15th February 2019
Friday 29th March 2019
Friday 21st June 2019

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The cost for lunches is £10 per week and £70 for the half term leading up to Christmas. If you are paying on a weekly basis, please ensure that payment is made on Mondays. Lunches can be paid for with cash or by cheques made payable to Sheffield City Council. Please also remember that children need to book school meals or bring packed lunches on a week-by-week basis and not on a day-by-day arrangement. Please note that the first week of term begins on Week 1 on the new lunch menu which you should all receive today via Parent Mail. The new menu will also be available on the school website.

TELEPHONE ISSUES

I just want to again acknowledge the difficulties that we have experienced with the telephones which has meant that the school has only had one phone line open in the past few weeks. This was referenced in some responses in our most recent parent/carer questionnaire. I can assure you all that it has been a source of acute frustration for us as well as for parents and carers. The work has now (finally) been completed. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

WHOLE-SCHOOL STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Following tomorrow's training day, there are 2 remaining training days (of the allotted five) for this academic year:

Monday June 3rd 2019
Wednesday July 24th 2019

After a well-deserved break for pupils and staff, we will be looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 5th November.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis