

# NOOK LANE NEWSLETTER

## Issue 4 (February 2022)

### NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S. Arbon-Davis

Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Chadbourne

Assistant Headteacher: Ms D. Wilkinson



### ATTENDANCE (since Sept.)

Y3LB: 95.1% Y3BP: 96.2%

Y4MCM: 91% Y4CL: 93.3%

Y5SW: 94.5% Y5JT: 95.6%

Y6BH: 93.8% Y6DC: 93.2%

IR: 92.1%

**Whole-school attendance: 94%**

**(School Target: 96.6%)**

### A RELATIVELY QUIET START TO THE YEAR SO FAR...

As we started this term, we were not at all sure what to expect with the Omicron variant. Many schools in Sheffield, and within our own locality, have experienced very challenging times with high numbers of staff and pupils unable to attend school. Following a difficult time just before Christmas, we have not been as adversely affected as some schools have in 2022, so far, at any rate. That said, we do not underestimate the difficulties that will have been caused for those pupils, families and staff who have had to self-isolate, miss school or work or do additional work to support children to learn at home during this period. Well done to everyone for hanging in there!

### A FRESH LICK OF PAINT ETC.

You will have noticed that the Y3 block is in the process of having a facelift with an external new coat of paint. Over the half term break, the plan is to have the inside of these classrooms painted as well as new carpets and vinyl laid and new sink units installed. We are also expecting the replacement steps for the Y3 classrooms to be ready soon.

Further work (new ceiling tiles, replacement fire alarm, decoration, carpets, curtains/blinds etc.) is continuing in the main building currently, over half term and during the Easter holidays. School should look fantastic when everything is completed. It actually feels like a wonderful present during Nook Lane's official 50th birthday year!

## SOME REMINDERS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Y5 Thornbridge:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

**Y6 SATS:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May

**Y6 Lockerbrook:** week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> June

**Happy's Circus:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July – kindly organised by Friends of Nook Lane

**Nook Lane's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May – also, kindly organised by FoNL.

## PARENT GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

A few weeks ago, an email was sent out asking for an expression of interest from anyone who would like to join the Governing Board as a parent governor. One parent, Kelly Hood, applied and has been appointed to the GB. We look forward to working with Kelly.

Please see her supporting statement below:

Hi I'm Kelly Hood, mother to a son in class Y3PB.

*I would love the opportunity to become parent governor as I am incredibly passionate about our school. I am super enthusiastic when it comes to all areas of our children's learning & wellbeing and keen to provide a stable link between the parents and the way the school is run. I feel it is incredibly important that the parents have a clear voice and can have their points and views put across whenever possible.*

*Since my son started school at Stannington Infants I have always put myself forward for school roles. Having joined the PFA at Stannington Infants and taking on the role of secretary, I soon learnt a lot about how the school is run and took on an active role of organising school events and fundraising for school supplies. Now in Nook Lane I have taken on an active role with the school's PTA and am enjoying helping plan fun events and crucial fundraising for the upcoming school year. I am a keen organiser, having set up the year groups' Facebook and WhatsApp channels. I am a strong communicator, a good listener, with skills crucial to my career as a wedding planner and blogger. As such, I am highly organised and efficient. If I am made Parent Governor I will make sure that all views are heard and you will find me approachable when you, as parents, have an issue that needs to be raised.*

*I believe I can do a great job, I am fair, level headed and enjoy the process of decision making. Nook Lane is a brilliant school and I want to make sure that I can help in whatever way I can for the next 4 years.*

## **KNOWLE TOP APPEAL**

Many of our children and their siblings currently attend Knowle Top (or have previously attended) so we have been happy to support their local campaign by arranging an enjoyable *non-uniform* day in school this week to further raise publicity for this important community cause.

## **INTEGRATED RESOURCE BULLETIN FROM MRS SHEPHERD AND THE IR TEAM**

Another super half term within the IR, with lots of hard work and fun. Our weekly baking sessions have produced many treats such as shortbread, mini pizzas and flapjack. In Zone sessions we have focused on the feeling of Happiness and what makes us happy, which has promoted lots of positivity. It has been great to watch some children start to explore (more time) within their mainstream classrooms or other children continue to thrive in their mainstream classes. Mrs Shepherd, alongside Mrs Wilkinson, has started her Trauma Informed 11 day training, which will continue until the summer. This will bring lots of resources and strategies to help support children with high anxiety.

Mrs Shepherd

## **HIGHLIGHTS THAT YEAR 3 PUPILS HAVE ENJOYED THIS HALF TERM INCLUDE:**

Continuing to develop our Spanish conversation skills. We can now ask someone their name and age and count up to 20. We also learnt about Kings Day in Spain and that children there have to wait until the 6th January before they get their presents from the 3 Wise Men.

Writing a narrative describing the night of the Great Sheffield Flood. Beginning to learn how to use speech marks, prepositions and coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.

Enjoying reading our class novel 'The Land of Roar'

Learning how to use grid method to multiply 2 digit and 1 digit number and how to draw and interpret tables, pictogram and bar charts.

Learning about the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 and investigating the Geography of our local area.

Going on a local walk of Stannington to practise using a map, identify human and physical features of our local environment and look across the valley to see where the flood water would have been.

Learning in science about different rock types by making chocolate rocks.

Investigating the properties of different rocks and deciding which one would be most appropriate to build a dam wall.

Developing our skills in hockey which we will continue next half term.

Developing, perfecting and sequencing different body shapes in gymnastics.

Discussing in RE whether or not we believe in miracles.

## HIGHLIGHTS THAT YEAR 4 PUPILS HAVE ENJOYED THIS HALF TERM INCLUDE:

Learning all about the Celts and Romans!

- Alongside studying these civilisations in History, the children have been writing their own Celt escape stories in English and exploring Roman mosaics in art.
- In maths, we have been challenging ourselves to learn short multiplication and the bus stop method of division.
- For science, we have been learning all about electricity and in RE the traditions of Judaism.
- We have had some great discussion in RSHE on the topics of fake news and internet safety.
- Ending the week on Fridays, Y4MCM have been singing their hearts out to *Lean on Me* in music and working on improving their personal best in cross country. Meanwhile, Y4CL have been greatly enjoying swimming lessons at Zest.
- In Spanish lessons, the pupils have been learning to express opinions about food. This included learning a song about ice cream and watching an episode of Peppa Pig in Spanish!

Once again, it has been a fantastic half term! We are continually impressed by how hard working and passionate the children are about their learning. Well done Year 4!

The Y4 Team

## HIGHLIGHTS THAT YEAR 5 PUPILS HAVE ENJOYED THIS HALF TERM INCLUDE:

Another good term for the Year 5s. Children continue to make great strides in their literacy through writing their dairies and non-chronological reports on the discoveries made at the Anglo-Saxon burial ground of Sutton Hoo. They have developed their use of relative clauses, whilst still using a wider range of conjunctions to build more complex sentences. In maths, the children have worked incredibly hard on their division skills and begun to use the 'bus stop' method to solve division calculations. We are now beginning to tackle fractions and are encouraged by the children's perseverance towards this demanding area of maths.

In other areas of the curriculum, the children have enjoyed their gymnastics in P.E. lessons, with Mr Thornton teaching them handstands and cartwheels for their routines. In computing, we have programmed a physical device, a Codebug, to display messages and light up its Startail. The children have engaged and shown a lovely interest in our science on lifecycles and plant reproduction. We keenly await the results of cloning our potatoes. Our history theme this term is Ruthless Raiders and the Year 5s have really enjoyed learning more about the invasion of the Anglo-Saxons. Their subsequent artwork of Anglo-Saxon clay broaches has really impressed us this half-term. They have taken considerable time and care over their work and should be very proud of the final product.

Our Religious Education question 'Why do Buddhists meditate?' has led to some very interesting and thoughtful discussions about how we can lead happy, calm and positive lives. We have enjoyed meditating in class, to help us focus and feel peaceful.

In Spanish we have been on a Monster hunt. We have learnt vocabulary for parts of the body, further developed our knowledge of nouns and adjectives in Spanish, used a bilingual dictionary to help us read Wanted posters and hunt down the monsters and finished off by drawing and describing our own monsters.

We are really proud of the efforts the children have shown this half-term and they thoroughly deserve their short break before our eagerly anticipated residential at Thornbridge. Well done Year 5s!

## HIGHLIGHTS THAT YEAR 6 PUPILS HAVE ENJOYED THIS HALF TERM INCLUDE:

- Immersing themselves in their new theme of South America.
  - The children have been on a journey of discovery in our theme lessons, learning about the human and physical features of this diverse continent and comparing what they have learned to their own experiences of the UK and Sheffield.
  - This immersion into the world of South America has filtered into our English work where we have been studying the incredible book 'The Explorer' during our reading sessions. We have then used the story as inspiration to create some wonderful descriptions of a crash landing in the Amazon rainforest in our writing sessions. In their latest piece, the children have created their own 'rainforest restaurants' with menus full of deliciously disgusting sounding meals and have then used their skills of persuasion to create adverts to get customers to visit their restaurant. The end results have been brilliant.
  - In maths, the children have been working hard on mastering fractions, decimals and percentages as well as continuing to practise their arithmetic skills. Well done to everyone who has improved their score recently!
  - Our RSHE lessons have provided a wonderful opportunity for the Y6s to discuss issues around stereotypes, gender identity and being a good citizen. The children have shown such maturity and have been so respectful when talking about these important issues. We are really proud of all of them.
- Y6 pupils have been practising questions and answers in Spanish ready to interview a celebrity or our friends in Spain, developing longer sentences involving time phrases and verbs to describe our daily routine.
- We have been lucky enough to have Miss Pinder back this half term to focus on gymnastics. The children have loved the sessions and some have been picked to attend the upcoming gymnastics competition. Good luck to those who have been selected! Our outdoor P.E. focus has been on hockey. The children have made incredible progress and they can't wait until they can play a full match!

All in all, a fabulous half term.

The Y6 Team

**JUST A REMINDER THAT THE REMAINING TRAINING DAYS FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**THE FOLLOWING TRAINING DATES HAVE BEEN AGREED WITH STANNINGTON INFANTS FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023:**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Thank you for your continued support. We hope that all staff, pupils and parents/carers enjoy the half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February after a well-deserved rest.