

# Myton Park Primary School

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## Autumn Term 1 2016

Welcome to 2016 2017 academic year. It has been wonderful seeing the children settle into their new classes and to welcome Miss Palmer to school. The children are working well and school continues to be a great place to be, thanks to the hard work of all staff and children. We look forward to seeing many more successes across school and seeing children take pride in themselves and their talents - both inside and outside of school.

The value we have been focusing on this term has been excellence - with us all thinking about what our personal level of excellence is in all aspects of life - including personal and social skills which contribute to making Myton Park the inclusive, positive environment where we hope all children can flourish.



### Class News

#### Nursery

This half term we have been talking about our homes and families. New children have settled really well and are starting to settle into the routine.

We have enjoyed reading *The Three Little Pigs* and acting out the story. We have made houses and have used puppets to retell the story.

Recently we have been talking about harvest, Autumn and the changes that happen, for example, days getting colder, hibernation and leaves falling off the trees. Lots of the children have shared their Autumn treasures with us. We are looking forward to next half term - one of our favourite times of the year and will be inviting you in to work with your child making Christmas crafts - more details will follow.

#### Reception

Reception have been very busy this half term! We have been learning all about autumn. We have learnt about hedgehogs and talked about the changes that happen in the autumn to the plants and animals around us. We saw some of these changes ourselves on our autumn walk. Thank you again to those parents who stayed to come with us. There will be another opportunity to help when we do our winter walk. This is planned to take place in January - please watch the notice board for details. We have made leaf hedgehogs and tree pictures, as well as doing writing about Autumn in our books.

In our writing we are continuing to hear, say and begin to write the sounds we hear in words. Please continue to support your child at home with this if they choose to write. Thank you for your support with their reading. The children should be changing their school free choice books at least once a week. After half term some children will begin to read in a group and will be able to change their books twice a week. Some parents asked at parents evening about writing in their reading records. Please do this to inform us how they are managing with reading at home. This does not need to be every book or every day at this point (although the children should be reading and/or sharing books with an adult every day).

In maths we have been practising counting using the numbers to 20. We have also been using the words more and less to compare different amounts. We have been learning to name and describe 2D and 3D shapes. We went on a shape walk about the school to see which we could spot.

Next half term our planned topics are bonfire night, night and day, space and Christmas. Please refer to the website to see our planned learning however this can be subject to change to be in line with the children's interest and understanding.

### **Year 1**

The children in Year 1 have settled in well into their new routines and lessons and have made a good start to this academic year. They have been learning about dinosaurs and are enjoying finding out facts. They have explored what both the term "carnivore" and "herbivores" mean and have sorted dinosaurs into these categories. In DT they have designed their own dinosaur puppet and made them using felt exploring how to join the pieces together.

### **Year 2**

We have been learning about nouns, proper nouns and adjectives. We have also been working hard on writing instructions. Learning timetables and improving our handwriting is keeping us busy.

We are really enjoying DT and making pulled dinosaur toys and tube dinosaurs. We even used them to help us write even more instructions!

### **Year 3**

Year 3 have focussed on the rainforest this half term. We have looked at rainforests from around the world, as well as features of a rainforest including rainforest layers, climate, species of animals and much more.

In English we have been learning about stories from different cultures, again focussing on the rainforest. We have also studied different myths and legends including Pandora's Box and King Midas. We have enjoyed studying Calligrams and shape poetry, focussing on ice creams, rainforests and much more.

In Maths we have focussed our learning on number, primarily place value, partitioning, addition and subtraction.

We thoroughly enjoyed performing for harvest festival, doing a gameshow highlighting the importance of food distribution around the world.

### **Year 4**

Year 4 have had a great start to the school year. We have really enjoyed learning about Rainforests. We have looked at animals and vegetation in the Rainforest, rainforest climate and layers of the rainforests. We have also learned to locate them on a world map and have compared the Amazon rainforest to Sherwood Forest. In English, we have based some of their work around rainforests and the children have written some fantastic stories, improving their spelling, punctuation and grammar.

In Maths the children have learned to add and subtract four digit numbers, understand place value and have interpreted and presented data from frequency tables, bar charts and line graphs.

### **Year 5**

We have had a fantastic start to Year 5 and are really enjoying our investigating rivers topic. We had a wonderful time on our trip to Skelton Beck and particularly enjoyed getting into the river and using our geographical field skills to investigate depth and flow. We have developed skills using maps and atlases to track local, UK and world rivers. Mrs Lester is helping us to produce some fantastic watercolour paintings of a river scene and we can't wait to bring them home.

In maths we have been working hard to develop our understanding of number, especially through using inverse and by problem solving. We are continuing to focus on learning our times tables and corresponding division facts. We have really enjoyed our PE so far this year and some of us have been proud to represent the school in tag rugby and football competitions.

We are looking forward to a very successful year.

## **Year 6**

Year 6 have made an excellent start to the year - they are all trying their best!! As part of their topic, water worlds, they have visited Skelton Beck, measured cross sections and looked at individual/rural landscapes. Back in the classroom they used their figurative language to compose poems, map cross sections and produce some stunning artwork. They have also used Binca in Art.

As part of their learning, they visited Crucial Crew where they developed their citizenship skills in workshops around anti-social behaviour, firework safety, road safety, gas and electrical safety and what to do in an emergency. During computing they have continued the theme of keeping themselves safe by focussing on e-safety.

Year 6 love reading!!! They have a Harry Potter reading area, have read War Horse and are now reading Holes. They are using reciprocal reading and inference skills to help develop their metacognition.

Their ultimate experience has to be Robin Hood - their outdoor and adventure residential. They thoroughly enjoyed all the activities including archery, canoeing, climbing, the zip wire, the giant swing, stream walk, nightline, the piranha pool, the team challenge.....!!!! It was a busy few days!!!!

## **Sports at Myton Park**

We have once again earned a Gold Award for the Sainsbury's Schools Sports (A National Programme) which recognises our commitment to ensuring the children gain from the opportunity to participate in lots of different sports both in and out of the school curriculum.

Our sports crew is now established in school for this coming year. A group of Year 6 children organise sports for the whole school at lunchtimes. We generate this work around 6 beliefs - teamwork, determination, passion, self-belief, encouragement and honesty. The year 6 work hard to develop a programme for the other children and we encourage them to embrace the values in all they do.

Some year 5 and 6 children also attended a tag rugby festival. All participants demonstrated amazing sporting attitudes. Team A made it to the final - it was an amazing close game, but unfortunately we lost.

## **Curriculum development**

We have once again been working to ensure the children have access to an exciting curriculum that stretches them to reach their potential - but giving them the opportunity to enjoy their learning and to experience a wide range of activities and opportunities.

We have once again been visited by our Dutch counterparts who continue to be impressed by our teaching of Thinking Skills. This has become an annual event - with Dutch educators asking to return with new colleagues to help develop their practice in Holland.

As part of our role as a strategic partner in the Stockton Teaching Alliance, we continue to benefit from training and school to school support. We are beginning to develop a technique called the Spirals of Enquiry which we hope will further develop skills of evaluation to enhance our teaching still further. It is early days - but the project looks very exciting.

## **School Council**

The children have recently taken part in the school council elections. Mrs C Roberts (Year 1) has organised this in school and it has certainly produced a very positive buzz. The children nominated four members of the class to stand for the school council. These children have been campaigning for votes and elections have been held this week in school. The children used a voting booth just like the adults do in elections and posted their votes in a ballot box. The children have been so positive and supportive through the whole process and should be commended. The school council gives the children a voice in the development of the school, but also teaches them how democracy works in society. I have no doubt the school council will embrace their responsibilities and leave a legacy - as previous school councils have done..

### **Uniform**

The children have all returned very smart in their uniforms. Could we please though remind you that we expect the children to come to school in proper coats - not fashionable zipped hoodies or fashion coats. This really does have a positive influence on attitudes and behaviours on the playground and we do ask for your support in this matter.

Shoes must also be school shoes - not trainers and jewellery must be kept to a minimum with small, uncoloured studs and watches. Earrings **MUST NOT** be worn for PE and the children must be able to remove them themselves. May I remind you that PE is a requirement of the curriculum and we expect children to participate if they are at school, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which will need to be looked at by Mrs Lee.

### **Gardening Club**

Our gardening club continues to be thoroughly enjoyed by the children. They have harvested a great deal of produce over the last few weeks. Some has gone to the kitchen for school lunches so the children can sample the fruits of their labour and some has been made into chutney to be sold at the school fair! The next few weeks will see the planting of more bulbs across school and the erection of a small picket fence around the garden. We continue to be supported well by B&Q who work hard to make sure our gardening club continues to thrive.

If you can give any time to this, even if it just half a day a month - then do let us know. The children really do enjoy this part of school life. It adds so much to our community and family feel. You do not need to be an expert - you can come and learn alongside the children. If you are interested, then do come and have a chat. The more the merrier!

### **Christmas Fair**

Our Christmas Fair is to be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5.00pm - 7.00pm.

Please do come along and support school. Our PTA work hard to raise funds for the children to enjoy "extras" and this really does make a difference. If you would like to get involved - then please do just let us know.

### **Volunteers**

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our large band of volunteers who help across school. Their support really does make such a difference. If you would like to be involved in any of this work - or you have any thoughts on how you could help - sewing, cooking, gardening, reading etc. then do be in touch. We would love to hear from you.

### **Attendance**

We really do value your support in ensuring that your children have good attendance at school. It does make such a difference to them - both socially (key to their happiness in school) and academically. You will be aware of the high level of discussion in the media around term time holiday and we work to respect family situations, but please do consider the research that confirms the positive impact on children with regular attendance. High attendance does mean higher achievement which gives them more choices in later life, but more importantly, children who develop good attendance habits also find friendships easier in school. Both combine for happier, more confident children.

Please do remember that the children must be absent from school for 48 hours after a bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Whilst I appreciate this can, at times, seem unnecessary when your child appears well, but it really does stop the spread across school and makes your child far less vulnerable to picking up another bug. The children across school lost 400 less school days a year to sickness than they did before we introduced this policy. We thank you for your support in this matter.



### Future Dates

Thursday 20 October 16

Friday 21 October 16

Monday 31 October 16

Thursday 3 November 16

Thursday 17 November 16

Friday 18 November 16

Thursday 24 November 16

Thursday 1 December 16

Monday 5 December 16

Tuesday 6 December 16

Wednesday 7 December 16

Thursday 8 December 16

Thursday 8 December 16

Tuesday 13 December 16

Wednesday 14 December 16

Wednesday 14 December 16

Wednesday 14 December 15

Thursday 15 December 16

Friday 16 December 16

Tuesday 3 January 17

Wednesday 4 January 17

Children break up for October half term

Professional Development Day

Children return after October half term

Y6 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Y1 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Children in Need Day

Y4 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Christmas Fayre 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Crib service at St Francis Church @ 10.00am

Y4/Y5/Y6 Performance @ 6.00pm

Y1/Y2/Y3 Performance @ 6.00pm

Y1 - Y6 trip to The Arc to see Peter Pan

Crib service at St Francis Church @ 2.00pm

Y4/Y5/Y6 Christmas Party

Christmas Lunch

Y1- Y6 Christingle service at St Francis Church

Nursery and reception party

Y1/Y2/Y3 party

Children break up for Christmas holidays

Professional Development Day

Children return to school after Christmas holidays

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