

# Myton Park Primary School

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## Autumn Term 2 2015



### Christmas Performances and Services

A great big well done to all of the children. They have been fabulous in their performances. The Nursery and Reception children sang so well in the crib service at Church and the performances in school were both fantastic. It really does showcase the children's positive attitude to school and how hard they try. I always look forward to the performances and never fail to feel so proud of how well they all do.



### Cycling

We have made a successful bid to Stockton Borough Council to be involved in some way in the British Cycling Race in June of next year. Stockton is hosting one of the stages, so we will have an opportunity to learn more about cycling and to take some of the children to watch the race. We will be working with an artist to create some pieces that will be placed along the route and then will return to school. We are very excited about this, so watch this space to learn more!



### Clean for the Queen!

We have registered to be involved in a project called "Clean for the Queen". This is a project that is encouraging people to take pride in their community and to have a good tidy up, in preparation for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. The School Council will be doing some planning around this and we will be working on our own environment and the wider community in March. We are hoping to seek out some support from local businesses to help fund some ideas from both children and staff to further enhance the things we do to encourage the children to take pride in their environment, so if you have any ideas or links, then please do let me know. If you are a member of any local groups then why not get involved too? Just Google "Clean for the Queen" to find out more.



### Reading Circle

We have had our willow circle planted around the reading circle that was fitted over the summer. This will grow into a Willow Hedge and give the children somewhere peaceful to read and share stories. Our gardening volunteers have worked with the children to plant bulbs around the reading benches, so by spring it should be a wonderful place to be. The willow hedge will also work as a natural feature to reduce the amount of sitting water on the field when it gets really wet, which we hope will work as a real positive.



### Gardening

Our fabulous volunteers are having a well-earned rest over the next couple of weeks. The Polytunnel has been further insulated with carpet to enable us to grow more things from seed next year and some greens have been sent to the kitchen in recent weeks. They have many plans afoot for next year, with the project being extended to the growing of flowers with hanging baskets and some planters to help to develop the aesthetics of the environment and to encourage the children to develop a love of

gardening. The children really are gaining a great deal from this project and are developing so many new skills and values.

If you would like to be involved on this project, then do be in touch. The volunteers are trying to gain more support. If you can spare any time - a couple of hours every 3 - or 4 weeks would be great. By having more volunteers, then your commitment certainly does not need to be weekly.



### Sport

A Year 6 football team qualified for the South Stockton finals. The attitude of the team was commented on by many. The children really did do themselves proud and showed themselves to be hardworking and respectful. Yet again - great ambassadors for Myton Park. Myton Park were also presented with the fair play award for Cricket. Year 6 attended an athletics festival and Year 2 had great fun at the Key Stage 1 sports festival.



### Uniform

We do appreciate that the vast majority of our children wear the correct uniform at all times, but please could we remind you of the uniform? Black shoes, plain grey/black tights, plain grey, white or black socks and white blouse, shirt or polo shirt. Earrings must be a plain gold earring with no colour and long hair should be tied back with a bobble. Fashionable hair adornments are not acceptable and boys should not have hair gelled into spikes please. The wearing of any nail varnish is forbidden, as is the wearing of rings. Children should wear a proper coat, no fashionable coats and no hoodies please. Wearing the correct uniform has a considerable impact on children's behaviour and attitude in school and we ask for your complete support in this. We recognise there are times when shoes may fall apart and break, but please do encourage your child to respect the rules and values of school by making an effort to speak to staff and explain the situation.



### Teaching Development

Staff have once again been working really hard on aspects of professional development. Over this last term we have looked at Teaching Thinking, marking and assessment, we have worked with neighbouring school on moderating our assessments, developing reading in school and developing our staff coaching model. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their very hard work and for their continued commitment to the children.



### Attendance

There has been the inevitable winter bugs around school this term, but you have continued to support school policy, for which we are very appreciative. You will be receiving your child's attendance letters as usual this term, but please do bear in mind the impact of taking holidays in school term time on your child's learning. There does seem to be an increase in the number of families informing us of holidays being taken. I must stress that if the number of absences increased due to holidays, then the Governing Body may have no choice but to introduce fines. I would also like to emphasise the need for parents to be completely honest with us about absence. If you give a reason that is not totally honest, then all you are doing is putting your child in a difficult situation. The vast majority of parents, like us, work hard to teach the children the value of being honest. There have been a couple of incidences when children have told us one thing and parents another - please do not put your child in this position. It can be so very hard for them.



## Merry Christmas

On behalf of all of the staff and governors of Myton Park, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for 2016. We hope you make many treasured memories with your loved ones and remember memories past of those loved ones no longer with us. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all on 2016.

### Class News

#### Nursery

This half term we have been learning about special times and how we celebrate them. We enjoyed talking about our own birthdays and parties. We talked about different festivals e.g. Eid and Diwali and found out about some of the customs that people have. We took part in "Bringing our family to nursery" and hope that you enjoyed seeing your child in the nursery setting and participating in some of the activities set up to help your child learn.

Our Christmas craft sessions have been very popular this year - we hope you enjoyed all the glitter, paint and our Christmas songs. We look forward to our Christmas party next Wednesday afternoon. **May we remind you there will be no Wednesday morning session as all children will attend on Wednesday afternoon for the party.**

We look forward to seeing you at our Crib services next week. We need people to walk to church with us - if you are able to do so, please see a member of staff.

#### Reception

The children in Reception are now settled in and starting to use all the different areas for learning. They are mark making and beginning to write using the sounds they hear. We have been looking at numbers and using Numicon in Maths. The other areas in our classroom are great to help us be more imaginative, talk to our friends and understand all about the world around us. In the outdoor area our new shop is helping us to role play and we are even using Numicon for money! We have looked at lots of different stories including The Hungry Caterpillar, Whatever Next and The Little Red Hen. Now we are starting to do lots of Christmas activities including writing letters to Santa, playing with reindeer and elves in the role play and making things with our Parents and carers in our Christmas Craft sessions. Santa has sent an elf to keep an eye on the children in Reception. He reports back to Santa each night - we just hope he doesn't get up to any mischief! We have also been practising with Nursery to get ready for our crib service at the Church. Thank you for your continued support with reading, homework and everything else you do!

#### Year 1

We have had another exciting half-term. We have continued our Marvellous Machines topic and have written some information texts about our favourite machines. We really enjoyed our DT topic "Mechanisms" and had a fantastic time making our own moving pictures. In Maths we have been practising counting and recognising numbers up to 100; learning our number bonds to 10; and doubling and halving objects, shapes and amounts.

We are very excited about Christmas and really enjoyed the performance of Peter Pan in school. We worked hard to practise our songs for the Christmas performance and were proud to sing them for you.

We are looking forward to next term when our topic will be Dragons and Fairytales.

#### Year 2

We are currently working hard on learning songs for the Christmas play. Everyone is practising their lines and the acting parts.

Handwriting has been a big focus this term and we are starting to make progress in the right direction. Spelling still needs work. The children know their phonics and now need to use this knowledge in their daily writing.

We have had a fantastic sports afternoon and have improved our computing skills.

### **Year 3**

This half term we have enjoyed learning about stories from imaginary settings. We loved reading Fantastic Mr Fox. We created our own stories and shared them with our friends.

We have also been learning about Myths and Legends - we read Pandora's Box, The Black Egg, Pan Gu and The Mummy's Tale and then we used our acting skills to act out our own newspaper report.

In Maths we have been learning about time and measures. We can tell the time and answer time word problems and we can use the 12hour and 24hour clock.

This half term we have loved finding out about bread and we really enjoyed tasting bread from around the world.

Thank you for all your help and support since September and I wish Year 3 the best of luck for the rest of the year. They have spent some time with Mrs Roberts and she is really looking forward to working with the class. Have a wonderful Christmas.

### **Year 4**

This term we have continued our studies of Ancient Egypt, including the River Nile, Ancient Egyptian Gods and artefacts.

In English we have studied different types of writing including poetry, ghost stories and Myths and Legends. More recently we have studied the Christmas Truce as part of remembrance and A Christmas Carol leading up to Christmas.

In Maths we have studied area and perimeter of shape, fractions and decimals, word problems and time.

Next term the year 4 children will be learning about Modern Europe, studying the many cultures that make up our continent.

On behalf of the Year 4 children/staff have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **Year 5**

What a great half term we have had in Year 5. We continued our learning about the Second World War and found out about the impact of evacuation and rationing.

Some of us got to work with Ingleby Barwick Library to look at our library and reorganise it. It was hard work but it is much better and easier to use.

We enjoyed dressing up as our heroes for Children in Need. It was great to see so many people had thought about someone close to them.

We have been very lucky to have so many exciting events this term. We thoroughly enjoyed learning, rehearsing and performing Panto Pandemonium. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and a very Happy New Year.

### **Year 6**

Year 6 have had another busy half term with lots of learning. In PE our dance has been focussed around our topic, World War 2. As part of Friendship First week we explored the impact of cyber-bullying. We developed our sewing skills whilst making small dolls which signified how we must support each other. We also had a chance to share stories with the younger children.

We enjoyed visiting the Arc to watch Conyers Academy's production of Peter Pan which has encouraged our performance techniques.



### **Future Dates**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 15

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 16

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 16

Last day of this term.

Children return after Christmas holidays

Professional Development Day (school closed to the children)