

# Myton Park Primary School

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*Spring Term 1 – 2018*

## Attendance

We continue to have fairly good attendance, but the winter bugs have certainly taken their toll on the children. We really do appreciate your support on the 48 hour rule as this does help significantly to reduce the spread. It really is important that all families respect this rule and work with us. I do appreciate that the second day of being free from bugs can seem like an unnecessary absence, but it really does make such a difference.

## Uniform

Children do generally take pride in their uniforms in school, but it is important that standards are maintained. This really does have such a positive impact on behaviour and attitudes to work. We are having a real push in school to encourage the children to take a real pride in what they do; their work, presentation and attitudes. Having positive reinforcement about this from home has such a strong influence.

## Assembly Themes

This half term we have been looking at determination and success. The children have responded very positively with assemblies focusing on Growth Mindset; we have thought about how attitude impacts on outcomes. Having a positive attitude, asking for support and thriving on a challenge all combine for improved outcomes.

We have also talked about the need to get on and do some of the “boring” stuff too and how this can make a difference. This can include learning facts and taking the time to really know spellings and times tables. We discussed ideas to how we can use time to practice these; when we are in the car, have the facts on the back of the toilet door to remind us, every time we go up and down the stairs – we can recite our current times tables. The ideas are endless! Knowing times tables and our number bonds well and being able to recall them quickly, really does help the children to achieve well in maths.

As part of the Times Tables Challenge they work towards 3 levels of attainment;

Bronze – they can say their tables in the correct order accurately.

Silver – they can recall the tables in any order with quick accurate recall

Gold – they can state the question from the answer, using division facts in any order. i.e. 42 – is  $6 \times 7$

Our times tables policy is currently under review. Once this has been ratified by the Governing Body at the next meeting, we will share this with you.

Our assembly theme next term is “Independence”. The School Council have chosen this, so we are really looking forward to seeing the impact. Independent children can grow so much in confidence – so we will be encouraging them to be independent at school and at home, so if you have any suggestions of targets, then do let us know.

I have seen the impact of the work on determination in pupil interviews over the last two weeks. Children saying that they want more of a challenge; which is great to see. This attitude really does so much to improve self-belief and I’m looking forward to seeing the children work to develop this even more over the coming terms.

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## Fund Raising

Many thanks to all of you for your support with the 2 boys and their families who needed help. Your generosity has made such a difference to them.

Please find updates on both:

Sadly Charlie remains quite unwell. He is having to go to Great Ormond Street for treatment in the hope that they can find a solution to his paralysis. The help you offered the family made such a difference and they were so appreciative. They have had to move, due to the difficulties of managing in the house, so they are now living in a bungalow. This has meant that Charlie will move schools, but the Local Authority have supported in finding a school that can help with Charlie's additional needs.

Marcus and his twin brother Finley came to see us on Friday to say thank you for all of the help you offered. They brought a thank you card, which is at the school office for you all to see. Myton Park raised well over £600. In addition, a special thank you to Mr Bacon for the support from B&Q, who collected in-store. The combined efforts of the Ingleby Community has raised the money needed for Marcus to go America for his treatment. Marcus will have at least 10 weeks of treatment, with daily trips to the hospital. This really will be such an ordeal for the family, but there is real hope that Marcus will finally be cured of the cancer that has been with him since he was 2. We will try to keep you updated on his progress.

## The Leisure Centre

As you will have seen, the work on the Leisure Centre has finally started. The children were given a letter on Thursday of last week outlining the impact. Please do take a look. We have created a "Leisure Centre Update" tab on the website. This has a link to the letter and also a map that the LA have provided. We will add any updates and information we receive from the Local Authority into this tab. Please do note that there will be closures to the footpath from the shops to All Saints and onto our car park. A new pedestrian crossing has been established, but the children will need to walk down to the lights along Blair Avenue. The Bus Stop outside All Saints will also be out of service for the duration of the works.

Please do note that Stockton Borough Council are responsible for this work, so any queries should be directed towards them.

## Supporting Learning

In response to the questionnaire we sent out, we have uploaded information into the curriculum tab for year groups 1 – 6. This outlines expectations for subjects and shares information on grammar covered and sentence types taught. The English tab offers a PowerPoint on sentence types with examples of each and a glossary of terms to help with remembering all of those grammar terms that you forget when you aren't using them.

We are currently working hard to develop our maths curriculum with a far greater focus on using apparatus to ensure that children develop a deep understanding of the number system. As we further develop this work, additional information will be uploaded onto the website. Our calculations policy has been updated and once this has been ratified by the Governing Body this will be shared with you. Your feedback in what else we can do to help is always welcome.

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## Nursery

This half term we have been learning about changes. We have explored jelly, ice, snow, toast, baking cakes and gingerbread and have been encouraging the children to make predictions as to what they think might happen and why. The children are developing their phonic knowledge really well and we will be sending reading books/homework to develop this even further. Following the feedback in the parents questionnaire on how school can support parents further at home, I will be sending out some "homework" with ideas for activities for you to try at home, starting with ideas on "The Gingerbread Man". Please let us know how this goes. Please remember to access your child's learning journey online through EEXAT. We always love to see what children are up to at home and this evidence is often included in your child's learning journey.

If you need any support accessing/uploading evidence, please see a member of staff.

## Reception

Another busy half term in Reception! The children have enjoyed their learning all about toys and are currently learning about cold places and Arctic and Antarctic Animals. During our toys topic we looked at old and new toys and talked about new toys we got for Christmas. We read 'Old Bear' and talked about precious old toys. Recently in our learning about cold places the children have been excited to learn lots of facts about penguins and polar bears. We watched videos of penguins hatching from their eggs in the cold Antarctic weather and talked about the size and diet of Polar Bears. The children have been making different winter crafts and hopefully have brought some home to show you. In our writing the children are becoming more confident in using the sounds they have learnt when writing unfamiliar words. Thank you for your help with practising action words. These will hopefully help the children to spell these tricky words and recognise these words in their reading. When writing with the children we are talking about remembering to use a capital letter at the start of the sentence, a full stop at the end and finger spaces to separate the words. In maths we have been consolidating the children's understanding of number of place value using Numicon and number bead strings and also looking at the names of properties of different 2D and 3D shapes.

When the children first come in to the classroom on a morning we start straight with an activity in groups or at the table. Please could you ensure your child is ready to come in to the classroom for when the door opens at 8.55am so we can maximise the use of this time. A reminder also for children to bring a water bottle with them each day labelled with their name. Please continue to upload photos and comments about the children's learning and experiences at home using EEXAT. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 1

This half-term in year 1 has been really busy, we have carried on working very hard in all our subjects. In maths, we have been focussing on place value and learning how different resources in the classroom can help us with our learning. We have also been weighing and measuring objects and comparing their weights and lengths.

In English, we have read fairy tales and traditions tales and completed many interesting tasks involving these two genres of writing. Our grammar focus has been putting the suffixes ing and ed onto the end of verbs and learning about the present and past tenses.

In science, we have learned all about winter and we have had some lovely weather to help us with this! In computing, the children devised their own class survey and presented the information from the survey on a pictogram and graph. In music, we have been learning a song for our class assembly and in history we learned all about the life of Victorian children. We compared their lives to our lives today. This prompted us to make Victorian pots from clay in art.

Finally in RE and PSHE, we have been learning more about ourselves and other cultures and in PE, we have been practising our balancing skills in gymnastics and hockey skills.

We are all looking forward to next half-term.

## Year 2

We have had a very busy half term!! We are really enjoying our Castles and Dragons topic. We enjoyed reading the story "The Egg" and have written some lovely diary entries and descriptions. We have also looked at shape poems and wrote our own using adjectives and similes. In maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. We have used pictures and arrays to show our understanding and have been practising our reasoning and problem-solving skills. In Art, we have been creating our own versions of Paul Klee's "Castle and the Sun" using pastels. We have been improving our throwing and catching skills and learning how to play different games in PE. Thank you for your continued support with homework and reading – it really does make a difference.

## Year 3

This term we have begun to study the Romans. Although the topic is in its infancy the children have learnt about the invasion of Britain and the Roman influence in Britain. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers who assisted their children in making Roman artefacts over the Christmas holidays. They really are impressive and help to create an exciting learning environment. In English we have been learning about adventure stories, using different descriptive features to add to our writing. We have also studied numerous forms of poetry. In Maths, the children have studied number and place value. They are trying really hard to learn their times tables, applying this knowledge to other areas of maths. The reading and times table challenges have begun. It really is important that the children get involved. I would urge as many children as possible to get involved as these areas are so important in moving forward and help develop the self-discipline needed for success.

## Year 4

2018 started with a magnificent array of homework on our new topic 'The Romans'. The topic display is looking fantastic so thank you very much for all of your hard work. This term for English we will be looking at the adventure story, escape from Pompeii. The children will use their descriptive vocabulary to write diary entries, newspaper reports and finally write their own versions of the story. I am sure you will all enjoy reading the finished articles on Pobble. In Maths we are focusing on data handling. The children will use a variety of different charts, graphs and pictograms to solve one and two step word problems, which will involve the children working logically, strategically and with reasoning. The class reading challenge is going well, with most children moving swiftly up the reading ladder. There are three notable exceptions, who have thundered past the 100 mark. Well done to everyone taking part.

## Year 5

Year 5 have had a great start to the half term! We are currently in training to be Eco Heroes which means that we are learning (and teaching others) about how to care for the environment. To do this we have written adventure stories which we are now turning into comic strips during ICT. In Maths we have practised place value, multiplication, division and strengthened our problem solving skills. We have also created collages out of recycled materials and are currently creating recycled materials clothing. We are very much looking forward to continuing our Eco Heroes work next term!

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## Year 6

Year 6 are enjoying their new topic, Keen to be Green where they are learning about how to care for their environment. We have worked on a collaborative art project where we have made a dress from recycled plastic bottles. We have started to look at songs with messages around the environment. On 1<sup>st</sup> March which is World Book Day Y6's theme is Harry Potter.

## PE

We have attended the cluster swimming gala and were delighted with the team's exemplary attitude and effort. We are pleased to say that several of our children have qualified for the Stockton Schools. Gala. Our basketball team represented their cluster in the Stockton finals. They played well with a strong team attitude.

Some of our sports crew have attended training with other schools to help them organise games for other year groups at lunchtime.

## School Council

School council would like to thank everyone who donated to wateraid during advent. We raised £80 which bought a clean water collection tank for a school.

School council continue to listen to the ideas of their peers and would like to remind school mates to post them in the pox box near the dinner hall.

Tuck is continuing to run well and we are trying to keep snacks under 100calories each, in line with new government guidelines. They are pleased to announce that in our first year of running tuck shop we have raised our £1000 target which PTA kindly doubled. This now means we can look into buying some small timber trail for the younger children in school. Thank you for your continued support.

## Future Dates



5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 18

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 18

19<sup>th</sup> February 18

21<sup>st</sup> February 18

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 18

1<sup>st</sup> March 18

8<sup>th</sup> March 18

15<sup>th</sup> March 18

22<sup>nd</sup> March 18

30<sup>th</sup> March – 13<sup>th</sup> April 18

Consultation Week

Half term week

Children return to school after half term

Photograph Day

World Awareness Week

World Book Day

Year 1 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Year 2 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Year 5 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Easter Holidays