

# MORTIMER MOMENTS



Spring 1

## NEW YEAR - NEW HEAD

I'm not sure where the first 6 weeks of the Spring term have gone, but I have really enjoyed every day.

From introducing new teachers, hosting Meet the Head/SLT sessions to planning for strike action, there are no two days the same in a school. Also, it has been lovely to speak to so many parents each day.

Before we start the next half term, I wanted to highlight some of the great things that have been going on since January.

Thank you for your support  
Mr Bennett  
Head Teacher



Another fantastic trip to Thurston. We were delighted to announce a 2nd visit going in June

## MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

During Children's Mental Health Week, Nursery and Reception had a very special visit from Tatty Bumpkin. Tatty Bumpkin sessions are fun, yoga-inspired stories, designed to encourage movement and enhance development. We all went on a magical adventure into the sea with Tatty and her Dolphin; we had so much fun.

Also, KS1 children had a Mental Health assembly with Mrs Peacock where the focus was 'Let's Connect'. We talked about friendships and how it would be nice to make some 'new connections' this week. All children were set a challenge to say hello to someone new this week whilst playing in the playground.

## NEW DEPUTY HEAD

Congratulations are in order for Mrs Peacock, who was successful at interview for the position of Deputy Head Teacher during the last week of half term. Mrs Peacock has been the acting deputy head this half term.

I am delighted to secure Mrs Peacock as Mortimer's Deputy Head and look forward to her support in driving the school forward in the coming years.



## CRICKET LEADERS

Well done to our Year 4 and 5 Young Cricket Playground Leaders. They have all successfully completed training with Durham Cricket Club this term. We hope to use their cricket knowledge to support cricket festivals and playground games throughout the school this summer.



## MULTI-SPORTS

Some of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a multi-sport competition this term called the Panathalon Challenge hosted by South Tyneside Sports Partnership. They competed against many other schools from across South Tyneside and successfully placed third overall. We were very proud of their team effort and ability to adapt to new challenges.



## SWIMMING

Eight children represented Mortimer Primary in the South Tyneside School Swimming Gala. We took home a plethora of medals including gold and silver in the Girls' Freestyle race, silver in the Boys' Freestyle race and placing in all relay and medley races.

Out of nine schools Mortimer finished 2nd overall. A fantastic achievement for our Y5/6 squad; many of whom had never competed before. The children will go on to compete in the South of Tyne Finals on Thursday 16th March.

Good Luck!



## NETBALL

Some of our talented netballers competed in the South Tyneside School Games against 8 other teams this week. They won some, they drew some and they lost one. They narrowly missed out on a place to the South Tyneside Finals.

Huge well done for the commitment to training, enthusiasm when playing and the excellent sportsmanship they showed towards the game.

Thank you to Miss Marshall and Mrs Sparks for coaching the teams throughout the year.



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

It was round two of fixtures for our girls' football teams. With a number of players away at Thurston, we were faced with the worry that we may have to forfeit matches. A number of our Year 4 ladies stepped forward for the challenge and played in matches with girls above their age group.

Both our girls' teams faced really tricky competition on the day playing 4 matches over the course of a morning in very cold conditions.

One set of matches remain on 20th March; the teams sits in the middle of their league with everything to play for. With 20+ girls training weekly our girls' teams have never looked so strong.

## VISIT TO SCHOOL

Bowmer and Kirkland, North East construction company, recently visited our reception children to show children the wide range of jobs the company offers including builders, quantity surveyors and architects. The children had fun doing some teamwork challenges involving building.



# EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

## STEM & SPORT WEEK

Children in Year 6 took part in a STEM and Sport Week whilst others were at Thurston. From Football to Athletics, slime workshops to cooking sessions, our pupils experienced a varied and full curriculum and enjoyed every minute of it.

They explored a STEM project in some detail and to design and make structures for a new children's play park. We visited a park, took ideas back to improve our own creations and used a wide range of materials and resources to create some fabulous end products.

When asked pupils about their favourite parts of the week the children were unanimous and voted for their slime and cooking workshops. Investigating chemical reactions and highlighting the science while having a lot of fun.

## COOKERY CLUB

This half term, we welcomed another group of aspiring chefs into our cooking club. We have cooked a range of delicious dishes, including; rainbow pasta salad, healthy wraps, pizza muffins and yummy Valentine's Day biscuits. Everybody involved had lots of fun as they learned many new skills which range from; mixing, measuring, rolling and chopping. Great work everybody!



## YEAR 2 UPDATE

The children in Year 2 have been working so hard since they came back after Christmas. Miss Souffi's class have had their cricket sessions with Andrew from Durham cricket coaches and the other two classes will start after half term. We had visitors who came in to talk about Road Safety and the children played some fun, interactive games. Since coming back the children have written some amazing 'Winter' poems and we have been reading a lovely text called 'Grandad's Secret Giant'. We have been studying the artist L.S. Lowry and the children have been working each week to build up a piece of Lowry-style artwork. They are so excited to bring them home and give them to their parents although we do want to keep them up in school for a few more weeks!



## OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to Luke Peterson, who is part of the South Tyneside U11 Boys District Team, on securing second spot in the DCSFA Harrison Memorial Trophy, the team will now progress from the preliminary rounds on to the Richard Jordan Trophy where they will compete against Sunderland, Newcastle and North Tyneside for the top prize



## THURSTON RESIDENTIAL

36 of our Year 6 children had a fantastic week at Thurston Outdoor Education Centre. They gave every activity their all, achieving things that many of them didn't think were possible. The children climbed, paddled canoes, walked up mountains, ghyll scrambled, climbed trees, orienteered, and some even swam in a very chilly Coniston Water. The children continually supported each other (and teachers) through the occasional bout of homesickness, challenging elements of activities and much more.

The staff at Thurston complimented Mortimer children on their determination and lovely manners throughout the week.

Mrs Herbert, Mr Douglas and Mrs Cunningham were very proud of every child who took part.



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## GUIDE DOGS

Last term 1BC invited the Guide Dogs Association into school to raise awareness of visual impairment. A volunteer kindly brought her guide dog into school. She explained to the children how the dog helped her at home and outdoors. She then gave the children the opportunity to ask questions. She introduced the children to her Braille book which was passed around so every child could feel it; she explained that she could not read like they do but she is able to read and write using Braille. She then showed the children her water alarm which enables her to know when her cup is nearly full. The children found this all intriguing and learned lots about how people with a visual impairment are supported to live independently.



School works closely with Clare Watson, teacher from the Vision Impairment Service, and Louise Humble, Habilitation Specialist, to support pupils in school who have a visual impairment to reach their full potential. Early Years and Key Stage One staff have been learning too by taking part in training delivered by Clare and Louise on supporting pupils with a visual impairment in the classroom and around school.

## DIVERSITY

Last term Mrs Silvanus delivered sessions in conjunction with one of our pupils to raise awareness of neurodiversity and in particular, ADHD. The sessions were introduced through the pupil's favourite story explaining what it is like to have ADHD and how this can be very positive as well as challenging, at times. The pupil then explained, in their own words, what ADHD is like for them and what strengths they have and the challenges they sometimes face. The pupil then answered questions from their peers which were both thoughtful and respectful.

Here are just some of the questions that were asked by peers:

"Were you born with it?" "How do fidgets help?" "Do you like being unique with ADHD?" "What do you do when you get angry?" "Did the doctors scan your brain?"

The pupil did amazingly well answering questions and we are very proud of how they raised awareness of ADHD using their own experiences which they were very open to share with the support of their peers and teachers. Following the session, the pupil shared how empowered they felt delivering these sessions and the positive ways in which it had impacted them.

This is what their teacher had to say about the session:

The ADHD session was an extremely positive and informative session for my class. It was delivered within a relaxed and trusting environment and the intentions of building awareness around ADHD were made clear in a child friendly manner from the beginning. The children were visibly comfortable throughout and were engaged when listening and learning from the story which was read to them. Alongside this, it was a positive opportunity for a child in my class, who has ADHD, to express how he can sometimes feel and discuss the ways in which he manages his emotions. The session also enabled children to be open with their thoughts and questions regarding ADHD. Some of the questions asked were very mature and well thought out and these were answered in an appropriate, child friendly manner. Overall, the session was extremely educational and I can confidently express that the children in my class have gained a great deal of knowledge as a result of this. Thank you!