
LIGHThouse

MARCH 2023

ISSUE 28



“ENABLING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE.”

LIGHTHOUSE

WELCOME TO THE MARCH EDITION OF LIGHTHOUSE

Hope at Easter (once more)

Easter is always a very significant time in the school year. There are all of the usual arts and crafts activities, such as the fantastic Easter art gallery designed by the pupils at William Leech. There are the concerts, church services, egg decorating and palm cross making to help pupils understand the Easter story and its significance to Christians. It also (hopefully!) brings warmer days and more daylight for us to enjoy.

There are many lessons to be taken from the Easter story, from the triumphant but humble arrival of Jesus on Palm Sunday, through the sadness of betrayal on Maundy Thursday and crucifixion on Good Friday followed by joy and hope through resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Of all of the messages from the Easter story, I believe that it is hope that we should focus on.

The first reason is that I see a remarkable number of resilient young people in our schools. Many of our pupils have experienced tough times over the last few years, dealing with challenges of isolation and worry during the lockdown periods. However, I see young people in our schools approaching their future with determination and optimism to be successful in their exams and future careers.

I also see that our sense of community has been strengthened and our schools are working more closely with their local communities than ever, with plans to develop this further so our schools are truly seen as being at their heart of their communities.

I hope that all of you in our school communities have a wonderful Easter. If you can, please take a moment to think of hope this Easter and remember the words of Newcastle born Cardinal Basil Hume:

"The great gift of Easter is hope."

Alan Hardie, CEO





VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT

At Duke's



As part of Duke's continued World Book Day celebrations a group of year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a virtual author session on Thursday 23rd March. Dan Freedman, author of the Jamie Johnson footballer series, joined students virtually in the library to discuss how he got into writing and how important both reading and writing are to him.



Students were able to chat to Dan and hear how he began his career in football journalism and then turned into a children's author. Students were then able to ask Dan lots of questions about his books, writing process, his thoughts on football and about his TV series of the Jamie Johnson books.



The students had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed talking to a real author of books which they have read themselves. Dan himself said that it was 'an amazing session and it was great to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic throughout'. Duke's library have ordered in extra copies of the Jamie Johnson books for students to borrow and these are also available on the Duke's Eplatform online too.

WORLD OF WORK DAY PROVES HUGE SUCCESS FOR SECONDARY PUPILS



On Wednesday 8th March over 30 different employers descended on Duke's Secondary School for our annual World of Work Day.

Pupils were able to meet and interact with employers from across a range of industry sectors to find out more about the various career paths available to them once they've finished school.

The feedback from employers was all incredibly positive with many commenting on how brilliant and engaged our pupils were in planning for their futures. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the event possible!

Year 10 pupil when asked how the event could be improved said; 'More WoW days or something similar. It's fun, helps people learn about what THEY want and helps people understand what each company does.'

Danielle Towers (Head of Sixth Form & Careers) said:

"The event was a huge success. It was great to catch up with familiar faces from local business and also welcome new providers/ businesses into school. The feedback from our students has been really positive and as staff we were really pleased with how much the students engaged with our visitors."



NOVEMBER CLUB AT DUKE'S

A group of our Year 9 and 10 students have been working with November Club, theatre group this term creating a brand-new audio musical called Josey- The Indignant Daughter. The musical is inspired by the life of Josephine Butler and the causes she fought for that are still being fought today.

Our students contributed ideas for the content and you may also recognise some of their voices in the Podcast.

November Club is aiming for 1000 listens. It is 20 minutes long and is available free via Spotify, Apple or wherever you get your podcasts. In the folder is a graphic advertising the podcast and a photo of some of the students involved.

AVAILABLE NOW!

CREATED BY NOVEMBER CLUB
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SPACE

JOSEY

THE INDIGNANT DAUGHTER

WRITER & COMPOSER
KATIE DOHERTY
DIRECTOR
JOE HUFTON

A brand-new audio musical inspired by the life of Josephine Butler, a 19th Century social reformer
Available free via Spotify and Apple or wherever you get your podcasts
anchor.fm/josey-themusical

GRACE DARLING NEWS



Storytime Club

The children at Grace Darling Primary school have been attending Storytime Club after school. The club was ran by Sarah and Jane and part of the Ann Cleeves project, which allows children and adults to explore how stories and reading can offer comfort, escape, laughter and inspiration at difficult times.

The children thoroughly enjoyed attending the club.

They listened to stories and took part in different activities with their adult.

When the club finished the children even got to choose their favourite book to take home and keep!



A GIFT FOR CASTLE SCHOOL



A huge 'Thank You' to Bothal Lodge (4116) for their extremely kind donation of £1,000. We look forward to using their generous donation to provide an animal experience and therapy dog sessions within school. Special thanks to John Ternent and Bob Lisle for representing Bothal Lodge Freemasonry and visiting Castle School to present the cheque. Thank you so much for this kind opportunity.

THOMAS BEWICK PUPILS ATTEND GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL



Go Thomas Bewick

Year 2 had a fabulous time at the gymnastics festival. They had a go at trampolining, bench work and rhythmic gymnastics.

"I liked running on the blue lines." Lucas.

"I had fun on the trampoline." Jonah.

"I liked the bars the best." Lily.

Residential at James Knott



The Year 6 pupils at James Knott have had a fabulous time at Dukeshouse Wood on a three day residential visit. The children developed their team building skills and tried lots of new activities such as zip wire, fencing, climbing and abseiling. The James Knott staff were very impressed at how well the group worked together to build different types of shelters in the woods and how they tackled the obstacle course, making sure everyone was safe and included.



News from KS1

We were delighted to welcome Year 1 parents, grandparents and family members to our family phonic workshop. It was an amazing turnout with every child having an adult to work with them. The children and their adults worked together to develop their phonic skills, finding special friends in words and developing their reading skills.

The nursery children continue to learn through a story based curriculum and we were delighted to welcome Jaqueline Barnes from the School Library Service to share some exciting new stories with the children and their families this week.

Mothers Day was celebrated with a Reception family assembly. Reception class were very proud as they performed songs and rhymes for their mam's and grandmas to celebrate Mother's Day. We were all impressed by their lovely singing and super paintings of their lovely mams.



EASTER TIME AT WILLIAM LEECH



ARTY EASTER

Children at William Leech have been working hard to show off their art skills as part of an Easter Art Gallery in the library. Each class has been developing different skills and used different materials to produce an Easter craft which is now displayed ready to welcome parents into school for the Easter Music Showcase and the Easter Service.



GRACE DARLING SEND BREAKFAST

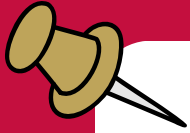


On Tuesday 21st March Grace Darling Primary hosted a SEND breakfast, which was a great success. Parents enjoyed a cuppa and a breakfast bap whilst listening to a talk on Managing Challenging Behaviour and Implementing Routines from Amy Fleming-Smith from the ASD HINT team.

After that, parents had the opportunity to chat with a wide range of professionals (School Nurses, Health Visitors, Primary Mental Health Workers, Portage Staff, Early Years Inclusion and the Young Carers team), to ask questions and gather information to help them support their children at home.



The Toby Henderson Trust and Little Miracles were also on hand to chat with parents along with the School SENDCo, Head Teachers, School Governors and THRIVE practitioner. We hope this is the start of a network which brings together parents and professionals as a way of supporting each other and the children.



NCEAT REMINDERS

Your monthly reminders from around the Trust

RING TO BOOK A SPACE

ALL FREE

Easter Holiday Events
Ashington, Newbiggin & Bedlington Family Hubs

FAMILY GAMES, GET ACTIVE!

Fun family games to get you feeling active!
For children 0 - 10 years

Ashington Family Hub:
Tuesday 4 April | 09:30 - 10:30
Tuesday 11 April | 09:30 - 10:30

Bedlington Family Hub:
Tuesday 4 April | 11:30 - 12:30
Tuesday 11 April | 11:30 - 12:30

Newbiggin Family Hub | 01670 812751
Cleveland Ave, Newbiggin, NE64 6RR

Ashington Family Hub | 01670 819988
Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE63 9EF

Bedlington Family Hub | 01670 822714
Stead Lane, Bedlington, NE22 5JS

Please make sure you are registered: nland.cc/threg

EASTER PARTIES

Easter Crafts and fun activities for all the family
For children of any age

Newbiggin Family Hub:
Tuesday 4 April | 13:30 - 15:00
Stay for a snack and drink afterwards

Bedlington Family Hub:
Wednesday 5 April | 10:30 - 12:00
Stay for a snack and drink afterwards

Ashington Family Hub:
Thursday 6 April | 10:30 - 12:00
Join us afterwards for FREE home cooked lunch in association with Full Circle Food at 'The Growing Zone' located off 5th Avenue at Hirst Park

DANCE SESSIONS

Hip Hop Dance Session
For children aged 10+ years

Bedlington Family Hub:
Thursday 13 April | 16:30 - 17:30

Ashington Family Hub:
Thursday 6 April | 15:30 - 16:30

ART SESSIONS

Create a photomontage to take home using photos from around the north east
For children aged 12+ years
No Adults

Bedlington Family Hub:
Thursday 6 April | 14:00 - 16:00

Ashington Family Hub:
Thursday 6 April | 17:45 - 19:45

Northumberland Community Bank

At Northumberland Community Bank (NCB) our members tell us that having access to a small loan, especially at Christmas or Holiday times, can be extremely useful - that's why we introduced our Family Loan designed to help you save and borrow at the same time!

When you take out a Family Loan with NCB, we will deduct your loan repayment out of your child benefit and pay the remainder in to your savings account; by the time your loan has been repaid, you will have built up over £100 in your savings account!!

Find out more about our Family Loans by visiting www.northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk



PLACES AVAILABLE

15 HOURS A WEEK

**FREE
CHILDCARE
AVAILABLE**

CALL RECEPTION

30 HOURS A WEEK

**FREE
NURSERY
PROVISION**

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

CALL US TO FIND OUT MORE



*Subject to eligibility criteria

KEEP UP TO DATE

with the Trust



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