



January/February Newsletter

Last week I was pleased to hear Boris Johnson state "I'm particularly in awe of the way the parents, carers and guardians of children have risen to the unique challenges with which you have been faced," I could not agree more! Lock down is hard for everyone but lock down with children can at times feel like a herculean challenge!

We would like to say thank you! You are incredible and are doing a brilliant job.

Thank you to the critical workers who are going out to work every day to keep our country moving! You really are superheroes.

Thank you to the parents and carers who are doing an incredible job at supporting their children with home learning. We fully appreciate that this can be very difficult due to lots of other pressures!

Living through the pandemic is hard; please remember we are here for you, if you need any support or just for a chat. Home learning is important but please remember there needs to be a balance and you must do what is best for your family and your children. Please don't feel like you need to replicate a day at school. We made the decision to teach

using recorded teaching to enable you to access this whenever works best for you and your family.

Our staff have adapted brilliantly to the new style of working, balancing the needs of the children in their class on a daily basis with preparing teaching and learning for the children at home. I have been over the moon to hear how well our children have been engaging with home learning.

Our staff have loved the opportunity to meet up virtually with the children during our Google Meet catch ups and I know the children have loved this also.

We thought you would like the opportunity to find out what has been going on in all the different classes throughout school, both in the classroom and at home. It really has been an action packed half term.

We can't wait to have all of our children back in school again!

Keep safe and keep in touch!

Glen Whitehead

Head Teacher.



THANK YOU!

Early Years

We are so impressed with our children's attitude to learning both at school and at home. We love seeing all your lovely work on Tapestry and your smiling faces! At the start of term we explored our core book 'One Snowy Night'. We investigated ice and had great fun making snow angels. Using our creative skills, we made paper snowflakes, twirlers and snowy pictures too. The core book we are exploring at present is Elmer. We have enjoyed drawing and describing Elmer and thinking of ways to be a good friend just like Elmer. We are very proud of our patchwork Elmer that we created together!

We have been working really hard in phonics, learning new sounds and working on our sounding out and blending skills. Some children have used their phonics knowledge to build and write sentences independently! Science experiments have been a big hit in early years. We investigated what was the quickest way to melt ice and how to make a rainbow using skittles. Next we are going to grow a rainbow and make a raincloud in a jar! The children have loved working on their fine motor skills each morning during dough disco and have continued strengthening their finger in the dough area when making play dough Elmers. Live sessions on google meet have been a lovely way for the children to catch up with their friends, share stories and nursery rhymes as well as getting active with Bave. Forest Friday continues to be a huge hit with the children. We love to investigate and explore nature whatever the weather! It's good to see you joining in with the Forest Friday challenges at home too. We are missing you all, stay safe and take care from your early year's teachers.



Year 1

We found magic beans in the classroom, and a beanstalk grew!! It got us very excited for starting our new unit on Jack and the Beanstalk. Lilly-Anna even had a beanstalk grow at home!

Lily Wilson has been very keen to get started with our French speaking this term. She practiced French greetings following the work set. She then recorded the Mr Tumble theme song in French with her Dad. Well done Lily for taking your work that extra step, to embed your understanding further.

We have been exploring the solar system and planet Earth. We know so much more now about our planet, where it is in space and where continents and oceans are on the planet. Lincoln constructed the world, showing land, water and ice, following the instructions set out in the lesson, at home. Molly got busy, making her own papier mâché globe and recorded a video, explaining what she has learned.

We have been creating art in the style of Paul Klee. Check out some of our creations.

To help keep a healthy body and healthy mind at home, Year One has started to live stream Little Movers at 2pm on Friday afternoons. Even mums and dads enjoyed taking part last week! In Year One this half term we have been investigating everyday materials and as we are scientists, we made sure we wore our lab coats and safety glasses





MissReeves @MissReeves
 Wow!! What an amazing start to your poem Alexander! I love your alliteration
 @PieCorbett



9:34 Caleb

I will put in the suitcase
 A 25th hour,
 A 53rd week
 And a meowing puppy.

I will put in the suitcase
 Fireworks as black a zebra's stripes,
 A fairy juggling Rubix cubes
 And a juggler turning people into cats.

My box is fashioned from the shiniest diamonds,
 The lid is made from unicorn hair,
 The corners are full of reflections
 And its hinges are made of bunny feet.

I will cycle in my suitcase,
 I will speed as fast as lightning hitting the ground,
 I will travel to Australia and see grinning geckos.



Year 2

Year 2 have been working so hard this term and have been making Miss Reeves very proud. We started our term with a fantastic writing masterclass with the Author, Luke Temple. The children had a great time reading about 'Albert and the Blubber Monster' and enjoyed creating their own monsters to write about. Lots of Year 2 ordered signed copies of Luke Temple's books and we were all very excited when they arrived. We can't put them down! Our live chats have been a highlight of our week and it has been lovely to see all of our friends at home. These virtual chats have given us the opportunity to share stories and learning with each other, whether in school or at home, as well as having lots of fun playing games like Phonics Bingo. It really has been lovely to see how well we can all still connect, even when we can't be together.

We have also really enjoyed learning the dance to 'Jerusalem'. Children in school and at home have been practicing the line dance as part of our whole school dance project. We have explored African dance styles as well as understanding the importance of sticking to a beat. Scan the QR code to check out our dancing!

In literacy, we have been focusing on Poetry. Our model text for this unit was 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. Miss Reeves is amazed at the incredible creativity and imagination from Year 2 when writing their innovations. Have a look at their work on Twitter!

Science has brought the opportunity for lots of fun investigations into materials. Our latest investigation explored the most suitable material for a light-proof den. Year 2 had lots of scientific fun at home making sure no light could get in.

Year 3

Year 3 learners have been working really hard both at home and at school. I have been really impressed with how everyone is engaging with work at home and the quality of work the children have been producing. In maths we have been learning about adding and subtracting money and have now moved on to tally charts, pictograms and bar charts.

In reading we loved reading The Wreck of the Zanzibar and finding out all about the shipwrecks and storms that happened on this small island. We have just started our new class text called Ice Palace which is full of exciting adventures.

I have been amazed by Year 3's writing this term! We have been writing recounts of the Morpeth flood before doing our own piece of writing on the eruption of Mt Vesuvius. Children have written some very detailed recounts.

I challenged the class to a TT Rockstars battle earlier in the term and got well and truly beaten!! Congratulations to Harry, Charlotte, Lucy, Jiya and Gregor who finished in the top 5 of the tournament.

After half term I am really looking forward to starting our new history topic The Romans. This is one of my favourite topics as there is so much Roman History to explore in our area and I hope as it gets lighter you will be inspired to go and explore Northumberland's Roman History.



Year 4

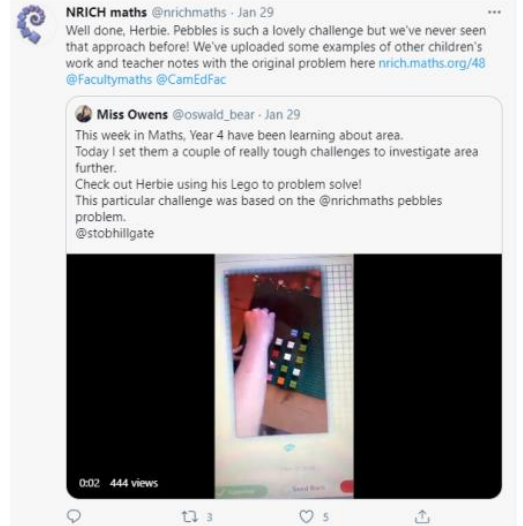
Year 4 continue to impress both at home and in school. Miss Owens is so incredibly proud of all the hard work you have been doing. Esme received some exciting news and has become somewhat of a celebrity! Our first French lesson was all about revising basic greetings, we recapped these by watching French with Mr Innes (A different Mr Innes!). Esme was chosen as the winner of his competition and got a special shoutout on his show! Herbie also got a shout out from @NRichMaths for his practical approach to solving one of our maths challenges.

Reading sessions have once again been a complete hit during this period! This half term, we have been reading *The Wreck of the Zanzibar* by Michael Morpurgo. Children have been responding and using their clarifying, summarising, questioning, and predicting skills in a variety of ways. (I think we definitely have some vloggers in the making) We are going to be starting a new book called *Varjak Paw* by SF Said. We have been very lucky to receive a message from the author himself!

We are really enjoying Google meet sessions and having the opportunity to catch up with our friends for a virtual chat. Check out our selfie, at the start of the newsletter, from last week's session!

Alexis Pallister @AlexisLilyEsme · Jan 22

After our french lesson last week @oswald_bear @stobhillgate Esme wanted to name @frenchmrinnes friend and we won!! Thanks to @xxLilyroseeeexx for commenting for her!! Tres bien!



Barnado's Young Dads Development Worker

A new offer has been made available from Barnado's to offer support to young dads and referrals can be made by contacting - newcastlevpst@barnardos.org.uk or 0191 2714615 OR simon.tovey@barnardos.org.uk / 07565 620600.

AGED 25 AND UNDER? DO YOU NEED SUPPORT AROUND:

- BUILDING YOUR CONFIDENCE AS A YOUNG DAD, OR A DAD-TO-BE?
- 1:1 WORK? SOMEONE TO TALK TO OR ADVISE YOU?
- PRACTICAL PARENTING SKILLS AND INFORMATION?
- SOMEBODY TO ADVOCATE FOR YOU?
- SUPPORT WITH OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS:
 - EMPLOYMENT? RELATIONSHIPS? YOUR RIGHTS?

A message from Rook Matthews Sayer

ARE YOU HOMESCHOOLING? 📖✉️ If so we can help!

We are happy to help any of our local parents by offering a free printing service. Please email the documents you need to your nearest participating RMS branch, they will print them out free of charge and leave them outside the door ready for you to collect in a Covid secure way.

And a little message of 'well done' to all you parents and carers who are currently home schooling - we know it's stressful but please remind yourselves you're doing a great job. 🙌👏👏

Thank you for your great effort in helping us to see the end of this Pandemic sooner rather than later. You all deserve a medal! Stay safe and take care of yourselves. 🏆🏆🏆

Participating RMS branches ready to support you are: Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlington, Blyth, Forest Hall, Hexham, Jesmond, Morpeth, Ponteland & West Denton

5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Look after your school and remember the rules

-  **Socially distance at least 2m everywhere on site and when queuing outside school.**
-  **Be alert to signs that coronavirus symptoms may be developing in your child and stay at home to monitor.**
-  **Remember to wash your hands often, use face coverings and keep your distance.**
-  **If you're asked to self-isolate, stay at home and don't go out for any reason.**
-  **If you, your child, or anyone you live with has a new continuous cough, a temperature, or a loss of/change in sense of taste or smell, stay at home and get a test.**