



Whalton School News

Spring Term

28th February 2020



Year 6 Taster Day at Ponteland High School

On Monday 3rd February, our Year 6 children began our Ponteland High School visit very independently, meeting Miss Anderson in the school's main foyer. This exceptional, mature behaviour continued throughout our morning! We were also very lucky to be accompanied by a former Whalton student, who looked after us well throughout our visit.

We took part in three lessons while we were there:

Art:

In Art, we studied an artist named Matt Powell. We used carbon paper to print pictures of the birds provided, onto maps. We then used the art of line, sketching and blending to give our masterpieces their final touches.

Geography:

In Geography, we studied a place called Svalbard and played a team game of 'Pens in Pots' where children had to work collaboratively in groups to answer questions for points, going up against the class in the final round. We have a great memory in Year 6 and understood lots of geographical vocabulary.

Maths:

We worked together to learn numbers in Japanese. This was linked to the 2020 Olympics which are being held in Tokyo this summer, before we embark on our High School journey come September. Our knowledge of fractions and BODMAS helped us to succeed. In the final challenge, near the end, our problem-solving skills further helped us to decode the tricky word problems to figure out the ages of the different athletes who will be taking part and competing.

A very enjoyable morning had by all!

Reading Workshop



Thank you to all those who attended the Reading Workshop on Wednesday! It was lovely to see you all so keen to promote and foster a love of reading. The link to the Oxford Owl Website where you can find many free 'E' books for your children is below. You need to sign up as a parent, but this is free to do.

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/.

World Book Day 'Careers' Thursday 5th March

Our focus this year will be the school's motto of 'Aspire, Believe, Achieve: to be the very best that we can be', and we would like the children, if possible, to come dressed in the clothes they would wear for their future chosen career, be it a doctor, professional cricketer, engineer or even Prime Minister!



As it would be fantastic for the children to see and listen to actual real life role models in their chosen careers, we would love to hear from parents and relatives who could come in on Thursday 5th March and talk to the children about **their** chosen careers. It need not be for long, but it would give the children first-hand information about possible future jobs. Please see your child's class teacher for more information.

Federation Day - World Book Day

We would like to combine World Book Day with our second Federation Day this year on Thursday 5th March. Years 3 and 4 are invited to go to Longhorsley CE First School and Reception, Year 1 and 2 will remain at Whalton.

NB If you are offering to talk about your career, you could choose either school for your visit and you would be warmly welcomed in both. Please see Mrs Elliott, if you can help us to inspire our children to believe in themselves to follow their dreams ... bearing in mind that some jobs, when the children are of employment age, will be totally new!

Years 5 and 6 will continue on to Alnwick and spent their day at Barter Books and the White Swan Hotel which has an exhibition of memorabilia from the Titanic's Sister Ship the Britannic.

Readathon

Also, in the run up to World Book Day, we would like to hold a sponsored 'Readathon' where the children are sponsored to read as much as they can between now and World Book Day. They can



either be sponsored to read by the page; by the book; by the number of times they have sat down to read or when they have had a story shared with them/read to them - whatever your choice for sponsorship may be. The idea is to encourage and share a love of reading!

The sponsorship money raised will help to provide a regular supply of brand new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK. Your child will be given a sponsor form next week.

NB If you do not want your child to take part in the sponsorship, please use the forms to track your child's reading and see if they can improve the frequency and depth of their reading between now and World Book Day.

Your child was given a sponsor form and book token before half term. If you need any more please see Mrs Elliott. Please follow the link below to access the form for donating your sponsorship money. Thank you.

<https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor>

Book Sale (School and PAWS)

Thank you to Caroline and the PTA for offering refreshments at the recent book sale. An incredible £171.50 was raised and has been split between PAWS and school. Many thanks for your support! We still have many books left over that we would like to give to a good home. If you have any contacts with charities or know of any organisation that would appreciate them, please contact the school office.

Swimming Gala and Gymnastics Festival Thursday 26th March

Our Federation competition takes place on Thursday 26th March. We will join Longhorsley, Cambo and Belsay schools for swimming events or gymnastics activities. It is an exciting morning where the children have the opportunity to compete against local school friends; have fun with swimming team games or practise their gymnastic skills. The children will be given the choice between gymnastics or swimming and will need the appropriate kit on the day. Please look out for the permission letter, to follow shortly, in your child's bag.

Whalton Easter Trail Monday 30th March



Once again we have been invited to take part in the local churches' community event at Easter time. Last year we travelled to Cambo church to explore the theme 'Creation'. This year it is being held in Whalton Village Hall and St. Mary Magdalene Church, where the children will be encouraged to look at ways that we can travel as pilgrims, discovering the many different aspects of 'Love'. We are very much looking forward to it!

Walking Bus

Walking Bus resumed on Wednesday 26th February. Please note that if the weather is poor, for the safety of your children, we will cancel the bus.



School Gateway overdue payments- autumn term 2019

Please note that all payments for the autumn term are now overdue! Please remember that payments for Swimming, Music tuition, Milk, Educational Visits and School Dinners must be paid in advance by the deadline date set up on School Gateway. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you.

Dates for your diary -



Thursday 5th March 2020 - World Book Day and Federation Day - Years 3 and 4 travel to Longhorsley and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 travel remain at school.

Thursday 5th March Years 5 and 6 trip to Barter Books and the White Swan Hotel - Alnwick

Friday 13th March 2020 - Sport Relief

Monday 16th & Wednesday 18th March 2020 - Parents' Meetings: Pupil Progress Update

Thursday 26th March Federation Swimming Gala and Gymnastics Festival

Monday 30th March Whalton Easter Trail

Thursday 2nd April 2020 - Easter Service - 2:00pm in Church

Thursday 2nd April 2020 - School breaks up for Easter

A reminder that our School Newsletter is available on the front page of our website and under the Office section - Newsletters at www.whalton.northumberland.sch.uk