

Due to technical network issues beyond our control, this Newsletter was due to go out last Friday but didn't!

Welcome to Mrs Henderson!

As we returned from the Easter break, we have been able to officially welcome Mrs Henderson, our new Deputy Headteacher, to the Levendale family. She has taken this first couple of weeks to get a real feel for the school and has taken the opportunity to visit classrooms, talk to children and meet with staff before she takes up her teaching role in a week or so. We are delighted to have her on the team!

Thank you!

Last week, we held an Earth Day celebration in school (Earth Day itself fell in the Easter break) and it was absolutely fantastic to see the level of support we enjoyed: school was a sea of green and the cake sale raised just short of £300. Thanks to your generosity (and the inevitable Levendale appetite for cakes!), we should now be in a position to sponsor an endangered animal for each class in school.



Surplus exercise books

Over a period of many years in school, we have accumulated quite a stock of different exercise books which are now surplus to requirements. We have asked the other Primary Schools within the Trust if they could use them. Mrs Dearlove will put out a selection of what we have left on Monday 16th May, so please feel free to come and take as many as you like to use at home.

PTA Platinum Jubilee Party

Our hard-working PTA have planned "A Royal Crafternoon" in school from 3:15pm to 4:30pm on Friday 20th May to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be a party on the KS1 playground with games and refreshments available - please do join us if you are able!



On a PTA-related note, we recently took delivery of our new book treasure chest which we intend to fill as part of our rewards system in school. The PTA very generously funded this treasure chest and we are looking forward to filling it!

Around the classes

I had the opportunity last week to speak to some children from different classes about the work they have been doing and what they have been enjoying most. Reception have been set an investigative task this week after some mysterious seeds appeared on my desk and they are engrossed in trying to find out what they could be; Y1 told me about the book they have been reading called 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo' by Michael Rosen and how excited they were to be changing parts of the story to make their own version; children in Y2 said that learning about fractions has been the highlight of their week; Year 3 have been writing poems about reducing plastic waste and also creating some fantastic Roman shields; Year 4 have been researching the Anglo-Saxons and also doing a VERY interesting digestion experiment in Science; Y5 are engrossed in the book 'Bear Island' by Hannah Gold; Y6 have been diligently preparing for next week's SATs which run from Monday to Thursday (and quite possibly dreaming of their Robinwood residential on the 16th-18th!) – as the Newsletter was delayed, the Y6s have now completed their SATs and conducted themselves exceptionally well.



Y3 Roman shields

COVID update

We have had a handful of positive cases in school since returning from the Easter break, although the number of identified positive cases is now far lower than we saw in the Spring Term. This is hardly surprising now that it is much more difficult to obtain a test: it is likely that there remains a good deal of asymptomatic infection in the community so please do be vigilant around potential symptoms in the household. Current guidance states three days' isolation for children (five for adults) after a positive test (Day 0 is the day of the test), therefore a child testing positive on a Monday would not be back in school until Friday at the earliest.

On a semi-related note, some guidance from the UK Health Security Agency was sent out to parents earlier this week. We often get queries around exclusion periods for a range of different illnesses, so hopefully this will be of benefit. The most common is for sickness and diarrhoea, where the exclusion period is 48 hours from the last episode.

Guess the staff member!

A little brain-teaser for you, although hardly of 'Mastermind' levels – who is this member of Levendale staff?

Favourite books: 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' (C.S. Lewis); 'The BFG' (Roald Dahl)
 Favourite sports: rugby, cycling
 Favourite food: roast beef and Yorkshire pudding
 Favourite places: Northumberland, North York Moors, Iceland, Japan
 Hobbies: cycling, reading, photography
 Childhood ambition: to be an astronaut!

Dates for your diary

May		Y2 test period during May
	9-12	Y6 SATs
	16-18	Y6 residential – Robinwood
	17	Y1 visit to St Mary Magdalene Church and Yarm Library
	18	Y5 athletics competition
	20	PTA Platinum Jubilee Party
	23	Reception Forest School
	27	Y3/4 Commonwealth Games Quadkids event
		Break up for half-term
Jun	6	Start of Summer Term 2
	6-10	Y1/2 phonics check week
	6-24	Y4 multiplication check period
	13	School photographs
	17	PD Day – school closed to children
	20	PD Day – school closed to children
	21	Y2 Literacy Trail, Preston Park
	25	PTA Levenfest
	27-30	Y3 swimming
	30	Y1 trip to Hardwick Park Y4 trip to Jarrow Hall
Jul	1-7	Y3 swimming
	4	Y1 Literacy Trail
	7	PTA Committee Meeting
	8	Y6 Conyers transition day 'Moving Up' morning in school
	19	Break up for Summer
	20	PD Day – school closed to children
	21	PD Day – school closed to children
Sep	1	PD Day – school closed to children
	2	Start of Autumn Term 1

As new events are organised, these dates will be added to the calendar and parents informed as necessary. Please note that we have now confirmed the date of our final PD day and also the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (20th/21st July respectively).

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Mr Beadnall



Y4 digestion experiment in Science!