

Newsletter — 7th April 2017

Dear Parents

What's been happening over the last few weeks

You may remember at the start of this school year, Year 6 children were involved in a visit to The Gala Theatre to take part in activities relating to the Fighting Bradford Brothers who were originally from Witton Park. Both brothers have been awarded the VC and for the first brother, Roland, this was commemorated on Saturday 11th March 2017. There was an 'outdoor' church service, the laying of the stone to commemorate, unveiling of a statue, the opening of a garden area and a play performed in the village hall. Ten of our Year 6 children performed in the play. This was an extremely prestigious event and there were lots of VIPs present including relatives of the Bradford Brothers. It was a privilege to be involved in such an occasion and I'm sure the memories will stay with our children for a lifetime. Thank you to Tilly B, Jessica O, Emily O, Grace G, Kate S, Scarlet S, Ethan W, Connor A, Daniel S and Thomas S for being truly fantastic and for giving up your own time to rehearse and take part. Thank you also to Mrs Sangster who supported the children with this event. The commemoration for Thomas Bradford will take place in April 2018 and school will be involved in activities and workshops leading up to this. There are also lots of community events planned for people to get involved in researching our local history. If you haven't visited Witton Park recently, please take the time to go and view the garden, the stone and the statue—they are really magnificent!

On 16th (Y6) and 17th March (Y4) children took part in 'Play in a Day' events which was organised through Konflux Theatre. Children worked together to learn non-scripted lines relating to *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Year 6) and *The Greeks* (Year 4) they then memorised these and performed to classes at the end of the day.

The Girl's Cross Country Team took part in the District Final at Peterlee College on 17th March. We came 6th overall which was a great achievement. Well done to everyone for showing amazing team spirit and determination. (Leah A, Charlotte D, Amelia B & Lucy W, Tilly R and Ruby O)

At the latest SNAG (School Nutrition Action Group) meeting with group members and Taylor Shaw it was decided that we would have a special 'Japanese' themed meal on the 21st March to celebrate our links with Japan. The menu included Tonatsu Chicken or Japanese Stir Fry with Noodles, sticky rice and either Japanese Chocolate Oat Crackle or Fresh Fruit with Ice Cream and Green Tea Sauce. Preparations for the event took place the previous week to create banners and table decorations. We were honoured to have been helped by Saki, a Japanese Intern from the International Office at County Hall who translated wording for the banners into Japanese writing and who also made origami items for the display. This event gave our children a fantastic opportunity to try food from another country and was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

Parents Evenings were well-attended on 20th and 21st March. Thank you for supporting your children with their learning at home—it really does make a difference!

Year 6 Netball Team attended a tournament on 22nd March. Congratulations on winning the tournament Tilly B, Lucy B, Liam W, Michael B, Thomas s, Alicia M, Kate s & Ruby O— you were all fantastic!

Our 'Spring Fling' Event on Friday 24th March was a huge success. The afternoon was very well attended. Stalls included Fairtrade, bottle tombola, photo booth, cakes and refreshments. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations of tombola prizes and cakes.

Year 6 children attended The Workplace, Newton Aycliffe on 27th March to take part in the Safety Carousel. This involved children learning about dangers both inside and outside of the home and how to deal with them and keep themselves safe including when they are using the internet and social media.

On 28th March Wheel Education were in school for Bike it Breakfast and to deliver Learn to Ride sessions. Parents and children came to school on their bicycles together and then ate breakfast. Learn to Ride sessions were open to all children who weren't able to ride without stabilisers. The take-up for these sessions was good and I am sure that all parents who came along to support their child would agree that it was worthwhile. Look out for our next Wheel Education session which is for those children who can ride but would like to develop their skills further.

The Wandering Minstrels came into school on 3rd April to perform a variety of music pieces to children. They also gave a concert to parents after school. The session was interactive and involved the children and the songs were all related to our local heritage and culture. The concert was enjoyed by all who came along—'Thank You' for your support.

We break up today— Friday 7th April and return to school on Monday 24th April.

Let's hope the weather is kind to us over the holidays and we all get chance to get out and about and enjoy some sunshine! Enjoy!

Thank you for your continued support this term.

Wendy Gill & Staff

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will continue to run next term (apart from art club which has been cancelled until further notice). When we return to school payments will be due until the end of the term. If classes are cancelled parents will receive credits.

Monday (Football, Multi Sports)

9 weeks = £22.50

Tuesday (Street Dance)

11 weeks—£27.50

Wednesday (Jujitsu—parents are to pay fees directly to the provider 07903393613)

Thursday (Multi-Skills)

11 weeks—£27.50



FACEBOOK

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS

Over the past weeks a number of parents have reported to me comments that have been made on Facebook about our school. Please can I ask that if parents have any complaints or moans, they come and discuss them in school with us rather than posting derogatory comments on social media. If this continues I will have no option but to seek legal advice from the Local Authority's solicitors.

PARKING

As you know parking and traffic outside school is an on-going issue. Please can parents refrain from dangerous practices i.e. turning round in the road, parking on yellow zig zags and turning in entrances—to school, to residents property. As we have said on numerous occasions—this is an accident waiting to happen and we want to ensure the safety of all our children at all times.

We have had an increasing number of phone calls from some angry residents living on Beckett Close and Foxglove Drive areas complaining that at the end of the school day parents are parking across their driveways blocking access to and from their properties. Please can parents refrain from causing these obstructions. Our PCSO is aware of the situation and they are going to monitor the situation after the holidays.



Congratulations



Easter Egg Competition

The children have thoroughly enjoyed making their Easter eggs in school. We had a whole array of wonderful designs! The winners were chosen by Rev David Briggs and his wife today.

Our Egg-cellent Winners:

Reception Class:	Noah G & Abbie P
Year 1	Daisy B-W & Finley H
Year 2	Henry S & Caelan H
Year 3	April G & Skye M
Year 4	Joshua Y & Jack R
Year 5	Jake P & Lottie D
Year 6	Kelsi H & Lucy B

ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:
20/03/2017

Year 4 and Year 6
98%

ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:
06/03/2017

Year 3
98.6%

ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:
13/03/2017

Year 3 and Year 5
96.9%

ATTENDANCE

Week Beginning:
27/03/2017

Year 6
98.7%

Writer of the Week

17th March 2017

Reception	Elena W
Class 1	Elise G
Class 2	Eden S
Class 3	Oliver B
Class 4	None
Class 5	Ellie S
Class 6	Deyla A

Writer of the Week

24th March 2017

Reception	Robbie O
Class 1	Daisy B-W
Class 2	Lewis A
Class 3	Ethan R
Class 4	Hope S
Class 5	Patrick BA
Class 6	Emily O

Writer of the Week

31st March 2017

Reception	Molly E
Class 1	Max A
Class 2	Thomas B
Class 3	Kam C
Class 4	Hannah D
Class 5	Lilia W
Class 6	Lucy B

Writer of the Week

7th April 2017

Reception	Nieve, Matty & Jessica
Class 1	Anya M
Class 2	Stella T
Class 3	Charlotte A
Class 4	Kayleigh B
Class 5	Kaine R
Class 6	Ethan S



Congratulations



Star of the Week Award

17th March 2017

Class Nominations

Reception	Sonny J
Class 1	Anya M
Class 2	Finley B
Class 3	Aimee T
Class 4	None
Class 5	Aaron B
Class 6	Tilly R

Superstar of the Week!

* Anya M *

Star of the Week Award

24th March 2017

Class Nominations

Reception	Abbie P
Class 1	Nicholas R-O
Class 2	Jacob C
Class 3	Skye M
Class 4	Tom B
Class 5	Declan W
Class 6	Amelia B

Superstar of the Week!

* Tom B *

Star of the Week Award

31st March 2017

Class Nominations

Reception	Kate D
Class 1	Milly H
Class 2	Ethan W
Class 3	Poppy W
Class 4	Holly M
Class 5	Matthew B
Class 6	Thomas S

Superstar of the Week!

* Ethan W *

Star of the Week Award

7th April 2017

Class Nominations

Reception	Jensen T
Class 1	Nathan K
Class 2	Amelia O
Class 3	Daisy J
Class 4	Macey D
Class 5	Nel W
Class 6	Kelsi H

Superstar of the Week!

* Kelsi H *