



FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Jane Scardifield

Curriculum Spotlight - HISTORY

Our school is part of a national partnership of schools (and as yet, the only primary school in Calderdale) who follow the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) for History, Geography, Art and Science. One of the benefits of this is that we work with national consultants to quality assure our curriculum delivery and this week, we welcomed Juli Ryzop who works with schools across the UK for a History Deep-Dive. We visited lessons, examined pupil workbooks and spoke with pupils about their History learning. We saw pupils enjoying the start of new topics including: Kings and Queens in year 1, where the concept of monarchy (so important to historical study) was introduced, some impressively knowledgeable year 2 pupils building on their previously learned knowledge through their study of The Tudors, Year 3 pupils adding to their knowledge of invaders and settlers with the start of a unit on Vikings, Year 4 pupils learning about the Punic Wars as part of their Romans study and year 5 classes thoroughly immersed in the very important topic of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. We identified many strengths in pupils' learning and teacher subject knowledge particularly with how knowledge is taught to be remembered with each lesson expertly constructed to help children recall and retrieve prior knowledge and make links with new learning. Pupils clearly love their History learning and even the very youngest understood the value of Historical study with many already having future plans to study aspects of History at college, University and beyond! Myself and our curriculum leader (Mr Simpson) are looking forward to travelling to London at the end of this term to observe learning in other PKC schools which will, no doubt, provide more inspiration for the continuous development of our curriculum offer.

LISTENING TO YOUR FEEDBACK - CLUBS

Our before and after-school clubs are an important part of our curriculum offer. We set ourselves the target that at least 50% of all pupils will take part in at least one extra-curricular activity every year - at the half-way marker in the year, our figure currently stands at 47% which is fantastic but we want even more pupils to benefit from our clubs offer. As we advertise the next 6-week club offer, we have listened carefully to your feedback from this year's parental consultation. Some of you said it was difficult to secure a place in clubs as these were allocated on a first come, first served basis. To address this, we will prioritise places in the next set of clubs for pupils who have not taken a club place.





SAFEGUARDING

This week, our assembly theme has been Respect and we have focused particularly on body boundaries, personal space and consent. Children have been taught about personal and intimate space. Children have learned that they can say no to touch that that makes them feel uncomfortable which is an important concept both now and into the future. The NSPCC have some good advice for families wishing to talk about healthy relationships (including consent) which can be found online at:

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sex-relationships/healthy-relationships/



This website provides advice, information, support and signposting on local and national emotional health and wellbeing services that help children, young people and families who are going through a difficult time.

<http://www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk/>



FOREST SCHOOL

Learning to use real tools safely is a key part of the forest school curriculum and links closely with our Design and Technology Curriculum. Year 4 had an important task this week - to use a bow-saw to cut wood to make a fire in order to cook pancakes! Great team-work, super concentration and a wonderful reward after all that work!





CHARITY NEWS - PET TREATS COLLECTION

RSPCA (children's chosen charity of the year)

Money Raised: £23.90

Treats collected: 253

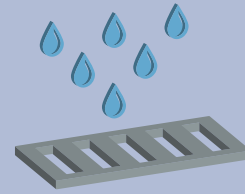
We have delivered another full box of cat and dog treats to our local RSPCA shelter and our next fundraiser to look out for, organised by pupils will be an Easter colouring competition. The treat collection continues until Easter.



NEWS/UPDATES

Drainage works

Drainage work on the banking in the front playground was completed in the half term holiday. The playground will be jet-washed this weekend to clean the area now that the works have been completed.



Road Closure

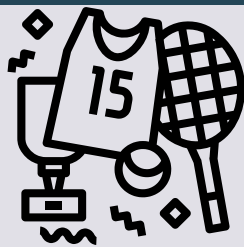
Road works will continue on Towngate and Lydgate next week.



PE AND SPORTS

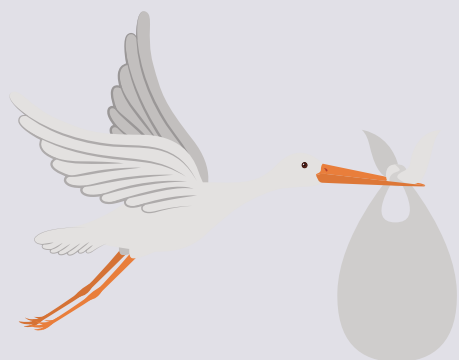
PE and School sports

For children's health and fitness, we know that it is very important that children are active throughout the school day. To help with this, we have started a 4-week trial period of employing sports coaches in KS2 to run structured sports activities in playgrounds throughout the lunchtime period. It has been brilliant this week to see girls and boys engaging in cricket, netball and handball games along with the usual football and skipping on offer. We will be taking feedback from pupils and monitor engagement with these activities before making a decision on whether this is something to invest in longer term. Reminder from Mr Greenwood that full PE kits are required in order to take part in PE safely - please ensure your children have these for PE days.



Congratulations to the Greenwood Family!

I am sure that you will join me in sending our love and best wishes to our year 4 teacher Mrs Greenwood who has welcomed a beautiful baby daughter into the world over the half term holiday - we send our warmest wishes and congratulations to Mrs Greenwood and her family!



REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOOL HOODIES

Advance notice - discontinuation of school hoodies.

From September 2024, we will be removing the school hoodies from our uniform list with pupils being required to wear either the navy sweatshirt or cardigan. If you are purchasing new jumpers from this point, we would strongly recommend choosing sweatshirts or cardigans as these will be able to be used into the next school year.

