



Email: admin@hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Web: www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term.

The beginning of last week was very special here in school. Not only was it the beginning of another exciting half term in school but we had our first whole school assembly in nearly two years. It was very special to me and the staff and most of all for the children to be part of the whole school community again - there was a real excitement in the air!

Over the last two years I have visited classes to take assemblies, we have even had some assemblies outside and somehow managed a Leavers Assembly for Year 6 on the school field. At times during the lockdowns, Mrs Johnson has recorded me standing outside (even in the snow) trying to deliver an assembly to an empty yard that was then uploaded to the website. A challenge in itself.

So last Monday, and again on World Book Day on Thursday and again on Friday for Celebration Assembly we came together as one school.

In our assemblies we have been talking about being positive and trying to see positives (even though at times this can be tricky, especially when we see the news at the moment).

We thought it would be good to share a couple of the quotes with you that we discussed in assembly:

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses"

Abraham Lincoln

"Every day may not be good, but there is good in every day"

Alice Morse Earle

(Ask your child about Mr Moloney picking fruit in his garden).

Whilst we are clearly moving in the right direction, we need to ensure we keep everyone as safe as we can. Therefore, we are going to use this half term to get the school back to 'normal'. We are going to phase out our internal systems which have kept children in the different classes segregated. By doing this we can then introduce more mixed and whole school activities in addition to the whole school assemblies.

We look forward to opening our doors to parents and grandparent helpers soon too!

Kevin Moloney
Headteacher

Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Ford Class are swimming on Wednesdays
- ◆ Clubs this half term:
Mondays, Cookery Bamburg
Mondays, Trident Soccer Ford
Tues/Weds Homework, All
Wednesdays, Guitar, Ford/Etal
Thursdays, SATs Club, Year 6
Thursdays, Choir Club,
Bamburg
Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Year 4 Bikeability
Friday, 11th March
- ◆ Parent Teacher Meetings
Monday 14th/Wednesday 16th
March
- ◆ Red Nose Day!!
Friday, 18th March
- ◆ Etal Class to Centre for
Life, Newcastle
Friday, 25th March
- ◆ Kingswood instalment due
Wednesday, 30th March
- ◆ Bamburg Beach School
Thursday 31st March
- ◆ Etal Beach School
Tuesday 5th April
- ◆ Ford Beach School
Thursday 7th April
- ◆ Break up for Easter
Friday 8th April
- ◆ Back to school
Monday 25th April

Please keep checking the
calendar on the school
website for more events

Number Day 2022

The whole school had a fantastic Number Day to help raise money for the NSPCC back in early February.



You raised an amazing amount for the NSPCC - thank you!



Preschool's number day was a huge success.

We began our morning with number rhymes. We then enjoyed number colouring and sorting; a good opportunity to practise our sequence counting and number recognition.

Next we headed outside to the playground where we did some super bean bag throwing into numbered hoops and sorted pinecones into categories.

We even counted our tangerines at snack time!



Bamburgh class - we made our own hats on a number theme and dressed up.

We had great fun with our number hunt outside. We played dominos, snakes & ladders, connect 4 and lots of other games involving numbers. We listened to the maths adventure story called 'A Place for Zero' by Angeline Sparagna LoPresti. In PE we played games using numbers, counting and timing the quickest time for picking up a ball with a partner.

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Alnwick class listened attentively to Mr Moloney's number themed story.

Ford class looked great in their outfits! They took their learning outside to measure up the herb garden and to show off their knowledge of the nine times table. The children also created maths puzzles for the younger children using bright paper cut into different shapes.

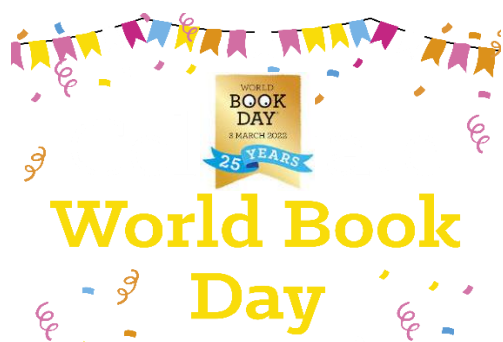
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Etal class took part in Times Table Rockstar National tournament, made our own 'Guess my Number' riddles and played some whole class number games.

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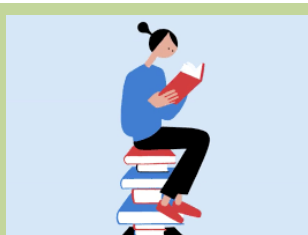
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World Book Day



After listening to the story of 'Leaf', Bamburgh Class discussed how the polar bear had arrived in a different habitat. We talked about icebergs and their properties. Working in groups children experimented with an ice balloon completing different experiment challenges.



As you can see, everyone had a great time celebrating World Book Day...

The whole school joined in a live event hosted by Axel Scheffler and we were amazed to watch as he drew some of our favourite characters and read poems and stories.

We also held a book swapping event and had great fun designing potato book characters.

Well done everyone!



Ford Class did some lovely work, creating their own leaves inspired by the author and illustrator of Leaf, Sandra Dieckman. The class wrote reviews of the book and also created their favourite characters out of modelling clay.



In Alnwick Castle Class we created a story map for Leaf and used this to recreate Leaf's journey in our forest area. We also made some fantastic crowns from the leaves we collected and created.



A quiet corner in Etal is sometimes the perfect spot when you've got a good book!



WBD fun in preschool



Superstar team ...

Year 5 and 6 take on Lego League Challenge!

A team of Year 5 and 6 children were selected to take part in Lego League 2022- Cargo Connect Challenge. After weeks of preparation and hard work from our team, we went to The Village Hotel in Newcastle to compete in the challenge with other schools from Northumberland and Newcastle. As part of the competition we were judged in four areas: robot game, robot design, innovation project and core values. To prepare for the robot games we had to design, build and programme our robot to complete tasks to deliver cargo. After conducting lots of research, we chose to focus on air pollution from cargo for our innovation project and presented our solution of increasing the number of electric vehicles to a judging panel, where we also had to answer questions from the judges. Throughout the whole project, we used our core values which were: discovery, innovation, impact, teamwork, inclusion and fun.



We each took on a role during the project:

Adi: creative designer and communicator builder

Hannah: builder and researcher

Harrison: project manager, mission strategist and coder

Ewan: materials manager

Blake: communicator and builder

James: strategist and builder

George: communicator and builder

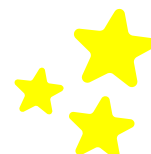
Erica: builder and coder

Jack: coder and researcher

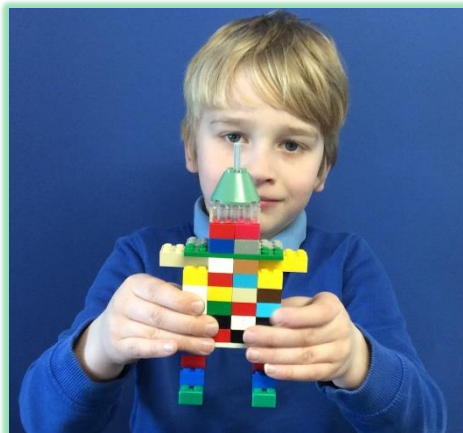
Joseph: coder and researcher

Kurt: team captain

We all had an amazing time and are very proud to have won the award for our robot design and to have been in the final of the robot games!



Fun activities...



Pupils have had great fun joining in various after school clubs lately. From amazing models made in Lego club; learning how to weave a poppy and how to design and create fabulous spoon puppets in arts and crafts; cooking up a storm in the kitchen to strumming the chords in guitar club.



Yum



BIG
Battery Hunt!



The great big battery hunt is back! Look out for collection boxes heading home for you to keep your used batteries in. Once full, bring them in to school and we'll send them off
Thank you!



Winners of the World Book Day potato character competition who each received a voucher to spend at Barter Books



Arctic adventures...

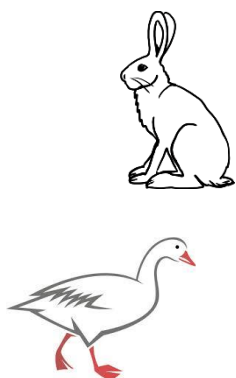


Bamburgh class have had a great time recently learning about the Arctic. We had an adventure filled beach day on an arctic theme - on the way to the beach we stopped on the bridge to view the river Aln and everyone used their observation skills to spot wildlife near the river. We saw a heron, geese, ducks and jackdaws. We discussed how we knew it was low tide and what we would see when we returned to school later in the day and how it would be different.

On the way to Alnmouth the class had a challenge to spot seasonal changes and look out for early signs of spring. The first flowers of spring seemed to be popping up everywhere and we had great fun spotting the snowdrops on our way.

We spotted gorse and broom. We talked about how we could remember the name gorse - we practised saying it's gorse of course!

On the way back to school we were very lucky to spot three Roe deer in the marsh land. We had to stay very still and quiet to spot them. We talked about how they were well camouflaged. It was a great day full of intrepid adventure!



Every Friday morning Bamburgh Class have been going on a journey to discover the Arctic. We have flown over the Arctic Sea in our explorer aeroplanes and landed amongst the icebergs and the creatures that live there. We have developed our balance, agility and coordination using various yoga positions. After trying a wide range of positions from an Arctic Hare to an Igloo and even a Snow Goose, we end each session with a breathing exercise thinking about the creatures we have met on our adventures. Mr Moloney has had a fabulous time working with us and learning lots of new arctic creature positions too.



Please don't forget to check your ParentPay account on a regular basis and keep on top of payments to school.

A reminder that all pupils in reception through to year 2 receive universal free school meals. It can look a bit confusing on ParentPay as the meals are logged, but there is nothing to pay. Only children in preschool and years 3 and above pay for their lunches, unless you qualify in your own right for free school meals. Thank you.

Please do not send cakes or sweets in to school when it is your child's birthday. We have a number of children in school with allergies - thank you for your understanding.



Bread Bags - we are no longer collecting bread bags to be recycled as the scheme is now closed. Most large supermarkets and local Co-op stores collect soft plastics to be recycled, so you can now drop them in when you shop.



Healthy snacks please!

If you send a playtime snack for your child, please only send in a piece of fruit or veg - no processed snacks. Thank you.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches