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Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is always a special experience to watch the Duchess Community High School Musical which takes place annually during the Spring Term at the Alnwick Playhouse. The students are greatly challenged and the end result is a thoroughly enjoyable show (and somewhat exhausting but memorable for the students). My own son experienced these musicals from his part playing the keyboard in the pit band and he, along with many others, spent months practising and I know from the most recent experience standards remain at an all-time high.

It is wonderful to see ex-Hipsburn pupils both on the stage and off the stage supporting the success of these productions. If you have not attended one of these shows I would encourage you to do so - the professionalism of the whole experience is incredible.

We are lucky to have such a special venue as the Alnwick Playhouse and I am pleased to tell you that this term our year three and year four children (Ford Class), will be working with other local schools and will be putting on their own show at the Alnwick Playhouse. Further details will be arriving soon but parents should keep 27th June free (evening).

Here at Hipsburn, music plays a strong part of school life - remember the many solos duets and enthusiastic songs from the Key Stage Two Cinders Musical at Christmas? This term, we are hoping to reform the ceilidh band which allows some of our children to work

alongside children from other schools. How exciting!

You will have received a leaflet recently letting you know about the recital on Saturday 20th April at St Mary's Church, Lesbury where Sylvia Fancy has kindly agreed to donate any money raised to develop and improve the musical provision here at Hipsburn. Moving ahead - on Saturday 5th October we have been given the opportunity for our children to sing at St Mary's Lesbury - so please keep this date free to support school.

A busy time for music but as always, we are always looking at how to develop further and if you can support our musical provision - please get in touch with your ideas.

Later this term our music lead - Mrs Donnelly will be starting up the school choir again so look out for details about this too!

**Have a great half term!**

**Kevin Moloney, Headteacher**

## Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clubs this half term:  
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Mondays, Crime Club, Yrs 3-6  
Breakfast Club, Every Day, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Tuesdays, SATs, Year 6  
Weds, Guitar, Years 3-6  
Weds, Netball, Years 3-6  
Thursdays, NUF Multiskills, Years 1-2  
Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Swimming Ford Class  
Every Wednesday
- ◆ Ford Class Assembly  
Wednesday 24th April, 9.15-9.45am. Parents welcome
- ◆ Preschool & Reception  
Outdoor Day  
Wednesday 1st May
- ◆ PTA Come to School in  
Pyjamas Day  
Friday 3rd May TBC
- ◆ Beach Day Bam & Duns  
Friday 10th May
- ◆ Year 6 SATs Week  
Monday 13th May
- ◆ Etal Beach Day  
Friday 17th May
- ◆ Beach Day Bam & Duns  
Monday 20th May
- ◆ Alnwick Beach Day  
Tuesday 21st May
- ◆ Bamburgh Class Assembly  
Wednesday 22nd May, 9.15-9.45am. Parents welcome
- ◆ Ford Beach Day  
Friday 24th May
- ◆ Break up for half term  
Friday 24th May
- ◆ Teacher Training Day  
Monday 3rd June
- ◆ Back to school for pupils  
Tuesday 4th June

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



Children in preschool learned about the real meaning of Red Nose Day and some of the people our contributions help; like 9 year old Teddy. Teddy uses a wheelchair because the muscles in his legs don't work very well. When Teddy was younger he didn't know any other children like himself, but last year he began attending a special school where he has made so many friends and he is now happy and confident. Some of the money raised at Comic Relief goes towards funding resources for Teddy's school.

We had a red themed morning with red paint, red rice, red dough and red nose colouring for our new picture board. We even had a Red Nose Day themed picnic. ●

Everyone had a great day last half term dressing in red for Red Nose Day. A big thank you to all of you who donated - you raised a fantastic £168.50 for this great cause!



The year 3/4 girls enjoyed learning some new skills at the Girls football event, as well as playing small-sided games with the year 10 girls from Duchess' High School. At the end they played a competitive game against another school which they won 12-2. Overall it was a great day for the girls - well done.



**ParentPay**

If your child is having milk this term or taking part in after school clubs, then payment is now due. 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. Thank you.

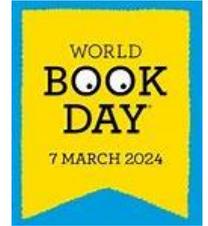


A reminder that you can drop off donations for the Alnwick District Food Bank at any time. Simply pop items into the box in the front entrance porch at school. As we approach the long summer break, we know that the food bank will be especially grateful for anything you can spare.

Thank you so much.



What a fabulous World Book Day we had back in March! The potato characters were amazing - there were so many creative ideas.



Every year we have world book day to celebrate our love for books. We have a books swap, we write a whole school story and we ask people to create potato characters from one of their favourite books!

**Book swap!**

We use a book swap as a way to share our old books with our class members that might enjoy them. Even if you can't bring in a book you will still have the chance to take a book at the end so everyone can join in. You can also share books out of school not just on world book day but any day! It's a good way to share the books you like and maybe read some books that you would not have read if it had not been given to you.

**Potato characters!**

Each year people make their favourite characters and books out of potatoes for a chance to win a free book token. People join in from preschool to year six, there is a one winner per year group and almost every one joins in! It is a fun and creative way to celebrate your favourite books. Even if you do not win it's a great way to be creative and see everyone's hard work!

**Whole school story!**

The story started at year six where we chose a main character (a sloth) an object (a magic top hat) and a setting which was a floating island we then sent it down to preschool for them to write the first part of the story. It then worked its way up the school back to year six. Then in assembly on Friday a group of year sixes read it out and the potato character winners were announced!

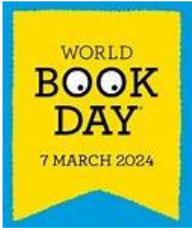
*Thank you to our roving reporters Violet and Charlotte for the above write up.*

Dunstanburgh class had an amazing day celebrating world book day last half term. Firstly, we wrote reviews for our favourite/loved books and completed a book exchange. After this, we watched some author and illustrator masterclasses which helped inspire us to create our own characters and practice drawing them - just like a real illustrator would! We read the book 'The Paper Dolls' by Julia Donaldson and designed our own characters into dolls. We explored the different settings that our dolls may visit. As well as this, we contributed to a whole-school story! To end the day, we made bookmarks and read our class book by the imaginary fire! As you can tell, we had a very busy but very exciting day.



Well done to the winners of the potato competition: Evelyn, Cassie, Flora, Ella, Abbie, Erica, Alice and Ava.



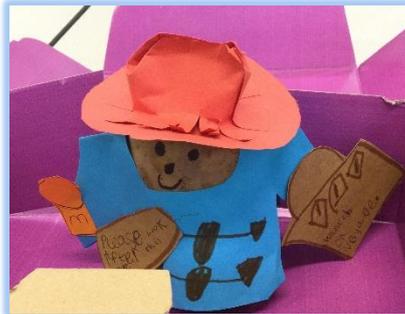


Bamburgh Class had a very busy World Book Day too! Our class World Book Day story was Hello Spring by Jo Lindley.

*After a whole year of waiting, it's finally Spring's turn to wear the Weather Crown and create her own special season. Her friends can all remember how beautiful spring was last time.*

*But this time, as Winter places the crown on her head, Spring starts to feel anxious. Can her friends help by showing her that not everything has to be perfect?*

Using the book as inspiration we made crowns to represent our favourite season. We explored different emotions and why the character Spring felt anxious in the story and how her friends helped her. We also painted some super spring meadow pictures.



## The great outdoors...

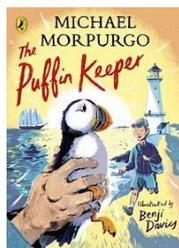


It was a busy Beach Day for **Ford Class** as we used it as an opportunity to reflect and build upon on our Science and Geography learning this term as well as our Whole Class Read too.

In Science we have been learning about the human bodies so we reinforced our knowledge as we accurately as possible recreated a human body with internal organs in the sand. The features and creativity used by each team to portray this was wonderful. Our next challenge of the morning was to work on our geographical knowledge by representing our understanding of human and physical features of the world. This was all completed with lots of cooperation in our teams. We had the diversity of some groups producing the detail of the local geography of environment in our county to some groups working hard to produce the human and physical features of Ancient Egypt and another group made the whole world.

After lunch we discussed our class text - *The Puffin Keeper* by Michael Morpurgo. We then created our own mini drama to act out a scene from the story before performing it to the rest of the class. Our final challenge of the day was to reflect upon our learning of the whole day and write some Beach Poetry. We had metaphors, similes, personification and acrostic poems about the body, the world and even the relentless wind and weather of the day.

**It was wonderfully sunny with the wind set to test us but as always, we had a fantastic day of beach adventures.**



Well **Alnwick Castle Class**, I'm so pleased we braved the weather for our beach day. We had a lovely (even quite sunny) morning before the rain came. You have all shown incredible resilience today, still joining in and trying your best despite the weather - a big well done to you all!

We started off our day by heading to the wild woods to think about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. On the way we spotted some frogs in the pond and geese flying up above us. Once we arrived at the woods we listened to the story before acting out our own mini Goldilocks drama. There were some great storyteller voices used!

We then headed to the beach to build some houses for the Three Little Pigs. We used the natural resources

around us to build our houses - there were grasses from the dunes for the straw, lots of driftwood for the sticks and lots of different stones for the bricks. They really used their imaginations, adding shells for decorations and fantastic moats and trap doors to stop the wolf! One group even made their own 'piggy town'.

After lunch we put up our hoods and headed back to the beach to build our favourite fairytale in the sand before heading back to school. It was lovely to see how the class worked together in teams to complete their challenges and how kind and supportive they are to one another.

A huge well done everyone!



### EYFS Outdoor Spring Day

Well it certainly didn't feel like glorious spring weather but we didn't let it dampen our spirits and we had a wonderful Outdoor Day for our spring topic. We had such fun working together from Preschool to Reception.

Our morning consisted of lots of spring activities where we rotated around so we each worked in our groups to try each of them. Nest building helped us think about the different types of birds that live in our woods. We tried to spot some, listen for some, found out about their life cycles, the different types of nests they build and then created our own.

We went on a bug hunt in our wooded area to hunt for worms, woodlice, spiders and ladybirds. We remembered to carefully respect them as we captured them in our pots and

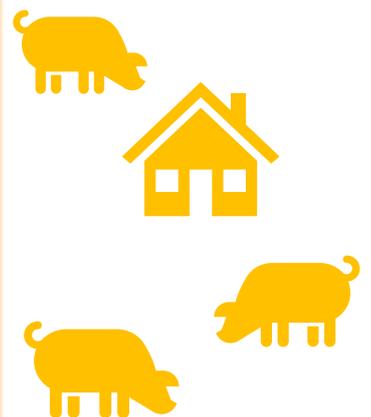
looked at them through magnifying glasses. Then we even built our little friends a bug house!

We had fun using natural materials to create Easter Bunnies, thinking about all the rabbits features too.

We also went on an 'Easter Egg Hunt' to find 'eggs' before collecting natural materials to make our own decorated eggs. After a picnic lunch and a story we headed out for a nature adventure to spot some more wildlife and signs of spring. Then finally back at school we planted our own conkers so we could grow our very own horse chestnut trees.

So much fun and adventure and we 'wowed' everyone with how well we worked together and helped one another.

Good team work EYFS.





Pupils at Hipsburn Primary School are making a habit of success at the UK Lego League Challenge, which happens every year. We now have quite a collection of trophies in school and this year the trophy was bigger and brighter than ever - read on to find out why...

### Lego League 2024

Our team - **The Happy Hipsburn Heroes** - used problem solving and teamwork skills when we took part in Lego League 2024, where the challenge this year was to *imagine and innovate new ways to create and communicate art across the globe*.

All teams were judged on four areas: robot game, robot design, innovation project and core values.

After weeks of preparation, the team attended an event at The Village Hotel in Newcastle to compete in the tournament with other schools from Northumberland and Newcastle.

The problem that we chose to focus on was that not many children in the North East do music as an extracurricular activity; we did some research and found that it was lower than in the South and a lot lower for disadvantaged children. To help solve this problem we came up with an app to make learning music easier and more efficient.

On the day of Lego League, we presented our innovation project to a panel of judges who are STEM industry experts!

We had to program our robot to complete different missions and to do this we used EV3 Lego MindStorms: it was complex to use but a challenge we enjoyed. In the robot games, we were very happy to achieve the score we aimed for from our mission programming.

We are very proud to announce that we won the **Champions Award** which means we are going to the national finals in Harrogate on Saturday 20th April with around 70 other regional winning teams from across the country!

*Thank you to some of the Lego League team for the write up.*



Meet the superhero team:

-  **Verity: team leader, communicator & researcher**
-  **Ava: coder & sets off the robot at the table**
-  **Edie: coder & helps set off the robot at the table**
-  **Halle: communicator & researcher**
-  **Emma: researcher & creative designer**
-  **Joseph: project and material manager & researcher**
-  **Edward: mission strategist & coder**
-  **Oscar: mission strategist & coder**
-  **Alexa: researcher**
-  **Finley: mission strategist & coder**



### STOP PRESS

The Happy Hipsburn Heroes Team acquitted themselves well at the national finals, coming 52nd out of 74 teams. A great achievement - well done everyone!



Getting creative...

Dunstanburgh class demonstrated great resilience and perseverance last half-term during their DT project. Everyone worked super hard to create a moving Ferris Wheel with their partner- this most certainly took lots of patience! Despite some wheels falling apart, Dunstanburgh class kept trying and worked hard with their team to fix any problems. Lots of teams helped each other to strengthen their design, sharing ideas for wooden supports and pods. All teams made 2 wheels attached with an axle. Many teams managed to create a strong frame for their wheel and pods. Well done, Year 2!



3D Paper Art

Last half term in art and design Bamburgh Class were learning different techniques to shape paper to make 3D structures. We investigated how to roll paper and design simple sculptures using paper cylinders.

The children then looked at various artworks inspired by the 'Tree of Life', then planned and created their own tree of life using their paper shaping skills. What great results!



⬆️ Crafty eggs made by pupils who took part in the Easter Crafts Club last half term.

