



Email: [admin@hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk)

Web: [www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.hipsburn.northumberland.sch.uk)

Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Each term our School Improvement Partner - Mrs Taylor - visits Hipsburn Primary to carry out the Local Authority monitoring visit. She visits our classrooms, observes lessons and works closely with the leaders of each subject. Mrs Taylor analyses data and offers both myself and the governors professional challenges.

Last week, Mrs Taylor asked to have a Learning Walk (guided tour) with three year 6 children and the focus was on British Values. Whilst this was the main focus of the walk around school, the three boys talked enthusiastically about everything we offer here at Hipsburn. The tour (I was not with them) lasted some time and I was informed at the end that they had been polite, thoughtful and very enthusiastic.

Mrs Taylor was clearly impressed by how the boys could answer her questions (and they were openly honest when they could not quite think of an answer) and whilst this is always fantastic to hear, we are always striving to improve what we offer here at Hipsburn.

Pupil voice plays an essential part of this and over the next couple of weeks we will be completing some pupil voice work with the children.

In the summer term, parents will have the opportunity to complete a survey which always helps us to evaluate where we are - both our strengths and areas which we can develop and change for the future. Please support us with this work when asked. In the meantime, please take a look at Ofsted's Parent View (on the right).

Have a great half term!

Kevin Moloney, Headteacher



### Have you heard of Ofsted's Parent View?

It's an online questionnaire where you can give your views on Hipsburn Primary School. Ofsted inspectors use the information to inform discussions with school leaders at the time of inspection, but you can fill it in at any time of year!

Follow the link if you would like to take part:

[Parent View Ofsted](#)

### Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clubs this half term:  
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Breakfast Club, Every Day, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Tuesdays, WP, Etal  
Weds, Guitar, Years 3-6  
Thursdays, Marvellous Maths, Year 2  
Thursdays, SATs, Yr 6  
Fridays, Thunder, R-year 2
- ◆ Bamburgh Class Assembly - parents welcome  
Tuesday 7th March, 9.15-9.45am
- ◆ Dunstanburgh Beach Day  
Monday 13th March
- ◆ Etal Lego League Challenge  
Monday 13th March
- ◆ Bamburgh Beach Day  
Thursday 16th March
- ◆ Preschool Stay & Play  
Thursday 16th March, 9.00-10.30am
- ◆ Red Nose Day  
Friday 17th March (mad hair!)
- ◆ Dukeshouse Wood/London instalments due by  
Monday, 20th March
- ◆ Etal Class Assembly - parents welcome  
Monday, 20th March, 9.15-9.45am
- ◆ Ford Beach Day  
Friday 24th March
- ◆ Preschool Outdoor Day  
Tuesday 28th March
- ◆ Alnwick Beach Day  
Thursday 30th March
- ◆ Etal Beach Day  
Friday 31st March
- ◆ Break up for Easter  
Friday 31st March
- ◆ Back to school  
Monday 17th April

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



### Green-fingered fun...

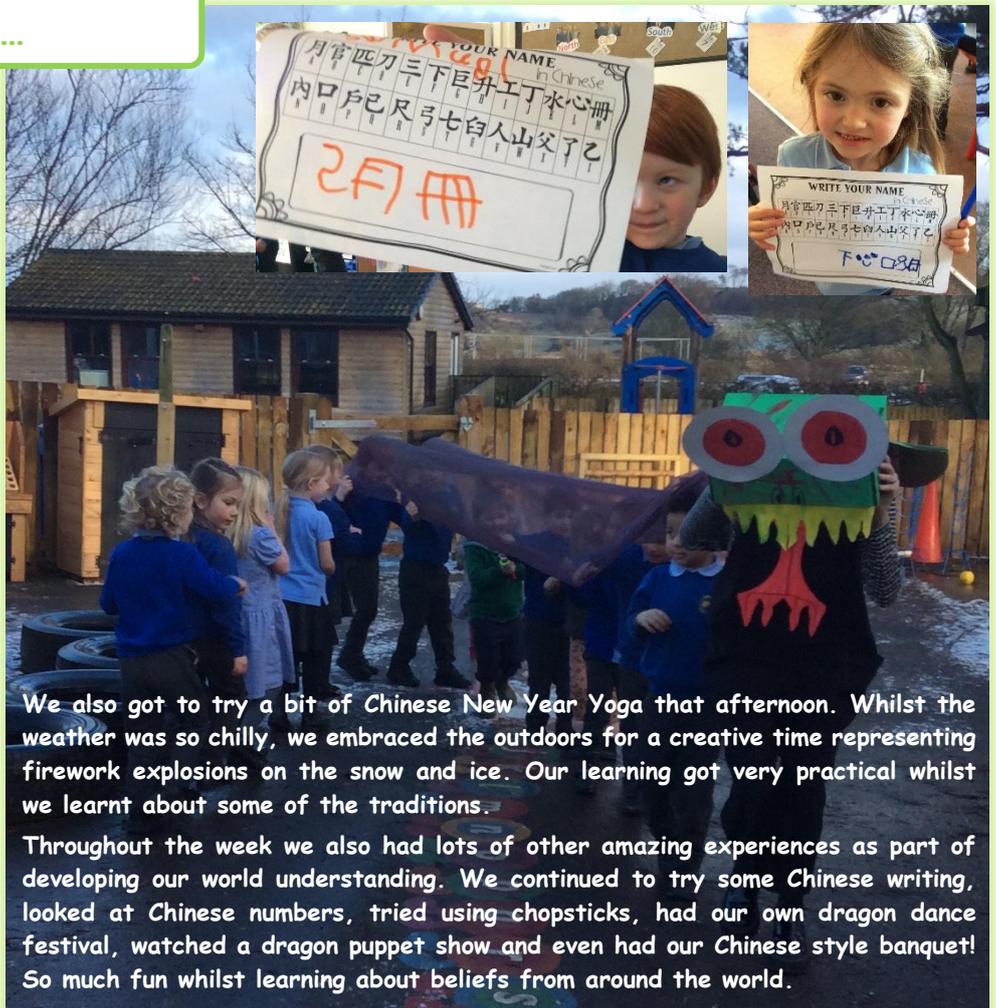
Last half term, our keen gardeners had lots of fun planting spring bulbs in the woods and learning which way up to plant our bulbs to help them use less energy. We also learnt that the scientific name for Daffodil is *Narcissus*. We also rescued seeds from being put in the compost bin by scooping them out of tomatoes, apples, peppers and melons! We have dried lots of seeds ready to plant. We can't wait for things to grow!



### Year of the rabbit...

As part of thinking about 'World Religion Day' last half term, we thought about respecting others' views and beliefs. We talked about being tolerant of everyone and that it is ok to be different and believe in different things. This led us on to talking about the beliefs of Chinese New Year. We read 'The Great Race' to learn about the naming of the Chinese Zodiac and finding out about all the animals and the order they came in the race. We found that we had a few 'dogs' and lots of 'roosters' from the year they were born. We also learnt that it is the year of the rabbit so there was lots of rabbit crafting this afternoon. Some of us even had a go at some Chinese writing!

Happy Year of the Rabbit!



We also got to try a bit of Chinese New Year Yoga that afternoon. Whilst the weather was so chilly, we embraced the outdoors for a creative time representing firework explosions on the snow and ice. Our learning got very practical whilst we learnt about some of the traditions.

Throughout the week we also had lots of other amazing experiences as part of developing our world understanding. We continued to try some Chinese writing, looked at Chinese numbers, tried using chopsticks, had our own dragon dance festival, watched a dragon puppet show and even had our Chinese style banquet! So much fun whilst learning about beliefs from around the world.

Animals, bones and skeletons...



Bamburgh Class had a fabulous day at Northumberland Zoo last half term. The weather was very kind to us and we were able to see many animals enjoying the sunshine too! We found out about the many animals at the zoo and how the zoo is helping some endangered species such as the Livingstone's Fruit Bats. We are looking forward to sharing some interesting facts and our work with you in our school assembly this half term.

A big thank you to our fantastic parents who kindly volunteered to help on the trip.



Bamburgh Class had a fantastic time looking and finding out about animal bones with Ruth Mather.

We looked carefully at the bones to see if we could work out what animal it came from and whether the animal was a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. We talked about why animals had different teeth and why their eyes might be in a different position, discussing similarities and differences between animals.

Bamburgh Class would like to say a big thank you to Ruth and her father for sharing their wonderful collection!



The great outdoors...



You know how much we love being outdoors here at Hipsburn, whatever the weather! Here's a look at our beach and outdoor learning days last half term...

How lucky were Alnwick Class with such a glorious day for a Space (Valentines) Beach day - there was definitely love for that tropical Winter sunshine! Once at the beach we began our first space mission to make a space rocket. We thought about all the features it would need and functions it could do. There were some brilliant spacecrafts made in our crews. We had a quick fruit break whilst reminding ourselves about all the planets in our solar system. Then it was back to some team work to create our whole solar system. We thought how to make each planet unique to its true features and how we could represent them. We then did a 'show and tell' to the class about our solar system.

We made it to the Hindmarsh Hall for a much needed rest and some lunch. Some yummy pack lunches and some space stories helped us recoup our energy for the afternoon activities ahead. The 'Smeds and the Smoos' was a big hit and 'You Choose your Space Adventure' involved much participation and ideas from everyone. We even finished lunch by singing our 'Family of the Sun' song.

In the afternoon, inspired by our space topic we thought about life on other planets. We had some amazing aliens, creatures and homes for our aliens. The team work and collaboration was brilliant and there was some super speaking skills explaining to the class everything that they had created.



We were so proud of Alnwick Class - great listening, looking after their partner and doing some great learning, we rewarded everyone with a play at the park! A worthy reward for a very deserving class - well done, Alnwick Castle Class, we cannot wait to take you again!



**Samantha Charlton**  
Fergus, age 4 from Northumberland starred as you in his school assembly this week as their topic this term is space. Thank you for inspiring our children 😊.



15 m Like Reply



**Author**  
**Tim Peake** ✓  
Samantha great job Fergus.

1 m Like Reply



Great job Fergus!

Alnwick Class's school assembly on space was the perfect opportunity for Fergus to share a photo with his hero Tim Peake. He was so thrilled to get a reply from the man himself - the power of social media! His mum Samantha kindly shared the post with us...

1 👍



The school council has been busy evaluating our outdoor areas in order to apply for a 'green transformation' grant which they chose to request for the pond area on the school field. We are very pleased to have been awarded £400 of funding from the British Ecological Society! We will be using this funding for a bug hotel, pond dipping equipment and more- we can't wait to use our revamped area for lots of learning!



## Rockpool meanderings...

Taking a new route to the beach, Etal Castle class explored the habitats of living things along the River Aln as we made our way towards the beach, taking in the spectacular views as we walked! Once at the beach, we talked about the different classifications of living things (including micro-organisms that we wouldn't be able to see) that we would find in a rock-pool habitat before conducting our own investigation to test our theories!

In the afternoon, there were some excellent dramas inspired by our class book 'Letters from the lighthouse' linking to our World War 2 history topic.



## What a wonderful world...



Bamburgh Castle Class had an amazing Wonderful World Outdoor Learning Day with Bridie from Mudlarks. Working in groups the children worked to complete four activities, thinking about four different parts of the world and the animals that live there.

### Arctic Ice experiments

We carried out Arctic chemical investigations. We thought about what ice is and why salt melts it. In the Arctic the sea freezes and huge icebergs float in the sea. Usually water freezes at 0°C and becomes ice, but when water is mixed with salt (like in the sea) it lowers the freezing point significantly. This means that the frozen arctic sea must be much colder than 0°C. It also means that we can use salt to melt ice!

### Amazon Rainforest

We talked about the rich bio-diversity of life in the Amazon rainforest and thought about the animals that live there. Then, using natural objects we found in the school grounds, we worked in groups to create a mini Amazon rainforest.

### Aboriginal Australian Dreamtime Drama

In Australia a long time ago the Aboriginals told Dreamtime tales to help understand where the world and all the Australian Animals came from. We listened to a dreamtime tale and then in groups worked to act out our very own Dreamtime drama.

### African Safari

The plains of Africa are home to some of the most amazing animals in the world. We talked about the sort animals that would live there. We went on our very own safari, to find hidden African animals in the undergrowth around our school field.

As we found each animal we thought about how it would move if slithered, prowled, sprinted, swung or flew. Once we had found all the animals we had a go at writing an animal poem about the animals we had found.



## Cleaning up...

Dunstanburgh had a fantastic time creating Benin city on the beach and spoke confidently about the features they had created. We created some drama based on our current class novel and performed to each other. For the full day we were eco warriors and cleaned up our local area by clearing three full rubbish bags of plastic!



## ParentPay

If your child is taking part in after school clubs, then payment is now due.

We appreciate you keeping on top of payments as they become active. If you are falling behind with payments, please don't be offended if we contact you for settlement. If you are having difficulties paying, please speak to us - we are very understanding! Thankyou.

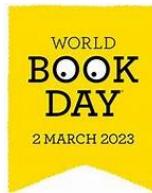


A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches. Thank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

World book day winners...

We had a lot of incredible entries for this year's 'design a potato character' competition- all of which showed wonderful creativity and imagination!

An enormous congratulations to our winners!



- Preschool- Oliver
- Reception- Max
- Y1- Isabella
- Y2- Molly P



- Y3- Ursula
- Y4- Freddie
- Y5- Emma
- Y6- Heath



We had a wonderful day becoming astronomers with our recent visitors from the Kielder Observatory!

We went on a journey of discovery in the inflatable planetarium, learning all about the planets and stars in the Milky Way. As part of our light workshop, we built on our prior knowledge of the topic to learn about different types of light- including light that is invisible to the human eye! We investigated light with practical activities using diffraction glasses, an infrared camera and ultraviolet sensitive beads.

