



June 2012

Good news on standards!

Most of the children in the school completed assessments in May. We don't get results for Y6 until July, but teachers were pleased with the children's efforts and attitude.

Year 2 completed their statutory SATS and provisional results and analysis suggests that achievement and attainment of this cohort is pleasing. **The best news was in numeracy: the performance of the 'average' Farfield child appears to have been well above the national average and collectively it was the best set of scores for our school since 2008.** In reading, 80% of children were at or above the national expectation, whilst in writing our 'average point score' appears to be the best for four years and well above national average. Well done to all the children and staff! The only disappointment is the fact that girls have attained more highly overall than boys, although our 'typical' boy is still generally above the national average.

Tests in Y3-5 are 'optional' SATS and the focus is primarily upon progress from the end of KS1 (Year 2). **The progress of all these three year groups in reading has been superb this year** - the Year 5s, for example, have generally made four years worth of progress in just three years! This progress is down to good teaching and the superb efforts of children engaging in the 'Extreme Reading' initiative - well done to everyone and thanks to parents for their support! Progress overall in writing and numeracy was also pleasing but we will be targeting some additional support into current Y5 maths next year.



Reading buddies are proving a success

Individual pupil attainment is generally included in the end of year reports. Year 1 are due to take a new government phonics screening test in June.

Museum of Untold Stories

Towards the end of May, each class Y1-6 enjoyed half a day working with our friends 'Alive and Kicking' with their new project 'The Museum of the Untold Stories'. Pupils were fully engaged, using drama and artefacts to develop their story-writing skills. This project was accompanied by some extended professional development for the teachers.



Class Farm Days begin

By the end of Summer term, all classes will have spent a day on Farfield Farm. Our younger children are also visiting other farms.

Our first classes spent their day on Farfield Farm before half term. Activities included a farm trail, planting activities, tasting tests, drawing and painting, using a digital microscope on flowers, work with the chickens, and an activity called 'Woolly Thinking' that showed interdependence in eco-systems. Many thanks to the parent helpers that are able to support these activity days.



One of our Farm Managers, Lois Evans, left her post at the end of May. We thank her for all her work over the past few years and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

Trips enhance the Curriculum

The children are really benefitting from a host of educational visits; recent examples include Reception to Rodley Nature Reserve, 2LS to Skelton Grange, Y3/4 to Magna Museum in Sheffield and Y5/6 to a waste sorting depot. There are lots more trips planned this half term including infant visits to farms, Y5/6 to Malham and cyclists to Yeadon BMX track and the Manchester Velodrome. Hopefully, parents are finding that these visits are good value for money as the minibuses are working hard!

Y5/6 went to AWM Waste to learn about recycling



1D went to the City Gallery



Y3/4 have been to Magna to support work on Forces



RS went to St Leonard's Farm



The Sikh Gurdwara made our Reception children very welcome



2LS enjoyed a visit to Skelton Grange Environmental Centre



RGI had a wonderful day at Rodley Nature Reserve



Sports News

Our cricket team have qualified for the city finals, defeating 15 other schools to become West Leeds champions. Congratulations to all the boys and many thanks to Miss Hutchinson for her coaching over the winter. Jatin had a great debut: a four from his first ball faced, and a middle stump 'clean bowl' from his first delivery!

Later this month, a team will compete in a big 'Olympic' athletics competition at the John Charles Stadium, and a minibus full of children will be setting off early one morning to meet the Olympic flame! We may even get a special Olympic visitor next week...



Changes to the PE Curriculum in KS2

From September, we are proposing to 'block' most PE to a single afternoon for Y3/4 and for Y5/6. Children will get an element of choice in their PE curriculum and we are introducing some new modules e.g. karate and judo. All children will also get 'Speed - Agility - Quickness' sessions each week that will give an intense cardiovascular workout. More details in September.

Year 5 residential is a big success!

Year 5 enjoyed a very successful residential in the Yorkshire Dales at the end of May. The children all spent two nights away, self catering, and they took part in lots of 'Outdoor and Adventurous Activities' including mountain biking, caving and a night walk. They learnt about the countryside, rocks, rivers and map reading.

Many thanks to the staff that gave their time to come on residential and to Charlie Pyatt (Priesthorpe Sports Partnership) for leading the caving and to Chris Young (British Cycling) for leading the biking in Gisburn Forest.



Fears were overcome during the caving



The mountain biking was exciting and the skills progress was phenomenal!



Year 5 were a pleasure to take on residential; they were very supportive of each other.



A night walk was a challenging end to day 1

Jane Fisher

We have made an exciting staffing appointment to lead our fantastic Key Stage 1 team from September.

Jane Fisher is joining the school from Hovingham Primary School where she holds the post of Assistant Headteacher. A former Advanced Skills teacher for KS1, Jane is also the author of two teaching books: 'Puppets, Language and Learning' and 'Dealing with Feelings: Developing Emotional Literacy Through Books and Stories'. One of Jane's strengths is her work on the social and emotional aspects of learning. Jane is a maths specialist and she is also passionate about the effective use of IT to support learning. She has been hugely successful in the use of Mathletics in her current school - including 'Gold' certificates for a number of parents!

Jane has a website: <http://super-school.co.uk/> that showcases lots of this work at Hovingham; she has a maths blog: <http://hovinghammaths.primaryblogger.co.uk/> and her Twitter account is @ejf23. Some of these are aimed at fellow teachers whilst others may be of interest to parents.

We are sure that Jane's skills and passions will build upon the strong work already at Farfield, and develop other areas where we are less strong. The KS1 team next year will comprise of Mrs Daniels and Miss Hutchinson in Year 1, and Mrs Fisher and Mrs Singleton/Loveridge in Year 2. Mrs Wilson will be on maternity leave.



Mums receiving 'Gold' from the Mathletics mascots at Hovingham

School Travel



Our new scooter racks are proving to be a success and we hope to purchase another one for Year 1 before the end of the year.

Children coming by bicycle **MUST** wear a helmet. Any child coming to school without a helmet will have their bike locked to mine and it will only be released to a parent! I can speak from personal experience that a helmet can save lives.

We would encourage more families to try to walk or scoot to school. October will be 'Walk to School' month and we will be supporting and promoting this initiative. Car drivers are encouraged to park a little further away from school - this will ease congestion and provide a bit more exercise.

Mrs Lambert and a group of children from 5/6H have been working with the police on the 'i12 project' to check speeds along Cote Lane and monitor parking. The 'Supersonic Speed-Stoppers Team' will be sending out a letter and questionnaire to parents soon to gather their opinions. Could Cote Lane be made a 20mph area?

Key Dates

Summer Fair - Saturday 7th July (afternoon)

Reports - week beginning 9th July

Sports Day - Wednesday 11th July (formal sports am for infants and pm for juniors)

Y6 Leavers' Show - Wednesday 18th July 7pm

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful half term - thank you for your support. Maybe OFSTED will finally pay us a visit...

Mr Harris on behalf of the governors
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