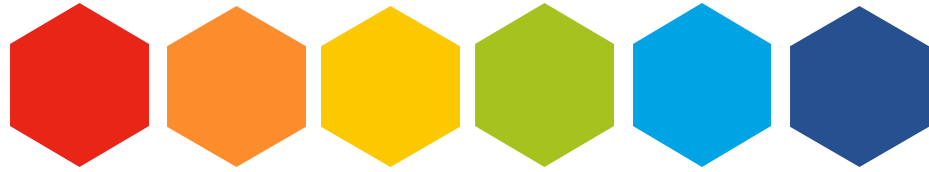


Curriculum News



February 2014



Science Training Day - Wednesday March 5th - Nicola Beverley

Our next school Training Day is on Wednesday 5th March and we are delighted to be welcoming the nationally renowned primary science expert Nicola Beverley to Farfield to work with us on implementing the new 2014 science national curriculum and the need to 'Think Scientifically'.



We have been able to secure Nicola's services through our involvement with Leeds Metropolitan University and the York National Science Centre. We highly value science teaching and are very keen for our children to have enquiring minds and good investigation skills.

There will be one further training day later in the school year - exact date to be confirmed soon. Confirmed training days are always listed on the front of the website.

Anglo-Saxon adventure for Years 3 and 4

Now that's the way to start a new topic...

Years 3 and 4 braved the elements and each spent a day at Murton Park as Anglo-Saxons. In authentic costume, the children learnt about food and farming, domestic life, pottery, life under a 'thane' (landowner) and the drills of a guard. They had a banquet in the main hall and enjoyed having a distinguished 'bondee' in the stocks. The knowledge of the Murton Park staff and the way that they looked after us was very impressive.



Year 3 guards brave the elements and defend the Saxon village

Other trips last half term included Reception to the theatre, Y1 to the gallery, KS1 to the Abbey House Museum, Y3 and 4 to Eureka and Y5 & 6 to Armley Mills Museum. Please visit the class blogs accessible from the front of the school website for more information, photos and videos of trips, special events and class work.

School News



Year 1 art gallery

On Valentine's Day, Year 1 hosted their own art gallery, having previously visited Leeds City Art Gallery on a school trip. Featuring work inspired by famous artists such as David Hockney, Anthony Gormley and Kate Park, the gallery was a great success and over £200 was raised from the art sale towards the children's visit to Skipton Castle later in the year. Well done Y1 and thanks to everyone for their support and generosity.



Staffing Changes

We are sad to report that Sue McKenzie has taken up a more senior post at Green Meadows SILC. We thank her for her great work and wish her the best for the future. Julie Snellgrove, who has been delivering PE and art with us, is also moving on to other work. We are equally sad to see Julie move on and we will miss her.

We are delighted to welcome Chris Sharp into the Y3 team as a Learning Support Assistant, and Michelle Webster into a similar role in Y5.

We currently have a vacancy for a school gardener/groundsperson. Details of this post can be found on the front of the school website. Closing date is Monday 3rd March.



The gallery was so busy - thronging with children and parents!

Car parking and Pudsey Civic Hall



Proposals to change car parking regulations around school are currently out for consultation. The main changes for school may be the stipulation that the area in front of the infants and the space by the triangle where employees from Green Flag etc currently park will become 'one hour parking, no return within an hour' areas which should free up a little space for Farfield parents. Parked cars do cause a hazard, and parents are asked, yet again, not to mount any pavements or block household drives. If possible, please park further away and walk the remainder of journey - good for your health and safer for everyone.

I have been told that our proposal to run a trial scheme that will give some Farfield parents free access to Pudsey Civic car park for short periods around 9am and 3pm has been approved by the council's Asset Management Board. I will write separately about this when more details emerge.



Parking in the area makes driving difficult and leads to confrontations

Last half term there was a minor accident involving one of our children and a car at the top of Richmond Road. The child had only very minor injuries as the driver was proceeding slowly. I am fully in support of the new 20mph limit around school - it may already have prevented a serious injury - and I am pleased to see that proposals to extend the limit down Cote Lane past Green Flag are included in plans to create safer cycling around Dawson's Corner and between Leeds and Bradford.

See <http://www.cyclecityconnect.co.uk/>



2F's Groovy 60s and 70s Museum

2F welcomed most of the school, plus mums and dads, to visit their own museum of toys and everyday objects from 40 or 50 years ago.

It makes me feel old to think that my life is now in a museum and is the focus of history lessons!

Mrs Fisher said: "The classes that came to visit also joined in with a short lesson on how to do the 'Twist' and 'Hand Jive!' We opened the door a little early so that parents and our families could come in and visit the museum too and it was wonderful to see so many parents keen to come and join us."



Samuel Marsden, Farsley and the global wool trade

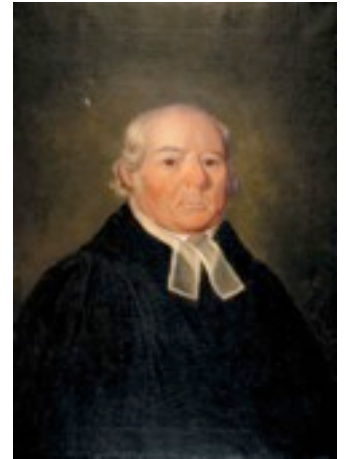


Local historian John Proctor helps the children to discover local history through buildings on Town Street

Years 5 and 6 have been finding out about Samuel Marsden, the most famous son of Farsley who was born in 1764 - his 250th anniversary is coming up this summer! He is remembered as a pioneer of the wool trade, a missionary and a very strict judge who travelled to Australia and New Zealand in the late 18th and early 19th century.

The children visited St John's Church and the Samuel Marsden Memorial Garden on Town Street to continue their research. They met with Reverend Tudge from St John's

and John Proctor, a fountain of knowledge about the history of Farsley. The children have been writing biographies about Samuel Marsden and will be sharing these with the Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Wellington, New Zealand via the external blogs.



Samuel Marsden - famous son of Farsley

Good Citizens in upper Key Stage 2

We have been very proud of a number of children in 5/6D and in 6W who have run their own charity stalls last half term. These events were wholly their own work, and included the sale of their own produce plus 'garage sale' type items. Many thanks to them and all those that were able to support them. The children raised many hundreds of pounds between them and this is generally supporting cancer charities.

Developments in the Foundation Stage playground

You may have already seen that there has been some work in the Foundation Stage (Reception and Nursery) playground: a rather rotten shed has been removed and plans are being developed to replace it with a new one. Work has started on a 'Mud Kitchen' and we also intend to remove and re-site the central play equipment. We plan for this to be replaced by more a naturalistic and adaptable installation based around a large piece of felled timber. Please bear with us whilst we work on this area.

This work (and other developments) is being funded by the PTA (many thanks!) and an unexpected windfall from Scottish and Southern Electric due to mis-billing.



This is NOT an accurate representation of what is planned, but it might give you a sense of some of what we are working towards in the FS playground

New parent governor elected



Many thanks to all those parents that put themselves forward for the vacant post of Parent Governor, and to all those that took the time to vote. Howard Bradley, father of Florence in Nursery, was duly elected.

Exciting 'Friends of Farfield' PTA event planned

Please clear your diary for the weekend of 21st June! The PTA are planning a 'camp-over' festival event for families on our school grounds - the first time that we have ever attempted such a thing! We are planning a range of activities and attractions but we expect the children will be most excited to be camping alongside their friends' families for the night. If you end up camping on the top field, you might end up being woken by a 'cock a doodle doo' from Toffee the cockerel!

Watch out for further details, but mark it in red now on your calendar!

World Book Day

Next Thursday 6th March, the school is celebrating World Book Day 2014.

Children are encouraged to come dressed as a favourite book character and prizes will be awarded to some of the best home-made costumes.

There will be a host of literacy-based activities organised for the day, not least...



Bedtime stories in Reception

Also next Thursday 6th March, Reception children and their parents are invited back to school in their pyjamas to enjoy bedtime stories and activities with their teachers! The event runs from 6.15 - 7.00 and has been hugely successful in previous years. We hope that every family can come.

Reading regularly at home, with and to your children, is proven to be hugely beneficial to the child's literacy skills and social development.





Cuts for Children's Centre

Our Children's Centre, rated as a very strong 'good' centre by Ofsted last term, is facing a cut of over 7% in its budget in 2014-15, with further cuts of well over 10% the following year. The blame for these cuts lie with central government and come at a time when Leeds are trying to be a 'Child-Friendly City' and currently lie 'bottom of the league' in terms of educational outcomes at age 5 (albeit, based on one year of dubious data). We are trying our best to maintain the most effective elements of the centre's services, but the second set of cuts are likely to result in a significant impact on what the Children's Centre can offer.

Volunteers needed on the Farm please

As Spring approaches, we are grateful for any support on the school farm - especially now that all our Lottery funding ceases at the end of March. Any help with groups of children on Mondays - Thursday 1.00-3.15pm is especially welcome. You would be working alongside Ms Howells as leader of the session, and no great horticultural experience is necessary. Please let either office know if you are interested in supporting these sessions or email me: peter.harris@farsleyfarfield.org.uk

Please state if you would prefer to volunteer alongside a school gardener without working with children - this is possible too, generally in the morning. Other volunteering opportunities exist to hear readers, support cooking lessons or generally work in classes.



There are worse ways to spend an afternoon than on our farm...





Extreme Reading Winners

Class 5/6D were the winners of Extreme Reading in KS2 last half term with an amazing score of 98.2%! They are off to Abbey House Museum for their prize.

The average class score for Extreme Reading last half term was 92.4%. This is a superb achievement - many thanks to parents for their support with this. Reading at Farfield is a particular strength at the end of Y6 and the efforts that go into home reading is an important part of this.

New website

We will be launching a new website before the end of this term. This website will be more visually attractive than our current sites and include elements of multimedia. Class and other blogs will be built into the site. Older children will receive new email addresses.



**New
telephone**

Please note that our new
telephone number is
0113 2058130

More exciting developments in KS2 PE

PE provision goes from strength to strength. The new modules of Y4 tennis with Rawdon professional coach Jonathan Sowden were excellent, and the bouldering sessions at the Depot were very popular and enjoyable.

This half term we repeat many of these activities, plus we have some more advanced judo in Y5/6 plus football coaching by Leeds United. East Bradford Cycle Club continue their amazing support for the school by teaching cycling skills to the less confident. Chris Young from British Cycling is coming in too to prepare Y5 for their mountain biking on residential.

A new sport is introduced this half term: Tchoukball.



Mid Year Reports



Just before half term, most children completed mid year assessments to show their progress thus far this school year. Generally, the assessments were very pleasing. Teachers have been busy drafting brief mid-year reports for you, and these should be with you by the middle of next week. Full school reports are published in July.

School News



Saturday Volunteering in the Conservation Area?

On the morning of Saturday 15th March, a group of staff will be working on the infant conservation area. We will be opening up the area, removing and re-siting fences, clearing areas, lopping off low branches and renovating the pond. We would really like some parent help for this task - for any period of time between 8.00-12.00.

If anyone is unavailable on the Saturday, but had time to volunteer at any other time, please get in touch and leave your details with either office.



The Conservation area (behind second set of fencing) is to be opened up as summer play and exploring space for the children. Could you help for a couple of hours please?

Y3 Smoothie Bar

As part of their work on Healthy Eating, and following a very successful trip to Eureka, Year 3 planned and ran their own Smoothie Bar and parents came to enjoy their creations. Healthy and delicious - well done!



Sharing sessions in KS1

Our first KS1 'Sharing Session' for parents to come into class and spend some extended time with their child looking at books and working through written feedback and targets, was a great success and will be repeated half termly. If those times were inconvenient for you, why not call or email the class teacher to arrange an alternative time? Parents are our most important partners and are welcome (almost) any time!



Official Parents Evenings are planned for Tuesday/ Wednesday 25th/26th March. The latter of those dates is under threat due to a proposed strike by the NUT. I will let you know further details as soon as I receive them.

Peter Harris, on behalf of the governors