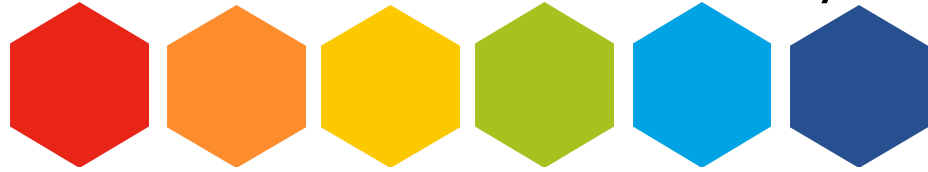


Curriculum News

January 2018



Lest we forget... but what if we didn't know?

Year 6 were learning about World War One last term: a pertinent time to be studying the 'Great War' as its hundred year anniversary continues.

This year's studies were unforgettable. We would always try to make local links or approach a study with some local angle, but this time we had an astonishing discovery: the school fields were the site of a WW1 training airfield in 1916-17! The airfield was only operational for a year but how amazing must it have been for the local residents to see and hear the 'flying machines'?



Year 6 children unveiled a plaque to commemorate the airfield and hosted parents and local media for a presentation about their research. Many thanks to the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust for their support with this. For more information, see either [Year 6 blog](#).

Camp-Over date set

Make sure that Saturday 30th June is marked prominently on your calendar as this will be the next Friends of Farfield Camp-Over. More details to follow.

Year 1 artists looking good

Children in Year 1 are busy learning about a range of art and artists and are enjoying trips to Bradford Industrial Museum (and work with a teacher from Cartwright Hall Art Gallery). They have a day with Mrs Park to do glass artwork coming up soon and their work will be showcased in their own gallery on Thursday 8th February. Parents are invited from 2.30.



'Daily Mile', 30:30 and Health Update

This academic year we have really tried to increase the levels of physical activity in the juniors through the establishment of a 'daily mile' in school time and supporting a 30:30 campaign.



In practice, the 'Daily Mile' tends not to be daily, rarely a mile and not everyone runs for the full session, but there are nevertheless some impressive statistics as shown below. Over fifty children have so far run at least the equivalent of a marathon. Zakariyah in Year 3 has run over 90km (56 miles) and others aren't far behind!

Average per Runner: 32km		Average per Run: 1.1km	
Marathon distance covered 42.2km	30km	Half Marathon	10km
54 children (22%)	119 children (49%)	189 children (77%)	236 children (96%)

We have also established a cross country run every Friday lunchtime and have attended three Saturday morning cross country events.

All this has had a big impact in the Leeds Schools cross country competition, with five of our six teams qualifying for the city finals (Y4-6). We didn't have any leading runners but we certainly had strength in depth!

The enthusiasm, tenacity and speed shown by our Year 3 children bodes very well for the future.



Year 4 boys have been competing very well

30:30 wristband challenge

In 2017 the Chief Medical Officer wrote a report that recommended all children should engage in 60 minutes of physical activity* a day (30 minutes at school and 30 minutes at home) to combat the increasing levels of obesity in our young people. At the start of this term, we rolled out the second phase of the 30:30 challenge to children across the whole school. This initiative is aimed at all children: those who haven't started can go for bronze; those who are working towards bronze can keep going; and those who have achieved bronze can go for silver.

So far, over 100 children have been awarded their bronze wristband and lots of children are nearly there. Class 3B lead the way!

Mr Cooke and Mr Little are delighted with the engagement across school but would like even more children to join in. Is your child taking part in this? More details and the pro forma are available on [the website](#).

*Physically active = doing some activity or exercise that makes us: feel warmer, slightly out of breath and have a quicker heart rate.



Coincidentally, we received some school level data recently relating to our children's weight and rates of obesity.

The data (below) is a little out of date but is interesting nonetheless. Our children do appear to generally be less overweight than average (especially by Year 6) but there is clearly a lot of improvement that could be made. Diet and activity levels are key. I was surprised to see some other data that suggested that the Woodhall estate is a local 'hot spot' as regards overweight or obese young people: I wonder to what extent that is true and why that might be?

Proportion of Reception children in your school who were overweight or obese

NCMP 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 combined



The proportion of Reception children who were overweight or obese (18.3%) is statistically similar compared to other schools across England (22%). 22% of Reception children were overweight or obese in Leeds local authority.

Proportion of Year 6 children in your school who were overweight or obese

NCMP 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 combined



The proportion of Year 6 children who were overweight or obese (25.7%) is lower in your school than in most other schools across England (34%). 34% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese in Leeds local authority.

In any population of children of all ages, it would be expected that 10% would be overweight and a further 5% would be obese. However current levels across England are far higher.

Locally and nationally there are too many children that are overweight or obese and so we are trying to promote positive attitudes to, and understanding of, healthy food and a balanced diet. Our cooking curriculum is extensive and largely savoury: so far this year the KS2 children have cooked a healthy pasta sauce, sticky onion quiche and are now making vegetable curries and/or samosas. KS1 children have learnt about the [Eatwell Guide](#) (Y2) and are now practising their knife skills whilst making a fruit salad.

On a related matter, please don't send in 'birthday sweets'.



School News



Grounds development slowly moving forward...

The infant and junior trim trails had to be removed as they were showing their age and weren't sufficiently safe. We are working on plans to replace some of this play equipment, but it won't be 'like for like'. We have some school money, a generous parental donation, a commitment from the PTA and have applied for a small lottery grant (which means we need to wait). A number of interested parents have offered to provide some skills and labour. We hope to provide a good degree of challenge and have equipment that supports development of upper body strength.

I hope that we can work on this in the late spring ready for the summer months. We are looking at the small avenue of trees (to the right of the treehouse) and around the willow dome area as the area to redevelop.

Parent Governor Election

Congratulations to Ruth Fain who was elected as a parent governor in the recent election.

Training Days

The training day on January 2nd was to refresh staff's skills and awareness around first aid. This time, we had a session on the correct use of defibrillators. We now have two - located in each building's office foyer area - and should the need arise, we have lots of people trained in CPR and the use of a defibrillator.

On **Monday March 5th**, we are working with both Edgehill University and Early Excellence on maths training. The final training day of the year will be **Wednesday July 25th**.



Online payments coming to Farfield

We are looking to introduce online payments for clubs, trips, music lessons etc to reduce the amount of cash coming into school and to provide convenience to families. We hope to introduce this in the new financial year (summer term).

New lighting

Following feedback in last year's Parent Survey (and the previous year, to be fair), we have invested in new lighting for the junior car park and the paths up to Fun Club. We hope that this improves visibility and safety in this busy area.

Mr Harris, on behalf of the governing body



Winner
Healthy school of the year

