

Curriculum News

April 2015



Another Inspirational Visit to Farfield



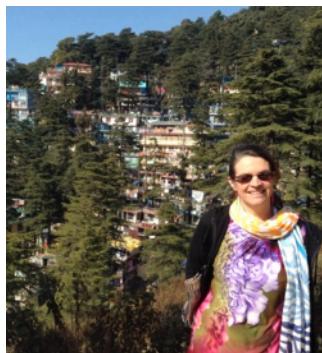
"Thanks to all the staff and children of Farsley Farfield for your incredible support for the work of Tong-Len in Dharamsala. This will make a huge difference to the lives of the children in the hostel and the desperately poor communities in this part of India."

Anna and Gareth Owen, Tong-Len UK.

Jamyang, the Buddhist monk that founded and leads our international charity partner, Tong Len hostel and school, made a surprise appearance at Farfield as part of a visit to the UK. Jamyang visited classes, addressed assemblies and ate with the children during his day-long visit. He spoke about the project - its past and its future - and thanked the children for their incredible fund-raising (£3000 in February).



In February, Mrs Fisher and Mrs Carney visited India as part of a British Council-funded 'Connecting Classrooms' partnership with G.A.V. Secondary School in Kangra.



School News



Minecraft excellence

Our Minecraft Clubs have been hugely popular and last half term we shared our expertise with a group of other local schools that came to Farfield and worked with Mrs Carney and some of our students for the day. The children played the game, designed challenges and solved problems using valuable coding skills.

Many thanks, and congratulations, to Mrs Carney for planning and delivering such a stimulating day.

Comment on website: ***"I know one of the children who was lucky enough to come to the Minecraft enrichment day on Friday. He sought me out to tell me what a great time he had had, and that he thinks Farsley Farfield is 'amazing, awesome, and SO big!'. (My daughter) was very proud to be able to show her school off to one of her friends."***



Children from Springbank, Waterloo and Southroyd joined us for the Minecraft Day.

Basic command block summon command

This is the command
X position
Y position
Z position
`/summon PigZombie ~0 ~1 ~0`
This is the mob

This summons a Zombie Pigman directly on top of the command block. Because my command block was buried one block deep I had to change the Y position to 2. Why?

An example of the coding challenges

Sports News

Last term saw significant success for a range of Farfield sports teams: our cross country team represented Leeds in the West Yorkshire Winter Youth Games, our football team are area champions (again) and our Y4 tennis team are through to the city finals having already won two tournaments. We have also competed well in tag rugby and in netball competitions. Children in Year 1 attended a Sports Extravaganza with other local schools.



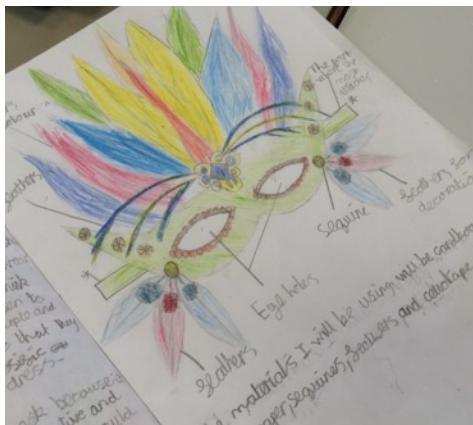
Hundreds and hundreds of children attended the West Yorkshire Winter Youth Games and Farfield provided many of Leeds' entrants for the cross-country event. The competition was fierce and it was a great experience for our children.





Art

It is great to see so much fantastic art work around the school. In Year 1, the children visited the Leeds City Gallery and replicated this with their own gallery in school to which families were invited. In Key Stage 2, most of the art work is led by Mrs Wylie, Mrs Elam and Mrs Lambert. Years 5 and 6 have just completed a very successful project on mask-making using mod-roc and great care!



Years 5 and 6 designed and made their own masks over a half term whilst Year 2 explored 'Pop Art'



Year 1 visited a gallery, created their own works and opened their own gallery

Educational visits

Already this year, most classes have enjoyed at least a couple of educational visits around Yorkshire. Many thanks to all the parents that have been able to support these visits - some trips couldn't take place without your help. Amongst other trips, all our Rec-Y2 children have visited the fantastic Rodley Nature Reserve recently, Year 2 also went to Skelton Grange and there are many other visits planned this term including two residential, Tropical World, Magna and a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. A fourth minibus could be useful...



2H pond dipping at Skelton Grange

New governor

We are delighted to welcome Marion Cole as our new parent governor.



School News



New staff

At the end of last half term, Mrs Cruse went on maternity leave and Mrs Webster left to take up a new position at Waterloo Primary. Mrs Dempsey will be leaving us soon to work for Bradford authority in their autism team. We would like to thank all these members of staff for their great contributions to the school and we wish them the very best for the future.

Sadly, Mrs Charlesworth and Miss Curteis will be leaving us in July. Mrs Charlesworth has secured an exciting teaching position closer to her home, and Miss Curteis is relocating to London.

We have recruited Miss Samantha Sunderland and Mrs Marie Du Preez as new Learning Support Assistants. Mr Chris Sharp will be employed as a teacher in the next academic year and we have also recruited a young teacher called Miss Abigail Bradley from September.

Nursery Places

We still have a few nursery places available for September: high quality early years education provision led by an experienced, graduate teacher supported by skilled and very experienced Nursery Nurses. We may be able to provide top-up hours and enhanced flexibility. The rest of the school is full except for a little space in Year 4.



Bradford Cathedral Choir

Ann Foster and Alexander Woodrow, of Bradford Cathedral Choir, joined a Key Stage Two assembly to offer the children the opportunity to join their choir.

Alex explained a little about the history of the church and also the amazing social opportunities available whilst discussing how the choir works. Alex also led Key Stage Two in some vocal warm ups, including control of breathing and singing in canon.

The children and staff were very impressed with what the choir offers: a chance to sing as part of a group, free piano and music theory lessons, opportunities to perform across the country and the continent and the chance to appear on BBC's Songs of Praise. If you are interested in joining the choir, then please get in touch with them via their website <http://www.bradfordcathedral.org/music/the-choir/>



New season on Farfield Farm

We have started the new growing season up on Farfield Farm and all the juniors now get their regular sessions on the farm again after the winter break. A group of our young Y3 children were especially keen to visit the farm again after their enjoyment of harvesting in October. They excitedly made their way up to the polytunnel, fondly reminiscing about eating French beans and tomatoes on their last visit and discussing what they hoped to eat on this visit. Ms Howells, the farm teacher, said nothing as they approached.... and the children got a brilliant lesson in seasonality and the life cycle of plants! Our older children would never make this mistake.

We would like to restart the family rota for feeding the chickens at weekends. If you would like to offer your family's services, please email: peter.harris@farsleyfarfield.org.uk



Year 4 children feeding the chickens during one of their Farfield Farm afternoons

Science 'S' Factor'

There has been some amazing science work happening in school this year and there are lots of budding scientists so we thought it was a chance for children to show off their talents! We are running an exciting science competition and everyone from Reception to Year 6 is invited to take part if they would like to.

Children need to design an investigation or create an experiment, at home, that you would like to share with the school. It may be a 'kitchen sink' style experiment or a fun investigation. They will have to demonstrate their 'S Factor' talent in front of their class during the week beginning the 20th April, or they may wish to video their investigation and bring in the final product during the class audition, and explain how it works. The class will vote for the act to go through to the grand final on Friday 1st May – where the winners will perform their experiment again in front of a judging panel made up of a number of real scientists (Farfield governor Bernice Ridley and other scientists from Croda). We have lots of super prizes!



Year 3 investigating magnets, Year 5 measuring carefully and Year 6 safely observing the eclipse

Creative writing competition

Following the success of our winter creative writing competition, we are now taking part in a Y5 & 6 **historical** story writing competition. Children can write a story set in a definite time period in history in a real place. It could be set in a time period that has previously been studied in school. First drafts need to be completed at home by the 1st May - time will be given in school for the refining of the text.

http://www.history.org.uk/news/news_2323.html

Cafe news

We are hoping to open the cafe on Friday afternoons - just in time for the great weather! We hope to be working with a group of parent volunteers to bring a simple, great value range of drinks and 'other things'. We are also in discussion with other potential partners to use this space.

Changes to Extreme Reading?

We are considering 'relaxing' the expectations around 'Extreme Reading' in order to make space in the week for regular maths practice at home: times tables, number bonds and mental arithmetic. Regular practice is essential for grasping these basic skills: chanting, informal tests, Mathletics, tablet apps... One possible scenario is reading four times a week and maths practice three times a week. Can anyone think of a catchy new title for the scheme?



Year 1: experts on chickens!

Year 1 are chicken experts! They visited the chickens on the farm then Mr Garlick kindly 'lent' Year 1 a couple of his bantam chickens for a week. The children used chickens and eggs as the basis for some science investigations, maths and writing. They produced lovely 'chicken books' packed full of information including the correct appearance of healthy chicken poo! They also used ipads and an app called Puppet Pals to create their own talking presentations with hand drawn elements and amusing animation. Well done Year 1!



Celebrating and understanding Easter

Easter isn't just about chocolate! Whatever our religion, or if we have none, it is important to understand why different people celebrate a range of festivals and we have ensured that all our children are aware of the Easter story and the Christian beliefs underpinning it. We have retold the Easter story in assemblies, Year 4 have studied the story in more depth in RE and Year 1 visited St John's church to find out more. We still had time for a wonderful decorated egg competition and Reception went on an Easter egg hunt!



PTA news

The recent Fashion Show was a great success. As well as having a good time, those involved raised about £700 for the school - many thanks!

Please make sure that the Camp-Over is in your diary: Saturday 20th June (details soon)



KS2 Cooking

Last term, all the children in KS2 learnt how to make bread and how to make paella. Where possible, links are made with science work: Years 5 and 6 could explain about yeast and microbes in bread-making.

We are proud of, and greatly value, our extensive cooking curriculum: over four years, the children get almost 50 hours of cooking tuition. When we were at school, children may have 'just' done a little baking; now children explore a range of predominantly savoury recipes and learn a wide range of cooking skills and techniques. They also all know how to wash up! There is a cooking blog accessible from the main school website with recipes, techniques and feedback.



This half term, the children will be harvesting rhubarb on the farm (and learning about its local history) to make a crumble.

"Today in cooking I learnt how to make bread. I really enjoyed learning what the yeast does to the bread. The yeast 'eats' the sugar and then 'burps' the carbon dioxide. You need water to make the yeast active. I really enjoyed cooking because I liked learning what happens to the bread when you add the ingredients." Beth Y6



Volunteer morning for 'The Wild Side'

Following our success last year 'reclaiming' the Conservation Area, this year we are going to spend an informal Saturday morning cutting back and developing the area adjacent to the Conservation Area where the small hill is and some alder trees were planted last year. We hope to cut back some brambles, sow wild flowers, thin shrubs and create mown paths. We also need to litter-pick and knock in some tree stakes.

If parents could spare an hour or two on Saturday 9th May, any time from 9am to 12 noon, you would be very welcome. Children can join in or play on the other grounds. If anyone could bring their own sturdy gloves and loppers, that would be useful.

Mr Harris, on behalf of the governing body of Farsley Farfield Primary School

