

Farsley Farfield Primary School



Curriculum News

June 2013

Good progress reported in Y1-5

Whilst we await formal government results for assessments in Reception and Y6, we are very pleased to report good progress for almost all children from Y1-5 in their internal May tests. Progress across the school has been positive: highlights include accelerated progress in reading in both Years 1 and 2; fabulous progress in maths for Y3; good progress in writing in Y4 and above expectation progress in all areas for Y5. Very well done to all the children and their teaching staff! Thank you for the valuable support that parents and carers have been able to give at home.

Mrs Charlesworth and Miss Stewart in India

During the Spring Bank holiday, Miss Stewart and Mrs Charlesworth travelled to India as part of our British Council sponsored partnership work with schools in Sukkabag and Kangra. This work is also in partnership with Crawshaw School with whom our staff travelled. We hope to develop our links further with schools in India and our fund-raising for the Tong-Len 'tent school' in the slums of Dharamsala was very much appreciated (see right).

Please visit the blog: <http://ffpsindia.primaryblogger.co.uk> to find out more.



Children from Tong-Len produced a poster to thank the children and families from Farfield for their fundraising efforts.



The children in the schools dressed smartly and the presentation in the books was excellent. Education seemed to be highly valued.



Farfield Community Gardens



We have been really pleased with the start of 'Farfield Community Gardens' - the post-lottery partnership between school, parents, the Children's Centre and Farfield Fun Youth Club to help cultivate the top field. Volunteers from Barclays helped set up the raised beds in polytunnel 2 and the lottery paid for the recent fencing. The Barclays volunteers, led by Lindsay Wallwork (Louis' mum in Y3), are back next month to help us build a further enclosure for our chickens and newly-arrived ducks.



Y1 pupils enjoy tasting a variety of salad grown in polytunnel 1



New raised beds in polytunnel 2, courtesy of Barclays and the lottery, are growing well following their adoption by 14 of our families



A group of children from Y5 have taken over responsibility for the Access Garden for the next two years and they have already taken home harvests of rhubarb, asparagus and purple sprouting broccoli. Don't forget that fresh 'organic' free range eggs are available from each foyer for £1.20 per half dozen (£1.50 for duck eggs).

Trips continue to enhance the curriculum

Educational day visits continue to be an important part of Farfield's curriculum offer. Years 3 and 4 had an epic day visiting Horton in Ribblesdale including a train journey and a visit to a quarry. Key Stage 1 had a great day at Blackhills camp including den-making, minibeast hunts and blindfold games and they were made to feel very welcome at the Kingdom Hall. Reception have recently visited the Rodley Nature Reserve (a hidden gem!) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Our keenest cyclists met the Tour de France legend Bernard Hinault in May. This month, KS1 are visiting Skipton Castle, Nursery are going to Hesketh Farm and Year 6 are going on residential to Northumberland.



Reception at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park



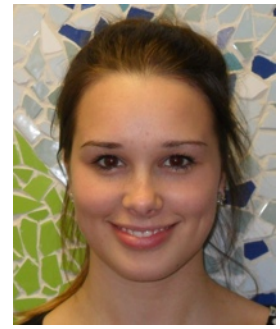
Year 4 pupils overlook a quarry in the Dales



The weather in May was cold, wet, windy and grim for Y3 on their trip to Horton in Ribblesdale!

New teacher for Farfield September

We are delighted to welcome Miss Lily Curteis to our teaching staff for the academic year 2013-14. Lily had a very successful final teaching practice in Reception this year and we are delighted that she will be joining us next year.



We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cruse to school in the coming weeks following their maternity leaves. We currently have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant for September. See eTeach or the school website for details.

Training Days

The first three Training Days of the next academic year will be held on Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September and **Wednesday 2nd October**. Two further Training Days will be announced later in the year. The academic year for 2013-14 begins on Wednesday 4th September for Y1-6.

Holidays in term time

Farfield has, traditionally, been relatively liberal in its granting of permission for holidays in term time. The government, supported by most other schools, has now made it clear that from September headteachers are only allowed to authorise holidays in term times in the most exceptional of circumstances. Almost all of the holidays previously authorised will not in future be allowed to be authorised and will show as unauthorised absences in the register. I will write to parents separately and in more detail about this soon.

Sports Day

Sports Day is pencilled in for Wednesday 10th July, with the following Wednesday as the wet weather reserve.

Infant 'formal' races will be in the morning and juniors in the afternoon. All families are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available (see below).


The children will be active all day: as well as their traditional sports day, they will have another half day of less competitive sporting fun.



Last year, we had to have Sports Day on the yard. Better weather this year?

A new cafe venture for Farfield

We are delighted to announce that we expect  from Calverley to be taking over the Farfield Community cafe in July.

 has an excellent reputation for good teas, coffees and light meals. They intend to create a family-friendly community space here at Farfield and, as well as the usual cafe service that you might expect, they are planning exciting theme days, events and musical entertainment.

We hope that our school community will enjoy and support this exciting partnership. A successful cafe on site will help support the future of Farfield Farm post-lottery.



 hope to provide some refreshment at Sports Day prior to an exciting opening event planned for Thursday 18th July. There are events being planned for the summer holidays and a full service expected for the new academic year.

Summer Fair

The PTA Summer Fair is on Saturday 6th July. Please support this event if you can; the PTA are close to their target to buy a third minibus for the school! Attractions this year include a car boot sale, Family Treasure Hunt, cycle races and the usual games, stalls, BBQ and refreshments.

Going mobile at Farfield - laptops and iPad Minis



This summer sees big changes to the way that technology is used at Farfield. Already considered leaders in the use of IT, Farfield is set to benefit hugely from the installation of a state of the art WiFi system that will provide strong connectivity across the whole



site - including the grounds and farm! In lieu of our IT suite - destined to be transformed into Miss Dormand's new classroom as the school expands further - the council are providing each of our buildings with 30 new wireless laptops. Furthermore, the school is investing heavily in tablet computing, providing children and staff with access to many iPad Minis as tools for accelerating learning and bringing an even more exciting curriculum into the classroom (and beyond).

Ultimately, we would like all our children, from Y2 upwards, to have 1:1 full time access to an iPad mini to support their learning at school and at home - it really is a phenomenal tool for learning. School cannot provide this currently but **we are exploring a leasing option for families and we expect to be able to promote this in the autumn - in time for Christmas perhaps?** A similar scheme already runs successfully at Pudsey Grange High School.

In the autumn we also expect to host an information evening for parents about the school's use of tablet technology and provide some hands-on experiences for parents. By this time, we will be able to advise parents wishing to provide an iPad Mini for their child on the most appropriate and useful apps to purchase.

Children whose parents are not able to join this scheme will have access to school iPads but may not be able to take them home.

Cricket champions

Our Y5/6 cricket team have retained Farfield's title of West Leeds champions for a second year. Congratulations to Miss Hutchinson and the boys. This does provide support for the phrase 'Practice Makes Perfect' as they have been training every week at Farsley AFC's sports hall throughout the winter and in the nets at lunchtime. This week they seek to retain the title of Champions of Leeds!

Successful Year 5 residential in the Yorkshire Dales

At the end of May we had a fabulous week of residential with Year 5. Each child spent three days/two nights away at Ribbleshead in the Yorkshire Dales. We self-catered at Gearstones Lodge and activities included:

- The Ingleton Waterfall Walk and paddling/falling in the stream
- A Night Walk along the Ribbles Way
- Caving near Ribbleshead Viaduct
- Mountain Biking at Gisburn Forest
- A river study along the dramatic Winterscales Beck

A big "Well Done!" to the children, many of whom overcame their fears to tackle challenging activities. One child actually defined the word 'residential' as meaning: "Growing Up!" A huge thank you to the staff who worked 24 hours a day for the week, to Charlie Pyatt who volunteered to lead the caving and to Chris Young (British Cycling) and Matthew Asquith (East Bradford Cycle Club) who led the biking. We are also grateful to Michael Young who also supported the whole week on a voluntary basis.



Have you visited the blogs yet? The quality of work on display is simply superb. Please do try to visit and leave a message - the children (and staff) will be delighted!

<http://ffks1.primaryblogger.co.uk>

<http://ff34g.primaryblogger.co.uk>

<http://ff6w.primaryblogger.co.uk>

<http://ffpsindia.primaryblogger.co.uk>



Mr Harris on behalf of the governors

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