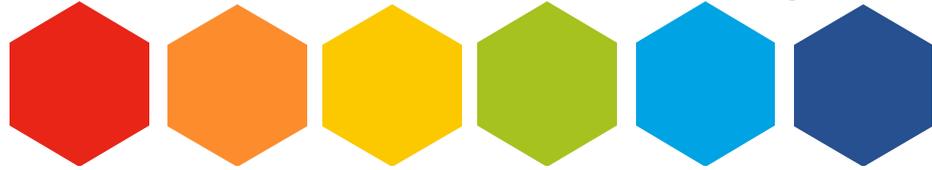


Curriculum News

February 2016



Year 1 art gallery success



Year 1 [exhibited](#) all their fabulous art work to the public. The children were very proud of their achievements and enjoyed sharing their work with friends and family. They were inspired by the work of Pacita Abad, Balraj Khanna and Friedensreich Hundertwasser and Farfield parent [Kate Park](#).



Thank you to everyone who attended the gallery and for all your kind donations. Well done to everyone involved!



World Book Day

We are marking World book Day on Thursday 3rd March. Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book characters. Each child will get a £1 book token and there will be a Scholastic Book Fair at school the following week.

Staffing News

We are saying goodbye to a number of staff this half term.

School News



Mrs Lambert leaves the school after twenty years of employment or other association with the school! Mrs Lambert has worked closely with hundreds of children over the years and, given her role as a mentor, she has often worked with parents too. She has led Farfield Fun youth club and a host of other extra-curricular activities. Mrs Lambert is moving to a full time mentoring role at Bramley St Peter's Primary School. She leaves on Friday 26th February with our very best wishes and immense thanks for all her time with the school.



School groundsman Mr Carr has recently left the school to take up a similar role in the private sector. Mr Carr has been with us a couple of years and worked very well with the children. We wish him well in his new role. We are urgently looking to recruit a replacement: the core job is 24 hours per week, including work in school holidays, all year round. There will be opportunities for overtime. Further details will soon be on the website.

Mrs Webster is leaving Farfield soon to take up a support role at Grangefield High School. Mrs Webster has also been with us a couple of years, off and on, and she has been a great member of the Year 5 team. We wish her well in a high school role.

A number of roles are currently advertised on the [school website](#). These include some temporary and permanent learning support assistants and an Assistant Head for the infant building.

We would like to pass on our very best wishes to Ms Sedman and her partner who became parents recently as they welcomed baby Jake into the world. Congratulations!

Important dates

Brief mid-year reports will be published at the beginning of March. Parents' Evening will be held on 8th and 9th March in the **Junior** building.

The final two Teacher Training Days will be held on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th March - just before the Easter weekend. Term dates are always on the school [website](#): please note

that the Easter weekend actually falls outside the Easter school holiday this year.



The PTA Race Night is to be held on Friday 6th May - would your company like to sponsor a race and get lots of local publicity? Contact Diane in the infant office.

The brilliant PTA [Camp-Over](#) is to be held on the weekend of 18th-19th June.

Museums are important!

Children in Year 3 and in Year 5 went by No. 72 bus to the Leeds City Museum at the end of last half term. Year 3 attended an Ancient Egypt workshop and Year 5 experienced a brand-new workshop relating to Anglo-Saxons. It is sad to see museums closing across the country as a result of cuts, so it is important that we make good use of those museums and galleries that Leeds and Bradford manage to keep open.

So far this school year we have visited Thwaite Mills, Leeds Gallery, Abbey House Museum, the Media Museum and Cartwright Hall in Bradford. We were due to go to Armley Mills Museum but it is currently closed after the flooding.

School News



Is that grammatically correct?

One of the features of the new curriculum is a very high expectation as regards formal grammar. We have always taught grammar but the curriculum content has now been changed: concepts and technical vocabulary are now introduced much earlier. Year 2, for example, now learn about apostrophes for possession and omission. We are trying to make this work as interesting as possible hence a recent Y6 Star Wars day helping children to grasp 'passive voice' in writing.

Rewrite the sentence below so that it is written in the **passive voice**. Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

The pouring rain drenched us.

Tick one box in each row to show whether the word after is used as a **subordinating conjunction** or as a **preposition**.

Sentence	<u>after</u> used as a subordinating conjunction	<u>after</u> used as a preposition
He moved here <u>after</u> the end of the war.		
Entry is free <u>after</u> 5pm in the evening.		

Parents wishing to see examples of what is expected of Year 2 and Year 6 children can use these links to browse the sample papers that we have been given: [end of KS1](#) and [end of KS2](#).

Can you answer all the questions correctly? How about when you were 6/7 or 10/11 years old?

There is the distinct possibility that ministers were just trying to show the rest of us how clever they are...

School News



Boomwhacking and African drumming

A new enhancement to our music curriculum this year has been [African drumming](#) and the use of [Boomwhackers](#). This work has taken place in lower key stage 2 and culminated in fabulous performances in Junior assemblies. Very well done to the children, Ms Howells and regular volunteer Graeme. Thanks to the PTA and to Calverley Parkside for access to the African drums. Hopefully, this work will take place again next winter.

“Wow!! Excellent African drumming; all the children were so composed and they followed the rhythm in time with each other. Very enjoyable to watch and listen. Well done!”
Parent comment on the blog

Year 6 Poetry Slam!

The Year 6 Poetry Slam was a great success!

Every child performed his or her poem either up on stage in the hall in front of all of Year 6, in front of the class or for the class teacher. Those who pushed themselves to perform in the hall felt incredibly proud of themselves and the majority were really glad they did it. Some children even said they enjoyed it once they got over the initial nerves!

The members of staff were all so impressed by not only the memorisation, but the thought that went into how to perform the poems. Many children used intonation, volume and actions to enhance their poems. A big congratulations to our two winners and all of the top performers who ‘slammed it!’



Politicians in ‘not quite telling the whole truth’ shocker!

Despite assurances that suggest otherwise, education is not immune to the public sector cuts and, along with other schools, we are having to make savings of about £100,000 per year to meet additional costs to the school due to changes to NI, pensions, unfunded pay rises and the living wage initiative. This equates to savings of just over 5%. This will be achieved by reducing non-SEN support assistants, changes to the PPA model and some reductions in other services such as mentoring. We will also expect to slightly reduce the teaching bill through some agreed reductions in hours and through a targeted recruitment strategy. Whilst this isn't good news, we are confident that we can deliver these savings without compromising high quality classroom provision or the rich curriculum offer of the school.