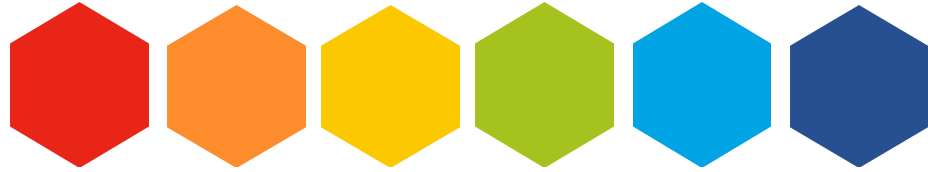


Curriculum News



June 2017



Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year and Happy Ramadan to our Muslim families.

This is usually the best half term: post SATs, great weather (!) and exciting events and activities. Don't forget the Camp-Over on July 1st and Sports Day on Wednesday July 12th.



This newsletter is entitled 'Curriculum News' deliberately as the curriculum we offer is central to the school's vision and mission. Read on to find out some of what we have been up to...

Farfield shortlisted for national Healthy School award

We are delighted to have been shortlisted for the TES national Healthy School of the Year 2017. This shortlisting success is based on our food growing on Farfield Farm, our extensive cooking curriculum and our innovative range of physical activity.



Five members of staff and a corporate partner from Barclays will be heading off to London for the awards dinner later in June. The awards gala will be hosted by Julian Clary at the very posh Grosvenor Hotel; we will be staying at the Travelodge! Whether we win or not, it is great to be shortlisted.





PTA Quiz shock winners?

The PTA Quiz Night was a success: we raised over £400 and had an enjoyable night. Well done to the winning team (it can't have been too hard if this lot won... 😊)



Training Day

The first of the Training Days for the next academic year will be held on Monday 4th September 2017. School will open on Tuesday 5th September. The 4 other dates will be announced once the training has been arranged.

Religious Education visits

The cultural diversity, warm relationships and tolerance at Farfield are things we value, celebrate and welcome. We are delighted that our programme of visits to places of worship continued last term with Years 2 and 5 visiting a mosque. These visits followed similar trips to a church, a synagogue and a gurdwara. This rich series of visits greatly enhances our RE curriculum. We want our children to be well informed and empathetic: crucial qualities in the modern world.

Mr Harris and his partner also attended an interesting peace seminar at Al-Mahdi mosque as guests of some Farfield parents. After an address by the imam of the London Mosque on the theme of "Love for all; Hatred for none", the guests - including representatives of churches and the wider community - enjoyed food and discussions around the table.



School News



Year 5 residential success

Just before half term, our children in Year 5 enjoyed a sunny and successful residential trip up to Ribbleshead in the Yorkshire Dales. They enjoyed a waterfall walk around Ingleton, a river study, caving and mountain biking. Many thanks to the staff for giving up their time, to Chris and Charlie for leading the caving and biking and to Matthew Asquith from East Bradford Cycle Club for his valuable support.



Year 6 are on residential this week at How Stean Gorge, just North of Pateley Bridge. If you think the Year 5 residential looks exciting and adventurous...

Camp-Over 2017: be part of it

Have you seen the [publicity for the forthcoming Camp-Over](#)? This event has become a Farfield phenomenon and is our principal fund-raising event of the year. This year, we are holding the event on Saturday 1st July and have attractions such as a giant inflatable assault course, musical entertainment from Mr Sharp and the return of our world-renowned juggler. Best of all, the children play, play, play whilst parents and carers relax...



End of Year Reports change

End of year reports will be published in July. I have instructed the teachers Y1-6 to write shorter comments this year as parents get regular blog postings as regards work covered and will also receive their child's assessment summaries with their reports. **I am also concerned for teachers' welfare and work-life balance.** If any parents would like a longer report, particularly in terms of 'foundation subjects' such as history, geography etc, they should approach me directly and I will see what we can do.

Y2 and Y6 SATS

Y2 and Y6 completed a number of SATs tests in May: Y6 papers have been sent away to be marked externally whilst Y2 results will inform teacher assessments. Writing assessments continue into this month. Results will be shared with reports in July. Not everyone will achieve the expected standards so it will also be important to recognise and celebrate the progress of every child. Children and staff have worked very hard and their books show impressive improvements over the year - well done!



It's certainly not all testing in Y2: children enjoying practical maths in the sunshine

Y1 Phonics

We had a great turn-out from Y1 parents and carers for their phonics workshop on the last day of half term - thank you for your support. **The Phonics Screening assessments will take place during the week beginning 12th June.** The children have made great progress so far this year and we expect them to do well.





Has your child got the S-Factor?

After great success in the [summer of 2015](#), the Farfield 'S Factor' competition returns this month. This is a science competition from Reception to Year 6 in which budding scientists perform a science investigation or demonstration in front of their peers and then, if they are chosen as class champion, in front of the whole school. Class auditions are in the week of 19th June with a grand final on Friday 30th June. More details to follow.

School budgets - a tough time

We have set a new school budget for 2017-18 with a large in-year deficit, offset this year by school balances. We have made some considerable savings to staffing, avoiding redundancies, but in-year deficits will be unsustainable in the medium term. Hopefully, we might get some additional money after the election: schools can't keep having real terms cuts to funding without significant impacts on children and staff. As it is, there will be less general classroom TA support for teachers and children in KS2 next year.

New home for Foundation Stage ducklings

The children in Foundation Stage enjoyed watching their eggs hatch and grow into ducklings. Most of the ducklings have gone to live at a farm in Otley, whilst two have got to live with Mrs Purfield.



Miss Hutchinson with a group of children delivering the ducklings to their new home. Our minibuses give us the opportunity to enrich the curriculum: thanks to the PTA for their support with the funds for this.



Eden and Isla didn't want the two remaining ducklings to feel lonely, so they read them stories.



Sports News

Our U11 football team qualified for the West Leeds 7-a-side finals and then won their league to get to the semi-final stage. Sadly, we couldn't quite score in the semi final, finishing 0-0 after extra time, and we were knocked out on penalties. Nevertheless, the boys put in a great effort and can be pleased with a very successful season.

Earlier in the spring time, lots of our children showed great grit and determination in various cross country events. Ty in Y6 shone, coming 14th in the Leeds event and 30th in a regional event. Well done!

Thank you to all the staff that have supported sporting events this year - we couldn't do it without you!



Gritty and determined: the Y4 girls' cross country team

Year 6 Roman detectives

Mr Tiffany has been in his element leading Year 6's study of Romans. They have worked on sources to try to uncover the truth behind the discovery of 80 skeletons from the period (a graveyard of gladiators in York). They also got to explore a wide range of Roman artefacts mysteriously delivered as wrapped presents.





Bringing the Curriculum Alive!

In the last half term, children have had a wealth of opportunities to learn about and celebrate the natural world around them.



Busy Y3 bees learning about pollination at Harlow Carr



All sorts of exotic and exciting animals came to visit Year 1



All the infant children have spent time on the farm last half term, often working with older children



Year 1 pond-dipping at Rodley Nature Reserve - what a wonderful resource on our doorstep



Year 4 learning about Islamic history

The 'new' national curriculum has a unit of work on Islamic history. Teachers and children have found this to be an interesting addition to the curriculum and we enhanced this with a trip to Cartwright Hall where the children took part in a workshop and had access to artefacts.



Year 6 'See the Light'

The best teachers teach 'in the moment' and a good example of this was 6CH when they took advantage of glorious sunny weather to enhance their science work on light.



Building for the future

We have confirmation that phase 1 of a new roof for the infant building will be undertaken over the summer holidays at the same time as the juniors will get new boilers. We also hope to begin some resurfacing work, in the junior car park initially, some improvements to fencing and the removal of the rotten trim trails. A number of classrooms will also be redecorated and the 1S classroom will get new furniture for September.

Mr Harris, Head teacher

