



Bellingham Middle

Newsletter ~ Spring 2017

Spring update

We are having another busy half term here at Bellingham Middle School. Despite our difficulties with the heating system, we have still managed to fit a lot in.

Year 5

We are delighted to be able to tell you that year 5 have been doing very well with their reading. They are using Accelerated Reader to take quizzes on the books they have read and are showing masses of enthusiasm. Look out for our extreme reading challenge!

Year 6

Miss Mason's class has been taking part in the Church Explorer Trail and, so far, have visited St Cuthbert's and plan to visit the catholic church, St Oswald's soon. Staff tell me that year 6 were extremely well behaved and asked excellent questions whilst taking part in this trip. Well done year 6!

Year 7

Year 7 have been helping to re-organise our school library. Hopefully with their input and assistance it will now be easier to find a book at the right level of challenge.

Year 8

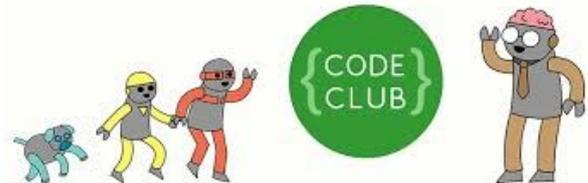
Some of the year 8s were very lucky to be visited by Liesbeth Langford who came in to talk to them about her experiences in occupied Holland during WW2 and the persecution of the Jews. Miss Grey told me that the year 8s found her talk extremely interesting and that it gave them great pride in their family members (grandparents and great grandparents) who had fought during WW2 to liberate occupied countries.

Code Club—coming soon!

Brian English, a volunteer through the organisation 'Code Club' is starting a code club for some of our year 5s (together with some year 4s from Bellingham First School). This will be a chance for our pupils to work on their programming skills using Scratch and other programs developed to encourage children to learn about coding.

As well as programming skills, we hope the pupils taking part will also develop their ability to problem solve and become more resilient in fixing mistakes as well as having lots of fun.

Find out more about the organisation 'Code Club' at www.codeclub.org.uk



Clubs happening in school this term

The following clubs are running at lunchtime this term:

ICT / homework—Mon, Wed & Thurs

Meditation—Mon

Drawing—Tues

Table tennis—Thurs

Karaoke—Fri

Spanish—Fri

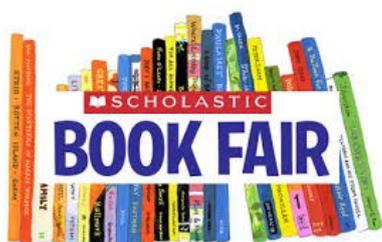
Badminton and Filmclub are after school on Thurs.

Book Fair—reading for pleasure

On the week beginning 23rd January we had a Book Fair through Scholastic as we tend to do every year.

Children were able to browse the books before making a decision and then buy books and other small items on Wednesday and Thursday.

Reading is so important so we were really pleased to see so many children taking an interest and finding their next good read. If you are struggling to find the right book have a look on our 'reading for pleasure' page on the school website which has book recommendations.



What's happening in Enrichment this term?

As you may already know, we run 'enrichment' sessions on Friday afternoons for KS3. It meant that last term we were able to put on our successful Rockerfella production. The idea is to give our pupils a chance to do something extra that stems from their interests. This term the options were: orienteering, (PE / healthy living) 'voice' (centred around work on debating, speaking and listening skills) and 'small inventions' (science and technology).

In addition to this, year 5 will have the chance to work with the Tyne Rivers Trust to do a project called 'Salmon in the Classroom' which will feed into their science work. The programme starts with Tyne Rivers Trust setting up an aquarium and cooling system in the classroom. They will then bring the salmon eggs into classroom when they are close to hatching. Over a few weeks basic maintenance will be required (checking temperature and making sure the filters are clear) along with monitoring the hatch rate of the salmon, once all the eggs have hatched then they will return to take the class and the salmon to the local river to release them.

e-safety advice and help

Up to date e-safety advice for parents / carers can be found on the think u know website (www.thinkuknow.co.uk). There is a section just for parents as well as sections for children so that they can find out more or, if need be, report abuse by clicking on the CEOP button.



Dates for your diary

Wake Up Club at 8.15—8.45am
every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
(open to all pupils in the community room)

Tues 7th Feb: code club starts for selected children

Tues 7th Feb: Safer Internet Day

Fri 10th Feb—year 6 visiting St Oswald's church

Wed 15th Feb—Guy Opperman MP visiting the Pupil Forum

Thurs 16th Feb—pencil in date for school disco.

Fri 17th Feb—pencil in date for 'tea & cakes' afternoon. Also the last day of the half term.

Week beginning 20th Feb: half term

Mon 27th Feb—pupils back in school

Mon 6th March—UKMT maths challenge—KS3

Wed 8th March—parents evening 4—7pm

Wed 15th March—parents evening 4—7pm

Year 6 remember: SATs week is the week beginning 8th May—all year 6 children need to be in school!



Please remember...if your child is unwell and absent from school please ring us to let us know!