



11th June 2021

We hope you all had a lovely half term holiday. It is great to see everyone back in school again for our last half term of the year. We are hoping to cram in quite a few things into the next few weeks before we break up on 16th July.

We are hopeful that we will be able to spend more time over on Holy Island (provided that Covid restrictions allow it). We hope to walk the pilgrim's poles on 29th June (Mrs Stiansen will be sending out a detailed letter about this nearer the time). We are also planning a day on the Island on 5th July and a sports afternoon on 12th July.

We are looking forward to celebrating the birth and life of St John the Baptist. Lowick's church is named for him and we have found that his feast day is on 24th June and used to be known as 'summer Christmas'. It used to be the tradition that people shared food and drink on these occasions and communities came together.



We are hoping to have a short church service and then walk back up to school for a 'festival and picnic lunch'. Fingers crossed we will be able to invite you to join us – it will depend on Covid restrictions and DfE guidance for schools – it would be lovely to see everyone again and we plan to do it outside to minimise risk. If it turns out not to be possible, we will film it instead and share it virtually as we did for Christmas and Easter.

Transition for year 4s

We will be taking our **year 4s to Ford First School on Tuesday next week** (15th June) where they will meet with other year 4s from Ford and Norham first schools. Mrs Turner has planned a tri-golf / outdoor sports afternoon for them to enjoy. **Children will need either a packed lunch or you can order a grab and go** from school as they will be eating lunch there. The children will also need **suitable active and outdoor clothing** (and also sun cream and a hat if it continues to be hot). They will be back before the end of the school day.

We hope this will give them a chance to meet new people and make friends before going up to middle school together.

Other transition events planned are:

- Move up day where year 4s spend the day at their new middle school (Friday 2nd July)
- Years 3 and 4 beach cricket with Ford and Norham first schools on Holy Island (Friday morning 9th July).

Next week we will also be able to view the Virtual Leavers Service by the Newcastle Diocese for the year 4s. Our children did the prayers for the service so we are looking forward to watching it. If you would like to see the video of the year 4 children reading their prayers we have put it on our website under the 'photo / video gallery' tab or click this link: www.lowickholylslandschools.org.uk/website/year_4_leavers_prayers_2021/560915

Dates for your Dairy....

Monday 14th & 28th June: Nursery Transition days into reception

Tuesday 15th June: Year 4s go to Ford First School

Thurs 17th June: Virtual Leavers Service link up with Newcastle Cathedral (our children are doing the prayers so we feel very honoured).

Thurs 24th June: Festival of St John the Baptist

Tues 29th June: Walk to Holy Island.

Fri 2nd July: Year 4 Move Up Day.

Mon 5th July: A Day at Holy Island.

Mon 12th July: Sports Day on Holy Island

Friday 9th July: Year 3 & 4 Beach Cricket

Fri 16th July: End of term.

Congratulations readers!

We have had great success with our RWI phonics program (Read Write Inc) across school. After re-assessing at the end of last half term, all the children have made progress and some children have shown incredible improvements. Many more children have now graduated from the program. I have noticed that the children are progressing well through their reading stage books as well in our 'reading for pleasure' time first thing in the morning.



Please remember that we are using Seesaw as a virtual reading log and we appreciate all your posts and comments when your children read at home. The children also find this very encouraging as their reading skills are being recognised and valued.



Reading is so important to help children learn and also to access wonderful stories and fact books. We have added some library time to our timetable this half term to help children explore all the available book choices we have in school. We are very proud of you all keep practising!



Transition within school

We have also been thinking about transition within school for our older nursery children going into Reception and for our year 1s going into class 2. We have looked through our timetable for this half term and planned sessions for the children to spend some time in their new classrooms. Older nursery children will join class 1 on Monday afternoons. Year 1 children will do some English and maths lessons over the next few weeks with class 2.

This builds on work already begun where nursery join the main school for forest school and year 1s have had some subjects taught with year 2s already.

RHS School Gardening Award – Level 4



We are delighted that we have now achieved a level 4 in the School Gardening Awards by the Royal Horticultural Society. We got this award for the work done linked to the garden in our forest school art sessions with Pippa. We won it for working on and improving our garden and especially for creating the bee hotels with clay, constructing the edging with willow and making links across the curriculum.

For winning this award, we will receive a Super Seed Bundle of Mr Fothergill's seeds worth over £100, giving us something to sow or harvest all year round. Well done and thank you to everyone involved in our project!

On that note, I should also mention that Gardening club on Tuesdays began this week and the children have made a wonderful wormery.

Eco-Schools

This week we celebrated World Ocean Day, and as this year's theme was 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods', we explored why the ocean is so important for life both on land and in the sea. We talked about Global Warming leading to the death of coral reefs, and the dangers of overfishing. We watched a very informative short clip from David Attenborough, and agreed that we were already making some positive changes towards protecting our oceans such as Meat Free Mondays, recycling and not using single use plastics (the children told me that Mcdonalds now uses paper straws which is great, however they also told me they weren't very good!



We discussed some alternatives and some of the children told us they had metal or bamboo straws at home, excellent!). We also agreed to continue making changes to keep our oceans safe.

Miss Easten



Thank you!

We are hugely grateful for all the donations we have received for our Remembrance Garden so far. In particular, thank you to Margaret and Jim for plants and making us a trellis, to Brenda Thompson for the plant pots and to Richard Bulman who kindly gave us a donation which we used for compost. Our thanks also to Margaret Cartlidge for giving us a wonderful bird identification presentation which the children think is brilliant.



The staff are doing a wonderful job with the children to create something very special, we hope that this garden will be something we can share with the community once we are able to invite people to visit us again.