

# Wylam First School

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Rocketing to Success!



**Newsletter 8**  
**4th April 2019**

Dear Parents/Carers

We've had a very busy but fantastic few weeks in school, where we have taken part in a host of events and competitions, visited different places and we have welcomed a range of visitors and experts. All of the extra things we do not only enhance our curriculum but they also give all of our children the opportunity to excel in different situations.

We would like to thank IHC Engineering, Mrs Argent and Mr Hudspith for taking the time to come into school to talk to the children about engineering, show some of the amazing things they make and lead workshops on bridge construction and welding with chocolate! The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and I hope we have inspired some of them to go on to be engineers in the future.

We would also like to thank Bex Mather who has been leading a music project across Reception and KS1. This project has been fantastic for the children but has also supported the professional development of the staff.

Recently, due to the hard work of the PTA and all who support the fundraising, we have spent £1500 on musical instruments to help develop our music curriculum, £1000 on STEM and science resources, £500 on bikes and waterproof clothes for the Nursery, and £300 on books to support our Talk for Writing curriculum. This work really is having a huge impact on our curriculum offer and on our children.

Over the last few weeks the school has been trialing a different approach to creative writing. Talk for Writing by Pie Corbett focuses on children learning stories through talk, action and drama, internalising the story and unpicking the text before they write. We have had a great few weeks trying this out.

As it has been a busy term I think that all of the children (and staff) are ready for a well earned break. We hope that you all have a fantastic Easter break and enjoy all of the chocolate treats coming your way.

## News

### **Primary Engineer**

What an amazing job the children did on their Leader's Award competition entries! We certainly have some very talented inventors and innovators! All entries were sent off to the competition so good luck everyone!

### **World Book Day**

Our World Book Day maths trail was great. The children rotated around a range of maths related challenges around the theme of different books. This was expertly run by the Year 4 children. Thanks to all of the parents who were able to come into school to help out or to read with the children, and thanks to Mrs Long for organising the event. All children also visited the library on that day so thank you to Margaret Kelly for hosting a lovely story telling session.

We were also really impressed with the stories and props that the children brought in to discuss on the day. A particular favourite of mine was the very inventive packed lunch that contained a range of props from different stories. Thankfully the Frobbscottle did not have the same effect as it does in the story!

### **200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge**

Well done to everyone who entered the 200 Million Minute Reading Challenge. All of the data has been inputted and now we are waiting to hear whether we have made it on to the leaderboard. I hope you enjoyed all of the reading you did and thank you Mr Daly for organising.

### **Fundraising**

We have taken part in a lot of fundraising activities this half term like: Red Nose Day and Wear a Hat Day. Thank you for your support with this. The school managed to raise £236 for the charities.

### **PTA Update**

I hope that you have enjoyed taking part in all of the PTA activities this term. Thank you to those who took part in the Smarties Challenge, who created a fantastic Easter bonnet or who attended the Easter bingo.

### **Sporting Competitions and Activities**

This term we have taken part in a whole host of competitions and events. So far we are unbeaten in the football league, we came 2nd overall in a recent tennis competition and are awaiting the result of the tri golf competition that took place this week.

We have also been working with Newcastle Eagles coaches to improve our basketball skills and have just begun sessions with a cricket coach.

A huge well done to all of the children who have taken part and thank you to Miss Foster for organising.

### **Class Assemblies**

This term Year 1 and Year 3 have held their class assemblies and it was so nice to see a range of the curriculum areas on display. Year 3's assembly focused on French where they sang some French songs and even held a French fashion show! Year 1 performed the fantastic drama and music work they have completed on The Wild Things with Bex Mather. Great job everyone!

## **Reminders**

### **Children's Cancer Run 2019**

There is still time to enter The Children's Cancer Run which takes place on Sunday 19th May at Newcastle Racecourse. We will be taking part alongside Mickley First School and Prudhoe Castle First School. Information on how to register can be found at the website below.

[www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk](http://www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk)

### **Parent's Evening**

We are holding our parents evenings after the Easter break where you will have an opportunity to look at your child's books and talk to their teacher about their progress.

If you haven't already done so, please contact the office to book an appointment.

### **Bikeability**

After the Easter break Cycle Experience will be running Bikeability in school. See the school calendar section (last page) for dates. If you have signed your child up for this then please ensure they come in fully equipped with a roadworthy bike of the correct size and without stabilisers, and helmet (Years 2 to 4). Balance bikes and helmets will be provided for children in Reception and Year 1. Please also ensure your child has sufficient warm/wet weather clothing and gloves with them. Full details are in the paperwork you have already received.

### **Head Lice**

Unfortunately head lice is doing the rounds again as I am sure you are aware. This can be such a frustrating irritation, particularly when you have to treat your child numerous times. Please can we ask that all parents take as many preventative steps as possible to try to stop the spread. It is really important to check your child's hair weekly, even if you don't suspect that your child has head lice. A simple way to do this is to apply lots of conditioner to wet hair and comb it through. If you spot any eggs or lice please treat immediately and inform the school so we can ensure that all parents check their child. If we spot a child with head lice in school we will ask that you collect your child so that they can be treated. Lastly, please make sure that all children with long hair tie it up for school. Thank you for your support with this.

## **E-safety**

The [latest Ofcom statistics](#) show that:

- 52% of 3-4 year olds go online for nearly 9 hours a week
- 82% of 5-7s go online for around 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours week.
- So how are they spending this time online?

They are streaming video content, with close to half of 3-4s and 70% of 5-7s having used YouTube. Time spent watching TV continues to decrease as children turn to streaming services that provide greater variety and personalisation based on what they view. Children are seeing YouTubers not only as a source of content but increasingly as a source of inspiration, with many being inspired to create their own content on YouTube or other live streaming platforms. Many are also gaming, with 37% of 3-4s and three-quarters of 5-15s playing games online, and often they will

also be using the chat features within the game to talk to others.

Engaging in these online activities provides children with hours of enjoyment, opportunities for learning and developing interests and social connections.

From this young age, it is important that we start exploring the benefits of these online activities as well as supporting children to understand the risks and how to stay safe.

## The Internet of Things

The Internet of Things, often referred to as IoT, are everyday objects that connect to the internet.

### **What are the risks associated with the Internet of Things?**

Although connected devices and toys provide children with opportunities for learning and interactive play, there are risks associated with the Internet of Things. For example:

Concerns have been raised about whether these devices are collecting **too much personal information** from children.

Some children (either accidentally or on purpose) are able to search for and access **age-inappropriate material** via a connected device such as a smart speaker.

Children may make **'in-app purchases'** and spend money, which is often taken from their parents' bank account without their knowledge or consent.

Some of these devices may be more vulnerable to hacking and monitoring, as there are currently no security standards in place for connected devices.

Luckily, there are things you can do to minimise these risks:

1. Do your research - read online reviews
2. Read the manual - information about the privacy settings for the device
3. Set up parental controls
4. Enable safe search - to limit the material your child can see
5. Change the default password
6. Set your Bluetooth to undetectable
7. Review and delete audio files - some devices listen and record voice commands
8. Talk to your child - include connected devices in online safety conversations

9. Supervise your child - keep devices in communal areas.
- 10.

**We have recently embedded parent info onto our website in our e-safety section. This will automatically update with the latest articles and information for parents.**

## School Calendar

Thursday 4th April	Easter church service, 2pm Methodist Church
Thursday 4th April	Break up for Easter holiday
Friday 5th April	Teacher training day
Tuesday 23rd April	Back to school
Tuesday 23rd April	Reception and Year 1 Bikeability - Balance
Monday 29th April	Parent's evening, 3.30-6.30pm
Monday 29th April	Years 2 and Y3 Bikeability
Tuesday 30th April	Year 4 Bikeability - Level 1
Thursday 2nd May	Parents' evening, 3.30-4.30pm
Sunday 19th May	Jump for Joy - choir at St Oswin's
Monday 20th May	Year 1 trip to Beamish
Wednesday 22nd May	Year 4 Residential - Newby Bridge
Thursday 23rd May	Outdoor day

Please continue to check our school website for the most up to date information.

Kind regards.

**S Gibbon**

**Headteacher**