



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. We have taken the decision to replace the weekly newsletter with a longer half termly update that will hopefully capture lots of the exciting learning and events that have happened in school over the half term, as well as sharing information about forthcoming events with you. This first half term is always a busy one as there are lots of new things being introduced to improve teaching, learning and engagement of pupils and parents.

NEW RECEPTION STARTERS

We have **38** new pupils in our Reception classes who have made an excellent start to their Barnard Grove journey... Mrs Reed and Mrs Snelson are very impressed with how well the children have settled in and how ready they are to learn. We even have six children who are already reading well enough to have their own reading book: well done **Lewy Price, Alice Flicker, Leah Cooper, Jessica Durham, Holly Deer and Tyler Merrilees** - a fantastic start!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

At the end of last year, after a tough selection process, including a written application and interview, new captains were chosen to represent each of our Houses:

Endeavour - Ella McIndoe and Elliott Addison

Discovery - Nyve Hart and Lewis Smith

Adventure - Libbie McDonough and Reece Durham

Resolution - Jessica Temple and Reece Popplewell

They have already been very busy, coming in early each week to collect and count house tokens; monitoring the KS2 stairs and corridor to help keep things calm and quiet and also planning six rewards for the team who have the highest points total each half term. Well done all - keep up the good work!

MINI LIBRARIANS

As part of our continuous drive to foster a love of, and raise standards in reading, we have been working alongside Hartlepool Libraries to train some of our KS2 pupils to work alongside Mrs Pattinson in our LRC (Learning Resource Centre). They have had six weekly sessions focussing on developing their understanding of the library system, categorising and organising books and growing their knowledge of literature so they can advise other children on which books to choose. We have also just purchased a new, digital library system, which will include the books children are reading being scanned like they would be in a 'proper' library! This will be introduced to parents and children after half term. Our new librarians are: **Freya Love, Daisy Blair, Brooke Oliver, Ashleigh Weldrake, Jazmyn Williamson, Anya Robinson, Lucy Robinson, Indie Taylor, Evie Blair and Melissa Ferguson.**



RABBIT UPDATE – THE FAMOUS FIVE!

I'm sure you'll be aware of the sad theft we had of one of our adult rabbits, Blossom, and one of her young babies, earlier this half term. We were all obviously devastated and shocked that anyone could be so mean-spirited but the overwhelming response we've had since then has been amazing. After our Facebook post reached over **30,000 people**, thanks to all of the shares from parents and friends, we had countless offers of help and support, resulting in hutches, equipment and money being donated by generous parents and members of the public. The Hartlepool Mail and BBC Tees ran the story and the Chief Inspector of Cleveland Police even called to say how sorry he was! However, the most important thing in all of this was to ensure that Blossom's babies survived and we are pleased to say that, after lots of dedication from staff, bottle-feeding and round the clock care, they are absolutely thriving and are already growing quite big! Vets4Pets offered to sex them for us so we now have five female bunnies along with our remaining adult rabbit, Flora! We intend on keeping all five so the children will get to spend quite a bit of time with them in the coming years 😊.

GOLDEN TABLE

We have started a 'Golden Table' this year for those pupils who are making positive behaviour choices over the lunchtime period. The lunchtime supervisors choose one child each, per week, who they have noticed showing good manners, kindness or friendliness towards other children. These children receive a certificate in Friday's Celebration Assembly and get to sit on the 'Golden Table' for lunch where they get waitress service, juice, special crockery and even a cupcake, especially baked by our cook, Amanda. It's lovely to see how excited the children are when their names are called and how polite they are when at the table.

GARY THOMPSON SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Earlier this month, we held our annual Gary Thompson Award assembly but this year was slightly different... Usually, the assembly is in July and we have around six nominees with one overall winner. However, this year, when Mr Walker asked staff to nominate pupils they felt had made a significant, positive contribution to the life of the school, there was one name that was mentioned by almost everyone – **LEWIN TUBUNA**.

Lewin is an amazing young man who not only shines in school through his hard work, sporting achievements and commitment to clubs like Drama, he also shows such dedication and positivity out of school in the fantastic work he does raising money for charities such as Miles for Men and Muscular Dystrophy UK.

Lewin was presented with his award in an assembly earlier this month in the presence of his parents and grandparents who were so proud of him and everything he's achieved. Congratulations Lewin!



CHARITIES

Thank you for supporting our two charity events this year: the **MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Afternoon** raised a total of **£212.16** and today's **Wear It Pink** for Breast Cancer Now has also been a big success (we'll let you know how much was raised next half term).



CURRICULUM NEWS & INFORMATION

TOPICS AND THEMES

Below are the cross-curricular topics that children in each year group will be studying next half term...

Year Group	Topic/Theme	Class Texts
Reception	Why Do Leaves Go Crispy?	<i>Owl Babies</i> by Martin Waddell
Year 1	Superheroes	<i>The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man</i> by Michael Chabon
Year 2	Beat Band Boogie	<i>Cinderella's Sister and the Big Bad Wolf</i> by Lorraine Carey <i>Goldilocks and Just One Bear</i> by Leigh Hodgkinson
Year 3/4	Burps, Bottoms and Bile	<i>The Demon Dentist</i> by David Walliams
Year 5	Stargazers	<i>Cosmic</i> by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Year 6	Frozen Kingdom	<i>Shackleton's Journey</i> by William Grill <i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London or <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar

You will find out more about the children's topics when you receive the 'menu' for their homework projects during the first week back after half term. We are already planning the 'super starts' for each topic, which sound like the children are not only going to have great learning experiences but also lots of fun as well!

MUSIC ENRICHMENT

In September, after a demonstration by Vince Fleming from Tees Valley Music, children in KS2 were given the opportunity to express an interest in playing the violin. We had a very good response so Mrs Reed (our Arts and Music Coordinator) had to pick the twelve lucky children, who will now have a weekly lesson with Vince, out of a hat! Lessons start after half term so we'll look forward to their first performance sometime soon!

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

On Thursday 28th September, we celebrated National Poetry Day in school... Children from Year 1 - Year 6 learned a performance poem off by heart (in most cases!) in their classes and performed in a whole school assembly at the end of the day. We had a bit of everything from Edward Lear to poems about dragons eating schools and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day!

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL - ROBINWOOD

Our Year 6s spent three days at Robinwood Activity Centre in Alston, Cumbria at the start of October. They had a great time and completed many challenging activities, including: giant swing, zipwire, archery and canoeing (not to mention surviving the Piranha Pool!). Thanks to the Y6 staff (Mrs Stephenson, Mr Law, Mrs Nealon and Mrs Spence) for giving up their time to allow the children to have this invaluable experience.

SPORTS REPORT

SCHOOL DANCE WEEK

For the first time this year, we've taken part in National School Dance week, which is intended to raise the profile of dance in primary schools whilst giving children the opportunity to have a go at different dance styles that they might not have tried before. We posted about our ideas for Dance Week on the school's Facebook page and couldn't believe the great response we got from local dance teachers, offering their time (free of charge) to come in and work with our children.

As you can see from the packed timetable below, children from every class in school got to take part in a dance session covering many different genres and disciplines:

Monday	Class 1, Class 6 and Class 7	Kim Ross (K.R Dance Studios)
Tuesday	Class 3 Class 8	HCFE Dance Students Kellyanne Stevens (Dance World)
Wednesday	Class 4 and Class 10 Class 11	Karen Liddle Toni Elwin
Thursday	Class 12 and Class 13 Class 9	Kellyanne Stevens (Dance World) Hartlepool Hawks
Friday	Class 2 and Class 5	Kimberley Gough

A big thank you to all of the teachers who've worked with us and to Mr. Weatherill for organising the week.

SPORTS EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Cluster Event - A second place finish and qualification for the Town Tag Rugby Event at West Rugby Club on Tuesday 31st October.

Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival - This was a non-competitive event that gave two more teams of children who took part in Tag Rugby Club to experience a festival, playing against children from other schools.

Year 5/6 Football League Qualification - The team qualified for League 1 and will play our league games on 10th November at the Sports Domes.

Upcoming Events...

Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Town Event - 17th October

Year 5/6 Football Festival - 20th October

Family of Schools Girls Tag Rugby - 2nd November

KS2 Cross Country Cluster Event - 9th November

Year 5/6 Football League 1 - 10th November

*Mr Weatherill will name the teams closer to each event.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - AUTUMN 2ND

These are the after school clubs that will be running next half term...

Monday	Boys' Football (Years 4/5/6) Girls' Football (Years 4/5/6)	Mr Weatherill Mr McGovern
Tuesday	Bear's Reading Adventure (Reception) Mini Glee (Year 1/2) Reading Book Club (Year 3/4) Drama (Years 4/5/6) Cross Country (KS2)	Mrs Redshaw Miss Jones Mrs Porritt Mrs Timothy Mr Weatherill/Mr McGovern
Wednesday	Multi-Sports (Year 1)	Mr Weatherill/Mr McGovern
Thursday	Science Club (Year 5) Glee (KS2) Indoor Athletics (Year 5/6)	Mrs Snelson Mrs Reed Mr Weatherill/Mr McGovern
Friday	Platinum Club Training	Mr Weatherill/Mr McGovern

*Children who have attended Drama, Glee and Mini Glee Clubs this half term will not need to fill out another consent form – these clubs will simply continue next half term.

*Letters will be sent out in the first week back for children to express an interest in new clubs (some clubs have a limit on numbers and others don't so please check each letter individually for this information).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Uniform

You may have noticed the badge on our new school jumpers look slightly different this year; this is because we have changed our suppliers – we are now using Motif8. Jumpers are priced at £9.00 or £10.50 with initials.

Milk Money

If your child has milk, please ensure money is given to their class teacher on a Monday (25p per day).

School Dinners/Packed Lunches

At least one week's notice must be given for children to change from school dinners to packed lunches (and vice versa).

Home Collection Arrangements

Please ensure that your child's teacher is aware of the arrangements for who will be collecting them at the end of the day; if there are any changes to normal arrangements, please contact the school office by 2pm, at the latest, so there is plenty of time to inform the teacher before the end of the day.

KEY DIARY DATES

Date	NOVEMBER	Date	JANUARY
6-10	Reading Open Week - 'Share a Lesson'	8	RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR START OF SPRING TERM
17	Children in Need	Date FEBRUARY	
27-1 Dec	Parent/Teacher Consultations Book Fair in school all week	5-9	Maths Open Week - 'Share a Lesson'
Date DECEMBER		9	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
1	Christmas Fair	Date MARCH	
4	Pantomime (in school) - Aladdin	1	World Book Day
6	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day	7	World Maths Day
7	KS1 Nativity (am)	12-16	Parent/Teacher Consultations School Science Week
8	KS1 Nativity (pm)	19-23	Sport Relief
12	Christmas Disco Day!	29	Easter Egg Competition
13	Nursery Crafts & Carols	29	BREAK UP FOR EASTER
14	Glee Christmas Concert	Date APRIL	
15	Reception Crafts & Carols	16	RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR START OF SUMMER TERM
18	KS2 Christmas Carol Service (am)	<p>Summer Dates will follow in the next newsletter...</p> <p>However, if you need to know any of these dates before then, please pop into school, or contact Miss Thompson via our Facebook page.</p>	
19	KS2 Christmas Carol Service (am and pm)		
22	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS		



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