



NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Assistant Headteacher Ms D. Wilkinson

16/12/16

Dear parents, carers and families,

As another busy, purposeful and fun-packed half term ends, here are just a few of the many highlights to share with you.

YEAR 3

Children in Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed a very exciting Night at the Museum last week, which was linked to last half term's Ancient Egypt theme. The reports I have received from staff who accompanied the pupils have been glowing. Activities such as helmet making, castle building, mummification, conducting a torch-lit treasure hunt and the prospect of sleeping amongst the exhibitions kept the children thoroughly enthralled. For most of this half term the children have been immersed in Victorian times with a focus on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, writing descriptive pieces about Victorian London and simile poems about Victorian life. After several weeks of practice and hard work, the children showcased their many talents performing *A Christmas Carol* to rave reviews this week. Well done to everyone (narrators, actors, dancers, singers and signers) for a series of wonderful performances that really put us all in the festive spirit. In addition, Year 3 children used printing to make some gorgeous wrapping paper which was sold to their own families at the Christmas Fayre. In R.E. children have been learning about the true meaning of Christmas. An excellent half term filled with many memorable moments!

YEAR 4

This half term the Y4 children have thoroughly enjoyed the *Top of the Pops* theme on sound. The Sound Boffin visit to school was very popular with pupils: they learnt about the science of sound – how sound vibrates and how it travels through various materials and then they used this knowledge to build musical instruments and to conduct an investigation on how to muffle sound. Computing was also linked to this theme with PowerPoint presentations on

sound. The children were thrilled that one of Nook Lane's parents, Mr Hemsworth, brought his technical emergency support vehicle into school to share the work he does in ensuring that telephone lines are kept going during times of emergency. Maths has seen a major focus on multiplication whilst learning in English has involved the children composing beautiful metaphor poems linked to emotions. Work based on *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes is culminating in a junk modelling sculpture project. Much festive fun was had practising sewing skills by designing Christmas baubles, in time for the Christmas Fayre.

YEAR 5

Having tackled every challenge with aplomb at Thornbridge, showing commendable spirit, bravery and teamwork, impressing Nook Lane staff and Thornbridge instructors alike, Y5 pupils have written reflective diaries and reports about their memorable experiences during the residential. The children have been challenged by one of Nook Lane's governors, Mr Naldrett, a writer of local walk guides, to write their own walking guide of Nook Lane, which has really tested the pupils' map skills. Pupils have enjoyed writing free verse poetry, tackling multiplication problems with factors and multiples in mathematics. A spirit of enterprise was in evidence whilst making festive crafts for the Christmas Fayre and some stunning singing showcased during the learning of a range of Christmas songs. Children in Year 5 have also had lots of fun participating in *Ultimate Frisbee* in P.E. A great half term!

YEAR 6

Y6 have had an exciting and busy half term. The children have worked so hard this half term and are making good progress. The pupils in Y6 have been fascinated with the World War II topic and have learnt so much about life on the home front. The trip to Kelham Island was an amazing experience and the children enjoyed learning about air-raids, evacuation, munition workers and the role of the home guard. The topic culminated in a fabulous VE Day tea-party, where the children planned and catered for our local community. The added wow factor was the children's wonderful jive-dancing and singing, which family members clearly enjoyed.

The Y6s have also been finding out about keeping safe at Crucial Crew. The pupils learnt about fire-safety, the judicial system, e-safety and the police service – it was an informative day that was enjoyed by all and the children were amazing! The Red-Cross have also delivered four very interesting sessions on migration. Children participated in a healthy debate, learnt about the journey of refugees and how migrants are portrayed in the media. Finally, the children have enjoyed a golfing session from a professional golfer and showcased their new skills during a lesson during the final week of half term. The Year 6 team want to thank all the parents for their continued support and would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE

What a busy, fun-filled half term! The children have continued to access weekly interventions about feelings and thoughts and have been applying newly acquired skills in different contexts. Social skills work this half term has focused on turn taking and supportive language during games.

In weekly music sessions children have been learning how to read a music score and have developed their skills in the playing of xylophones whilst also playing and experimenting with tuned and un-tuned instruments. The pupils have been practising their end of term songs to perform for an end of term assembly. The children in Year 5 from the Resource really enjoyed the opportunities and challenges that the Thornbridge residential trip offered. Some children managed to stay all week whilst others enjoyed day visits.

In maths pupils have been learning to identify odd and even numbers. They have also been working very hard on learning the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and counting on in 2s from any given even number. The children have been developing their number skills and problem solving strategies as well as learning about organising and representing different types of data.

In English this half term the children in the IR have carried out a book study of 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. They have answered different types of questions about the story, learnt about nocturnal creatures and also produced creative art work inspired by the story. At the end of the unit pupils were excited to link their learning to the new John Lewis Christmas advert which also features nocturnal animals.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Fayre. It is always lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members in school for such events. In particular, thanks to Friends of Nook Lane for all their hard work before, during and after the fayre. Once we know the total amount of money that was raised, we will let everyone know. Many thanks again.

FoNL Christmas Raffle Winners

- 1st Prize: Christmas hamper – no. 77 (The Gardner family)
- 2nd Prize: 2 X Gulliver's Theme Park tickets – no. 56 (Vanessa)
- 3rd Prize: Bottle of whisky – no. 1 (Mrs Wheeler)
- 4th Prize: £10 Sainsburys voucher – no 116 (A. Darrington)
- 5th Prize: Bottle of port - no.29 (Imogen H.)
- 6th Prize: Bottle of Prosecco – no.24 (Colin Stephenson)
- 7th Prize: Bottle of rose – no.113 (O. Walker)
- 8th Prize: Tub of celebrations & mulled wine - no. 76 (The Gardner family)
- 9th Prize: Selection of biscuits and chocolates – no.122 (Gregg Owen)
- 10th Prize: Selection of sweets & chocolates – no. 36 (Sharreen Siddiqui)

Nooker Prize 2016

At the beginning of December we had a superb assembly, led by Mr Walsh to celebrate our annual competition for poetry 'The Nooker Prize'. What a talented bunch of writers we have at Nook Lane! It was inspiring to hear so many great poems, read beautifully by members of staff in school. An added bonus was having so many proud parents at the assembly! The Nooker Prize winner for 2016 was Elizabeth Fox in Year 6 with an evocative poem called 'My Blitz'. Please visit the school website to read all the winning entries on our Nooker Prize Poetry 2016 page. Congratulations to all of the nominated poets and thank you to everyone who composed a poem for the competition.



Nook Lane Junior School has been recognised for its inclusive practice with the award of the *Inclusion Quality Mark*. The school was assessed on 22nd November 2016 by an IQM assessor, Stephanie Robinson, and was adjudged to have fully met the standard required. The assessment focused on seven elements:

1. The inclusion values and practice of the school
2. The learning environment, resources and ICT
3. Learner attitudes, values and personal development
4. Learner progress and the impact on learning
5. Learning and teaching
6. Parents, carers and guardians
7. Governing body and management: external accountability and support

Many thanks to all staff, pupils and parents/carers who were involved in the assessment process. An award like this is testament to the whole staff team and to the entire school community. Particular thanks go to Mrs Wilkinson, who leads so brilliantly on inclusion and who prepared meticulously for the assessment. The report will be available on the school's website shortly.

Spring Term Parents' Evenings

These will be held during the week beginning Monday 6th February. A letter with further details will be sent out to families early next half term.

School Lunches

The cost of school lunches for next half term is £66. Please make cheques payable to Sheffield City Council.

Remaining Inset Days

School will be closed for pupils on the following staff training days:

Monday 23rd January

Monday 5th June

Just to remind everyone that the children return to school after the Christmas holidays on **Tuesday 3rd January.**

Once again, I would like to thank the children for being, well... simply brilliant this half term and indeed for the whole term! It really is a joy and a privilege to spend time in their company. On behalf of everyone at Nook Lane Junior School, I hope you all have a happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis

Headteacher