



**NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
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Assistant Headteacher: Mrs D. Wilkinson

17/2/17

Dear parents, carers and families,

As we reach the end of this half term I just want to share a few snippets of Nook Lane news.

### **YEAR 3**

The theme of Sheffield's Forgotten Flood of 1864 has preoccupied the learning this half term. Children have written a first chapter about the flood and have enjoyed using coffee to stain the paper to make it look dated. This work will be displayed in the classroom shortly. This week pupils dressed up in Victorian attire and participated in a number of activities linked to the Forgotten Flood with the History Van event in the hall. Tasks included playing Victorian games such as skittles, hoops and dominoes; cleaning and polishing brass pots; stamping patterns into metal with a hammer; and writing on slate boards. Back in the classroom the children re-enacted a play about the Flood. In maths children have been grappling with the tricky theme of time – learning to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks as well as Roman numerals whilst some children have tackled problems using the 24 hour clock. P.E sessions have involved tennis (with our visiting coach Mark) and relay races, skipping and hula-hooping. Science lessons have focused on learning about different types of rocks whilst in computing children used an App to investigate the most suitable type of rock for a dam wall.

### **YEAR 4**

In P.E. all Year 4 children have been developing their gymnastic skills and some children will be entering an inter-school gymnastic competition next month. In swimming all children made personal best progress over 18 successful sessions. In the past week 30 Year 4 pupils enjoyed a morning at Pond's Forge where they participated in multi-sport activities including curling, golf and boccia. One Nook Lane Y4 team was so successful that they came first in their part of the competition. In English the children have been

writing Celtic newspaper articles about the Roman Invasion of Britannia. As part of the Roman theme, pupils have built a Roman road in a cup and acted as estate agents, using persuasive language in an advertisement, to sell a luxurious villa. In R.E. pupils have found out about how Jewish people show their commitment to God. In art Y4 children have experimented with different paper techniques, including weaving, layering and fringing to create a collage inspired by emotions. Computing lessons have focused on programming with Scratch which the children have enjoyed enormously.

## **YEAR 5**

Children in Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Anglo-Saxons. This theme has included an excellent Living History day led by two Nook Lane parents in which the children participated in a varied range of activities, including making butter and studying Anglo-Saxons weapons and battle armour. Pupils are currently making some attractive textiles and they have written fascinating non-chronological reports about the discovery of Sutton Hoo. The children are looking forward to making some clay brooches after the half term holidays. P.E. lessons this half term have focused on athletics (running, jumping and overarm throwing) and gymnastics, with children practising and performing their floor routines. Some pupils have been selected to take part in a gymnastics competition. Art lessons on pencil drawings of different objects using sketching and shading have proved popular whilst maths sessions have included some fascinating fraction work. All in all - an excellent half term!

## **YEAR 6**

In Year 6 this half term, the children have really enjoyed the Design and Technology project – Dragon’s Den. Working in teams, our budding entrepreneurs have designed their own company; created an impressive brand; produced an eye-catching uniform; and constructed three cars that will be presented to ‘The Dragons’ (the dragons will comprise of a range of leaders from different businesses). In computing sessions, the children have brought their companies to life with engaging radio advertisements that they have recorded using Audacity and hand-held microphones.

Recently, our trip to the Sheffield University Diamond building really helped children to find out more about engineering and how maths is used in everyday life. The children were an absolute pleasure to take out of school as they have been on all the educational visits this academic year.

In English, the children have been incredibly engaged in our writing unit of work based on *The Jabberwock*, which has been suitably gruesome.

Throughout this unit the children have greatly improved their vocabulary and sentence construction. Recent maths practice papers have shown that the children have made impressive progress in arithmetic; now we are aiming to secure a deeper understanding in maths reasoning.

Finally, in outdoor PE, the children have been learning how to read maps and follow routes in a series of engaging orienteering sessions.

All in all, it has been a busy and exciting half term and the Year 6 team would like to thank the children for all their hard work.

## **INTEGRATED RESOURCE**

In the Integrated Resource this half term children have continued to access weekly interventions about feelings and thoughts and have been applying newly acquired skills in different contexts. Children have been learning how thoughts can affect actions. They have practised and rehearsed their findings through role play. In weekly music sessions children have been learning how to read notes on a music score and have begun to learn about different note values. Pupils have used improvisation to express emotions and have performed and appraised their work. Meanwhile, children have been continuing to develop their mastery in Maths skills using lots of concrete and pictorial methods. They have been learning how to tell the time and have been applying their knowledge to real life problems.

In English children are learning about the author Roald Dahl and, in preparation for World Book Day, they are reading the story *The Giraffe the Pelly and Me*. Children have been involved in a Weather Project even creating their own weather forecasts!

This half term children have enjoyed being involved in their IEP (Individual Education Plan) targets and have been following schedules independently to create lots of savoury and sweet snacks.

## **NETBALL SUCCESS**

The Year 5 netball team went to the Sheffield High School Tournament last Saturday. They played brilliantly and qualified for the semi-finals. They beat Ashdell 4 - 2 which earned them a place in the final, in which they played Sheffield High School and despite an excellent performance, lost 2 - 0. A huge thanks to Caroline Graham, Nook Lane's netball coach, Mrs Parkin and the wonderful parental support we received. Congratulations to all involved!

## **SCHOOL DISCO AND FRIENDS OF NOOK LANE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The February disco was very well attended (more than half of the children in school arrived on the night) and much fun was had by all. Thank you to Friends of Nook Lane for organising and supervising the event. Thanks also to Mrs Taylor for supervising and special thanks to Mrs Palmer (who, without fail, supports every disco and FoNL event!)

FoNL's A.G.M will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 8.00 p.m. at Minnie's if anyone would like to attend. It would be lovely to see you!

## **RED NOSE DAY**

This will take place on Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling red noses at school from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **BOOK FAIR**

The book fair proved to be extremely popular this year. The total book fair takings were over £1500 which means that we will be able to claim over £900 in books for the school. Thank you to our English leaders Mrs Slattery and Ms Smith for organising the fair and thank you to everyone who supported this event. Happy reading!

## **SHEFFIELD PARENT CARER FORUM COFFEE MORNING**

Thank you to those parents that were able to attend the SPCF coffee morning this week. It proved to be a wonderful morning with lots of valuable information being shared and disseminated. An interesting discussion took place about children's additional needs and regarding opportunities in the community for children with autism.

## **PEER MEDIATORS AND SCHOOL COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMUNITY**

At the beginning of term peer mediators from Nook Lane attended a conference at Sheffield University alongside peer mediators from other schools. The school council enjoyed their annual visit to Bradfield Parish Council in January where they were made to feel very welcome. On a separate event at the same venue, two councillors represented Nook Lane at the first Bradfield Family of School combined council, with representatives from other Bradfield feeder schools. On all three visits, peer mediators and school councillors were impeccable ambassadors for Nook Lane.

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

The cost of school lunches for next half term is £60. Please make cheques payable to Sheffield City Council.

## **REMAINING INSET DAYS**

School will be closed for pupils on the last staff training day for this academic year:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

## **FINALLY...**

I would like to add my thanks to the Nook Lane community (pupils, staff, parents and governors) for their commitment and support.

I hope that the children have a lovely half term break and come back raring to go for the second half of the spring term! We look forward to welcoming them back on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.  
Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis

Headteacher