



**NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
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Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Chadbourne Assistant Headteacher; Ms D Wilkinson

26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

Dear parents, carers and families,

As we break up for the spring bank holiday, here are a few dispatches from each year group (as well as other whole-school news) to describe the learning that has taken place over the last five weeks at Nook Lane.

### **Year 3 – The Big Dig**

This half term the children in Year 3 have enjoyed their historical theme, 'The Big Dig'. Using historical artefacts found on our school field, the children have investigated the past, asking questions and making inferences. After concluding that the finds came from the Stone Age, the pupils have explored life in the Stone Age; made comparisons between life then and life today; painted using charcoal; and hunted and foraged. In geography the children looked at how the landscape of Britain has changed and investigated the mysterious Doggerland. Children have written newspaper cover stories to share the news of these historical finds which they have published beautifully using both computing skills and their 'best' handwriting. These will be displayed in the classroom. In maths children continued tackling the tricky theme of fractions – learning to identify equivalent fractions, compare and order fractions and add and subtract them. The pupils have also been looking at the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. They have been developing their balance and strength in PE lessons focussing on yoga, whilst also enhancing their athletics skills, including running over distances and practising their throwing skills. In computing, the Year 3 children have continued to develop their programming skills using Turtle Academy. R.E. learning this half term has focussed on Sikhism and how important sharing is to Sikhs.

## **Super, Sticky, Slimy Science Week!**

Earlier this year our school's science curriculum council met with Miss Mayes-Cooper (science leader) to discuss the subject at Nook Lane. They shared that, although children do enjoy science lessons, they would love the opportunity to take part in more practical, 'messy' science. Therefore, this half term we celebrated all things 'sciencey' with a 'Super, sticky, slimy science week!' This gave the children the chance to do hands-on, fun experiments, whilst giving them an invaluable opportunity to develop their "working scientifically" skills in a range of practical activities. From oobleck slime to exploding coke, the children had a fantastic 'Super sticky, slimy science' day as they took part in a carousel of activities. Our 'Super, sticky, slimy science week!' also involved focussed classroom-based morning activities to spark curiosity and discussion whilst lunchtime science demonstrations were led by the science curriculum council members! It was a great week, enjoyed by both children and staff. Thank you to Miss Mayes-Cooper for organising and coordinating the activities.

## **Year 4 – Let's Go Green**

This half term has been packed with plenty of learning and enjoyment. We have applied our theme of 'Let's Go Green – Looking after the environment' to many areas of our curriculum. In English, we have been inspired by David Attenborough and 'The Blue Planet'. The wonderful children in Y4 have been using their fabulous writing skills to create their own non-chronological reports about life under the ocean. Their paragraphs about the blue whale could feature in any encyclopaedia! In art, we have been developing drawing skills with a focus on tone, line, pattern and texture to illustrate fish whilst also creating stunning sculptures of jelly fish using recycled materials. In science, we have looked at different habitats and how to classify animals and plants using classifications keys. Our rivers trip was a resounding success. All the children enjoyed their time out in the Peak District, which reinforced what they had learnt in class. Only a few had dripping wet socks as evidence of their time spent at Longshaw, but all had a great time measuring and dipping in the streams and rivers. Their behaviour was excellent and they should be proud of how they conducted themselves on the trip.

We have also been very active in P.E. This term we have had coaches for both tennis and rugby and are looking forward to the up and coming tournaments next term. During our computing and British Values sessions, the children have developed their awareness of being safe online and the implications of inviting 'friends' into games. They have completed an online safety questionnaire, the results of which will be discussed at our Online Parents' Evening next term (details to follow).

Finally, the newly organised library looks fantastic. We have enjoyed spending time choosing new reading books and are enjoying the extra book sets that we now have in classes, thanks to all the money raised at the Book Fair.

## **Integrated Resource**

Children in the IR have continued this half term to access weekly sensory workshop sessions with the support of a LINKS sports coach and have challenged themselves with a range of new activities including hockey and tennis.

In Maths children have been continuing to develop their Mastery in Maths skills within the topic of measurement. Pupils have enjoyed estimating and making predictions around different lengths and sizes and have enjoyed engaging in lots of hands-on concrete learning.

In English children have been learning about different stories and have been developing their comprehension skills by answering questions around different texts. They have loved writing their own stories and creating their own illustrations.

Children have enjoyed their weekly CBT interventions and accessed Lego Therapy with our specialist assistant alongside the Speech and Language Therapist.

As the weather has begun to get warmer pupils in the Integrated Resource have loved playing and interacting with the help of the new P.E. resources purchased especially for the IR.

Our weekly cooking sessions have included making picnics, pizzas, healthy smoothies and pancakes. Lots of children have enjoyed tasting and experimenting with different tastes and textures.

## **Year 5 -To Infinity and Beyond!**

This half term the children in Y5 have gone 'To infinity and beyond' in their space-related theme. They have made scale models of the solar system, memorised the planets in order and developed their understanding of night and day. Their learning has culminated in a fantastic space-themed day, full of space-related activities. The highlight of the day was a visit to the Star Dome Planetarium. The children have been extremely enthusiastic about the theme and have demonstrated superb knowledge and understanding of Earth and the solar system. In Literacy the children have been inspired by H.G. Wells' 'War of the Worlds'. They have written their own version of the story opening during an independent write and are now working on a breaking news story (more to follow next half term...) The children have really shown off their skills in cricket and are looking forward to competing in the upcoming cricket competition. They have also enjoyed some yoga taster sessions throughout the half term, something we hope to continue in future. A big "thank you" must go out to those children in Y5 who have helped to introduce, organise and look after the new playground equipment, generously giving up their time to benefit everyone else's playtimes.

## **Year 6 – SATS, Sunshine and Superstan!**

Children in Year 6 have worked extremely hard in preparation for this year's end of Key Stage 2 SATs. We have all been impressed with the determination that the pupils have shown in tackling a series of challenging tests and we want to express just how proud we are of each and every child for their efforts. After completing the reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling tests, the children will continue to focus on developing their writing skills in preparation for the final writing assessment which will be made by teachers based on the pupils' work over the year. These judgements will then be officially moderated (checked) by the local authority by the end of June. This year's Y6 residential has been perfectly timed to coincide with the end of SATS and has proved to be a highly enjoyable and memorable experience for all. It has been an absolute joy to take the Year 6 children to Lockerbrook. The weather has been kind all week and the children have risen to every challenge put before them – climbing, caving and weaselling and a five miles adventure walk! Once again, we have received glowing feedback from Lockerbrook staff about the superb behaviour, attitude and strong team ethic displayed by all. Next half term we will be turning our attention to the Y6 performance. This year the children will be performing *The Amazing Adventures of Superstan*. Auditions and rehearsals will start in earnest after the holiday.

### **School Lunches**

The total cost of school lunches for next half term is £68. Cheques should be made payable to Sheffield City Council. Lunches will resume after the holiday on week 1 from the menu that you will have previously received by email (it is also available on the school website).

### **Training Day Reminder**

The final training day for this academic year is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June. We look forward to greeting the children back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. From everyone at Nook Lane, I hope you all enjoy a lovely spring bank holiday. Enjoy the sunshine!

Yours sincerely,

*S. Arbon - Davis*

Steven Arbon-Davis