



NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr S. Arbon-Davis;

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Dear parents, carers and families,

As we break up for the half term holiday, I would just like to share with you a news bulletin from each year group about what has been happening at Nook Lane for the last eight weeks.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE

“What a wonderfully busy start to the year in the Integrated Resource! We have been delighted to welcome two new children into our school and our Resource so the pupils have been very busy getting to know each other and learning about our new classes, friends and teachers.

Children have been involved in lots of transitional work involving new classrooms, new people and new systems. Time has been spent revisiting work systems, structures and routines within school. Pupils have been really enjoying their interventions about feelings and thoughts and have begun to develop strategies to help manage and regulate emotions and practising the application of these skills in different contexts.

Our weekly sensory workshop sessions in the hall have been delivered by Mark our Sports LINKS coach. We have been developing our skills in interaction and working with others involving waiting, turn taking, listening and negotiating alongside investigating our sensory sensitivities.

Children have continued to develop their maths skills using a range of concrete and pictorial methods. They have worked hard to improve their place value understanding, addition and subtraction skills and problem solving strategies. In English this half term pupils have been learning about a range of animals and their habitats, developing a fact file linking our learning together. We really enjoyed filming our wildlife documentary in the style of Steve Backshall, where children used drama to report on their findings.”

Mrs Taylor

YEAR 3

“We have been delighted with how quickly the Year 3 pupils have settled in at Nook Lane since they started in September.

This half term the children in Year 3 have enjoyed their historical theme, ‘Pharaoh’s Promise’. Using historical artefacts found on a beach, the Year 3 pupils have

investigated the past, asking questions and making inferences. They have explored life in the Ancient Egypt by investigating the geographical features, historical monuments and strange traditions and artefacts. They have danced like the Egyptians, mummified tomatoes and sculpted their very own clay canopic jars. Children have written non-chronological reports sharing all they have learned about life in Ancient Egypt. These have been published beautifully using their best handwriting and will be displayed in the classroom. The children concluded their theme with a fantastic overnight stay at Western Park Museum. The children had an amazing time and have made memories that will last forever!

In maths the children have been mastering the place value of numbers up to 1000. They are beginning to tackle addition and subtraction which they will continue with next half term. The children have also developed their big ball skills in P.E. in preparation for a Benchball Festival at Bradfield School. In computing, the Year 3 children have been introduced to the computing suite and have set up their own usernames and passwords. This half term the children have been introduced to the Spanish language and have been learning how to greet each other. The R.E. learning has focused on Hinduism and together we celebrated the festival of Diwali.”

The Year 3 Team

YEAR 4

“The Year 4 pupils have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled wonderfully this term. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Greek topic and learning all about the Ancient Greeks. We have written some fabulous Greek myths where the children have been really creative, building on the wider reading. We have learnt about their Gods and mythical beasts, their art work and the beginnings of Olympics. All the children loved the Greek day, the dancing, the crafting and especially the final banquet, where they tried a range of traditional Greek cuisine. Many thanks to those parents who were able to give up their time to come and help. They were tremendous!

In other areas of the curriculum, the children have learnt to program in computing using KODU software. In R.E. the children have studied Judaism, whilst in P.E. they have developed their basketball skills and enjoyed their swimming sessions. In science, the children got their teeth into the human digestive system and began to look at different food chains.

It has been a very busy first term and great to see the children being engaged and enthused towards their learning. We are now looking forward to our Sound topic next term!”

The Y4 Team

YEAR 5

“Everyone in Y5 has hit the ground running in Autumn 1. It has been a hectic, fun-filled, hard-working eight weeks and all the children have been amazing! The Y5 team would like to thank every single member of the year group for all their hard work and enthusiasm so far this year, and the parents who have supported their children superbly. Y5 started off the year by taking ‘A Walk on the Wild Side’ and accepting the ‘Bear Grylls Challenge’, designing, developing and building a den fit for Bear Grylls himself! The children will be putting their den building expertise to the test

when they reach Thornbridge. Their next task was to write their very own local walking guide of Stannington, taking in all the sights and features that the local community has to offer. Local walking guide author and parent governor, Mr Naldrett, came in and talked to us about what makes a good walking guide and the children then had to plan their route using their OS map skills. We embarked on our walk in the last week of half term and soon we will be writing up our walking guides ready to distribute to those who want to take a tour of Stannington.

We had some new additions to Y5 in week 3 of autumn term when our caterpillars arrived! The children observed them closely over the next few weeks as they changed (metamorphosised) into beautiful Painted-Lady butterflies. The children also planted seeds and observed them as they grew into impressive plants! Watching the life cycles of the butterflies and of the plants complemented the children's work on life cycles in science brilliantly. Hopefully we have a year group full of life cycle experts now! In Literacy the Y5s have been inspired to write some tension-building narratives using the music video 'Titanium'. The cliffhangers in the video have left the children chomping at the bit to get writing and the work they have produced has left us on the edge of our seats! A final 'well-done' to all the Y5 children for a cracking start to the year. All the staff who are volunteering their time to take the year group to Thornbridge are extremely excited having seen how well all the children have settled into life in Y5."

The Y5 Team

YEAR 6

"What a wonderful start the children have made to their time in Year 6! This term's theme is called An Important Announcement – which refers to Neville Chamberlain's speech at the outbreak of war. Already, the children have produced some very impressive writing – an instructional text on how to make a gas mask and an emotive diary reliving an air raid.

During theme lessons pupils have been making model Anderson shelters and World War II Blitz blackout silhouettes on watercolour backdrops. The visit to Kelham Island was a huge success with the children being a huge credit. They are looking forward to performing their Jive dances at the V.E. day party (1st December).

In maths children have really improved their place value skills and many are now very confident with long multiplication and long division. Linking back to the theme, pupils have calculated their weekly rations based on the number of people that live at home.

Thank you to all the families and children for the wonderful effort that you have been making with home learning which we have been marking in class each Thursday."

The Y6 Team

OTHER NEWS & NOTICES

FRIENDS OF NOOK LANE HALLOWEEN DISCO

Much fun was had last night at the disco organised by Friends of Nook Lane. 180 children attended the disco. Not only was the event well attended by pupils, it was superbly supported by 18 parents, which is the highest number of volunteers I can ever recall for a school disco. The children clearly had a great time and it was entertaining to see them dancing in their imaginatively ghoulish costumes! Many

thanks to Friends of Nook Lane for organising the event and for supporting it in such numbers and for all that they are doing for the school.

Forthcoming FoNL events include a film night on Tuesday 14th November and a Christmas fayre on Thursday 7th December. More details to follow.

LOCAL ACADEMY CONSULTATION

Thank you to those parents and carers that attended the academy consultation meeting a few weeks ago or responded to the consultation letter that was circulated around the same time. Just to remind everyone that the deadline for responses for the consultation process is on Friday 10th November.

UNIFORM

Below are the remaining deadlines for this academic year for ordering school uniform.

Friday 23rd December 2017

Thursday 15th February 2018

Thursday 29th March 2018

Friday 22nd June 2018

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The cost for lunches is £10 per week (£70 for next half term). If you are paying on a weekly basis, please ensure that payment is made on Mondays. Lunches can be paid for with cash or by cheques made payable to Sheffield City Council. Please also remember that children need to book school meals or bring packed lunches on a week-by-week basis and not on a day-by-day arrangement. Please note that the current school lunch menu is continuing until Christmas and that the first week after half term begins on Week 2 on the menu.

WHOLE-SCHOOL STAFF TRAINING DAYS

There are three remaining training days (of the allotted five) for this academic year:

Friday February 16th 2018

Monday July 23rd 2018

Tuesday July 24th 2018

Finally, I would just like to add that I have been especially impressed by the children over this first half term and I would like to thank them all for their wonderful attitude and hard work over the last eight weeks. I hope that they all enjoy a lovely, well-earned break and come back raring to go on Monday 6th November!

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis