



NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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22/12/17

Dear parents, carers and families,

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, I include a news bulletin from each year group about what has been happening at Nook Lane for the last seven weeks as well as some additional notices and reminders.

YEAR 3

This half term the children have been immersed in Victorian times with a focus on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. In English the children have written descriptive pieces about Victorian London at Christmas time and then a contrasting piece about Christmas time in London today. They have also written super simile poems about Ebenezer Scrooge. 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) for a series of wonderful performances that really put us all in the festive spirit. In addition, Year 3 children created their own printing blocks and printed using repeating patterns 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!

The Year 3 Team

YEAR 4

Year 4 children have had another great term and proved again to be superbly enthusiastic towards their learning. They have enjoyed our book study on *The Iron Man* and have improved their sentence structures when writing e-mails, expressing viewpoints and constructing biographies. Both classes loved building their own Iron Man, making some creative models from all those donated cardboard boxes! In maths the children have worked hard at their multiplication and division skills. In theme, the children learnt all about the Science of sound.

The visit from Sam the Boffin man was a great experience and helped the children explore and develop their understanding of the subject even further. Making the musical instruments in the afternoon was great fun and surprisingly musical! Thanks again to Friends of Nook Lane for their valuable contribution to help fund Sam's visit. Thanks also to all those parents who have helped with our swimming and sewing lessons this year; it is really appreciated. We wish the children and very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

The Year 4 Team

YEAR 5

This half term the Year 5 children finished taking 'A Walk on the Wild Side' as each class went on their residential to Thornbridge Outdoors. Throughout all the swinging, climbing, crawling, riding and fire lighting the children really showed what they were made of. Every child pushed themselves to their limits and challenged themselves in a whole host of different ways. The determination, perseverance and resilience on show from each class showed just how much this year group embodies the Nook Lane Core Values. What impressed the staff who attended Thornbridge even more was the way the children conducted themselves throughout the week. The way they supported, encouraged and looked after each other both during the day and back at The Lodge was incredible and we could not be prouder Y5 teachers! The Y5 team would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who gave up their own time to come and support the children at Thornbridge. Once the children were back from their adventures they began to 'Unearth a Discovery' in their new theme on Anglo-Saxons and the find at Sutton Hoo. They have done some brilliant higher-order thinking during our historical enquiries, showing that we have a year group of budding historians! The Y5s have also embarked on a historical journey in our class novel '*Wolf Brother*'. The year group finally reached its dramatic conclusion this week and it was given a strong recommendation by all the children. Everyone in Y5 also worked extremely hard to produce a huge range of different items to sell at the Christmas fayre. Anyone who visited the Y5 stall will agree that the quality and quantity of items on show was incredible!

Thank you for a fantastic half term Y5! Each and every one of you have worked extremely hard and made your teachers very proud indeed!

The Year 5 Team

(A massive thank you to Mr Cornelius for organising both weeks and to Friends of Nook Lane for paying for the coach travel.)

YEAR 6

The Year 6 World War 2 theme came to an end with a superb V.E. tea party. Firstly, the children had to learn how to make scones so they could provide our 120 guests with a typical WW2 treat. In computing pupils used spreadsheets to work out costings and profits of the tea party. On the day of the tea party, the children took on a variety of different roles such as waiters and waitresses, cashiers, scone stall assistants, welcomers and pot washers. We then entertained our guests with jive dancing and singing. (See more details below.) Writing has been linked closely to the wartime theme with children working hard to write and edit imaginative stories set during the war.

The Twinkl arctic experience day was a real success, especially the virtual reality headsets, which really brought the arctic to life. Following on from this, the children researched different biomes including the tropical rainforest, the Savannah desert and a temperate forest. Children have also been delving deeply into fractions and percentages in maths and hugely enjoyed making tiffin for the Christmas fayre.

Some of our Year 6 pupils performed at the Jack Goodison Christmas concert at the Lomas Hall. They sang a mixture of traditional, new and local carols. Their singing and playing was outstanding.

The Year 6 netball team won the league at Low Edges Primary School. The team has qualified for the South Yorkshire finals sometime in the New Year, an achievement to be really proud of!

The Y6 Team

INTEGRATED RESOURCE

What a busy, fun-filled half term! The children have continued to access weekly interventions about thoughts and feelings 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 songs to perform for an end of term assembly. Children in Year 5 from the Resource really enjoyed the opportunities and challenges that the Thornbridge residential trip offered. Some children were successful in staying all week while other children felt more comfortable accessing this on a daily basis. Overall this was a tremendous achievement for many of our children.

This half term in maths children have practised addition and subtraction and have been solving- problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems. In English our book study has been Billy and the Minpins. Children have been involved in a wealth of multi-sensory learning opportunities involving the

creation of a Minpin house using lollipop sticks and some fantastic 3D collages of the Forest of Sin using natural resources from around the school. This year's Grotto was another tremendous success as Santa's elves and Santa himself visited Nook Lane in a magical 'White Christmas'- themed Grotto. Children and the IR team worked very hard to make sure the experience was enjoyed by all.

Mrs Taylor and the IR Team

THE NOOKER PRIZE 2017

Mr Walsh, who organises the Nook Lane's Poetry Week and the Nooker Prize 2017, announced the winners of the competition recently in a special assembly attended by parents, carers and grandparents. Children in school were invited to write poems based on the theme 'Freedom'.

We listened to the 10 winning entries and Mr Naldrett, one of our parent governors, presented prizes donated by Friends of Nook Lane to our impressive poets.

Please visit the school website for more information and to see some extracts from the children's poems.

YEAR 6 TEA PARTY

Always a popular occasion, the V.E. day-inspired Y6 Tea Party was again a huge success. This is a wonderfully busy community event where parents, carers, grandparents and younger siblings were entertained and waited on by our gorgeous Year 6 children. Brilliantly organised by Mrs Parkin as usual, the Tea Party raised £140 for Friends of Nook Lane.

NOOK LANE BAKE-OFF

Nook Lane's *buns and biscuits for books*' Bake-off competition and bake sale organised by Mrs Smith went really well with some very creative and tasty-looking entries. This event raised just short of £300 for new books.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Another well-attended event was our FoNL- organised Christmas Fayre. It was great 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 and organisation in preparation for the fayre and on the day itself. The total profit was over £1000 – a tremendous effort.

Y3 CHRISTMAS SHOW – A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Children in Year 3 have enjoyed studying a version of *A Christmas Carol* this half term. They worked really hard in rehearsals in preparation for a series of excellent Christmas performances in front of appreciative audiences. Well done to the Year 3 children and the Y3 team!

Parents, carers, grandparents and families raised a whopping £279.44 for the Cathedral Arch Project for homeless people. Thank you so much for your generosity.

VISIT TO CHURCH

It is always a real privilege to take the entire school out to a local community event, especially with many parents in attendance. It is a source of great pride to see Nook Lane children represent the school so beautifully in church. We had a lovely time participating in the Christmas service today, singing traditional and local carols and other songs with a festive theme. Well done to those children who were readers at the service. They did a great job! Thank you to Mr Walsh for organising the event and to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Parkin and one of our parents, Mrs Johnson, for the beautiful music.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The cost of school lunches for next half term is £58. 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 new lunch menu for the spring term has been sent out to parents (paper copy and Parentmail) and it will also be available on the school website. The spring menu begins on Week 1 on Monday 8th January.

UNIFORM

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

Thursday 15th February 2018

Thursday 29th March 2018

Friday 22nd June 2018

TELEPHONES

I must apologise for the intermittent technical difficulties we have been encountering with the school telephone system in recent weeks. This has been frustrating but out of our control and we hope that any issues have now been rectified.

REMAINING TRAINING DAYS FOR 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

Friday 16th February 2018

Monday 23rd July 2018

Tuesday 24th July 2018

Just to remind everyone that the children return to school after the Christmas holidays on **Monday 8th January 2018**.

Finally, I would just like to thank all of the children and the staff for their hard work over this busy and enjoyable half term. Nook Lane is a happy place to work and learn in and your children are an utter delight. 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