



**NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL**  
**Nook Lane, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6BN**

Tel. 0114 2341097 Fax 0114 2341098

e-mail: [enquiries@nooklane.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@nooklane.sheffield.sch.uk)

[www.nooklanejunior.co.uk](http://www.nooklanejunior.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mr S. Arbon-Davis;

Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Chadbourne Assistant Headteacher: Ms D Wilkinson

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear parents/carers and families,

Here are just a few selected highlights from a hugely enjoyable half term:

### **Year 3**

We have been delighted with how quickly Year 3 pupils settled at Nook Lane since they started in September. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the *Ancient Egypt* theme, learning about mummification, including mummifying tomatoes! The children have had lots of fun making canopic jars from clay, learning an Egyptian dance in P.E. and writing non-chronological reports about Ancient Egypt.

I am sure you will be as impressed as I am with the stunning collage portraits that the children have produced. Well done to the Year 3 pupils for participating in the Bradfield benchball festival, where one of our teams finished in third place. Forthcoming highlights for next half term include rehearsals for Year 3's Christmas production whilst there is also an exciting *Night at the Museum* to look forward to!

### **Year 4**

Y4 children have been thoroughly absorbed in their *Ancient Greek* project. Activities this half term have included writing and publishing Greek myths, designing figures to illustrate Greek vases, learning about places of historical importance and comparing our modern day Olympics with the Ancient Greek Olympics. The theme culminated in a fabulous Greek day where children and staff looked amazing in their Greek costumes, making masks, participating in Greek dancing, playing a game of Knuckle Bones and indulging in a lovely Greek banquet. Many thanks to those parents, carers and grandparents who were able to come along and help during the event.

In computing pupils in Year 4 have been using Kodu software to learn about programming and algorithms, in maths children have focused largely on place value and addition and in science they have studied the digestive system and healthy eating. Next half term the theme will be *Top of the Pops*, a topic about sound, and the children will be enjoying Ted Hughes' classic *The Iron Man*.

## **Integrated Resource**

It has been a wonderful start to the year in the Integrated Resource! We have been delighted to welcome five new children into our school and our Resource and 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. They have spent time revisiting work systems and structures within school to help them throughout their day.

Pupils in the IR have been really enjoying interventions about feelings and thoughts and have begun to develop strategies to help manage and regulate emotions. They have begun to utilise these skills in different contexts in school. The children have enjoyed creating their own sensory boxes and are looking forward to continuing this next half term when we will involve parents and carers to help fill them!

Children have had fun experimenting and testing out new resources and have loved playing lots of new board games with their friends. This is helping them to interact and work with others involving waiting, turn taking, listening and negotiating. Pupils have also been improving their organisational skills, learning to put things away and keeping the classroom and work areas tidy and ready for the next activity.

Children have been continuing to develop their Mastery in Maths skills. Using lots of concrete and pictorial methods, pupils are working hard to improve their number skills and problem solving strategies.

In English the IR teaching staff have used short silent films as a stimulus for writing which has inspired the children to write their own stories about what happened to The Girl and The Robot. They have enjoyed learning new robot vocabulary and designing their own machines and explaining how they work. The children have also developed their reading skills (and their Pokémon knowledge) with the 'Pokémon Journey' reading adventure.

## **Year 5**

In Year 5 the children have hugely enjoyed English work around the short film Titanium, producing some impressive and dramatic writing, using “showing not telling”. In science Y5 pupils have enjoyed learning about life cycles and have observed the hatching of two stick insect eggs and planted different plants and observed them. Computing lessons have focused on debugging and algorithms, with the children using *Scratch* to create a tour map of the school.

In P.E. as well as participating in cross country, children have enjoyed the Sheffield United Move to Learn sessions playing football, dodgeball and

handball. As part of the *Walk on the Wild Side* theme one of our parent governors, Mr Naldrett, has visited school to talk about his published walking guides. Children will be creating their own walking guides in the second half of the autumn term. As the anticipation rises for Thornbridge, the children have designed a prototype den fit for Bear Grylls, in preparation for the real thing at Thornbridge. Unsurprisingly, the Y5 pupils are hugely excited about the upcoming residential and we know that they will be an absolute credit to us all once the Thornbridge adventure begins!

## **Year 6**

The pupils in Year 6 have been impressing their teachers with their hard work and determination, particularly with some challenging long multiplication and long division problems. The children have been immersed in their World War II theme this half term, designing and decorating model Anderson shelters whilst writing diaries about a Sheffield Blitz air raid from the point of view of a child, a mother or a grandfather. The children are also working on perspective drawing in art depicting a typical street after a WWII bombing raid. In addition, P.E. lessons this half term have involved some exciting jive dancing which will feature in the forthcoming V.E. Tea Party after half term. The children will also get the opportunity to dress up in 1940's attire during a fascinating visit to Kelham Island Museum in November.

## **National Poetry Day**

Mr Walsh led a very special assembly on National Poetry Day recently. The children and adults enjoyed reading, reciting and hearing a wide range of poetry from classical poems to tricky tongue-twisters. The children were then invited to vote for their favourite poems and to have a go at composing their own poems.

We are looking forward to reading the children's entries at our forthcoming Nooker Prize poetry competition and announcing the winners. Any aspiring poets will need to submit their poems to Mr Walsh by **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

## ***Difference and Diversity Assemblies***

Every Wednesday this year we are holding a child-led assembly, facilitated by Mrs Wilkinson, focusing on the theme of difference and diversity including a range of subjects, issues or conditions. This is proving really popular with many children asking to present on a subject that is important to them. So far this year children have presented to the whole school on such themes as *fragile X syndrome, dyspraxia, feelings, diabetes* and *cystic fibrosis*. Next half term presentations will include *autism, anxiety, dementia, homelessness* and *me and my religion*. I have been hugely impressed firstly, with the children who have prepared and delivered presentations to such a high standard and secondly, with the respectful way in which these presentations have been received by their peers. These assemblies are really helping children at Nook

Lane to generate interest and discussion on a range of themes as well as further developing confidence, sensitivity, empathy and respect.

### **Christmas Card Project**

Over the last few weeks across school children have been creating their own Christmas card designs. We have signed up with the same company as last year to enable you to order Christmas cards printed with your child's design. The closing date to order any products is **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** and we were intending to send out designs and order forms today to enable you to place your orders in plenty of time. Unfortunately, the company is experiencing operational problems related to its website and as families have to order online this year, we do not want to commit to this project until we are sure that the website is up and running again. Therefore, if all is rectified, we will send designs out on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**. We recognise that this only allows families a very short amount of time to place orders before the deadline but this is unavoidable given circumstances out of our control.

### **Y6 Boys' Football**

Below are the results of the Y6 boys' football matches:

Nook Lane 1 Loxley 0  
Nook Lane 1 Malin Bridge 0  
Nook Lane 1 Shooter's Grove 1  
Nook Lane 4 Sacred Heart 0  
Nook Lane 1 Marlcliffe 0

Well done to all of the boys who attended the training sessions and participated in the matches. Thank you to Mrs Palmer and Mr Thornton for organising the matches and supervising the training and thank you to Brian from Wisewood for his continued support and work with Nook Lane. Thank you to parents and carers who came along to support and help at the matches.

### **Cross Country Running**

This has been very popular with children from Nook Lane showing great commitment and making huge progress in their times. Many thanks to Mr Cornelius for giving up his Saturday mornings and to parents, carers and families for enabling the children to participate.

### **Friends of Nook Lane Halloween Disco**

The Halloween disco will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.00 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. You should receive a flier this week. Thank you to Friends of Nook Lane for organising this event and to any parents who have kindly offered to help on the night.

## **School Lunches**

The cost of school lunches for next half term is **£70** exactly. Please make cheques payable to Sheffield City Council. You should be receiving a new menu via parent mail this week. The menu will start after half term, starting at week 1 (it sounds obvious, but it's not always the case!) and this menu will last up until April so please keep hold of it until then.

## **Thank you**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate your children for their hard work, excellent behaviour and the kindness and respect that they have shown each other during the last seven weeks.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Arbon-Davis

Headteacher