

# MOORSIDE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Issue: 18**

Dear Parents and Carers,

‘We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.’ Winston Churchill

Thank you to all our visitors who came to our Stone Age Museum last week. The children really enjoyed showing you around and sharing their work with you. We try to make the themes and outcomes purposeful in our curriculum, and creating a museum is a great way to do this.

Well done to all our parents for getting costumes together for World Book Day. The children all looked amazing and really enjoyed dressing up as a character for the day.

Last week we launched our month of reading activities – today is the start of challenge 1. The children have got to find someone to read to them every day for a week. It can be different people, which can help to provide a range of role models for the children. There is a form in the pack of information sent out last week for children to record their readers and use to enter a prize draw. If you don't have a copy, you can get one from the website on the letters for parents' page or let your child's class teacher know.

In last week's assembly, we started to revisit our school values. These are attributes that remind children about how to think of themselves and others. These are not just values for school, but values for life.

In today's assembly, we have looked at Being Kind. Children were asked to imagine a school where everyone was unkind and how sad it would make everyone. Together we thought about the types of behaviours we would see and the words we might hear. We then shared ideas about how the children in the story could stop being unkind and what they could do instead. The children were taught the phrase, *Stop, Think, Be Kind*.

They were also told about the 'Crabs in a Bucket' metaphor. Throughout the assembly they were asked to watch the bucket and let me know if a crab was escaping. At the end of the assembly, I explained why none of the crabs could escape.

**Crab mentality**, sometimes referred to as **crabs in the bucket** (also barrel, basket or pot), is a way of thinking best described by the phrase, "If I can't have it, neither can you." The metaphor refers to a bucket of crabs. Individually, the crabs could easily escape from the bucket, but instead they grab at each other in a useless "king of the hill" competition which prevents any from escaping and ensures their collective demise. The analogy in human behaviour is claimed to be that members of a group will attempt to negate or diminish the importance of any member who achieves success beyond the others, out of envy, spite, conspiracy, or competitive feelings, to halt their progress.

*Explanation from Wikipedia*

### Moorside Junior School Update

In January, the Junior school received notice from the Department for Education that we had met the 'coasting definition'. Information about how this definition is applied to schools can be found on the school's website in Home - Performance. The school's governors and leaders have written to the Regional Schools Commissioner to explain the school's point of view regarding the definition and are waiting for a reply.

## **Moorside Infant School Update**

On Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the school is having a Local Authority Review. This is like a 'mini-Ofsted'. The Local Authority advisers will look at the progress made since the Ofsted inspection and provide advice on what the school should think about next, in order to keep improving.

Since September a lot has changed. Leaders and Governors are pleased with the progress made so far. The children are happy and are all working hard. Our staff team has also undergone a massive change around and it's been invigorating for everyone to have new faces and ideas to take our school forward.

It would be great if parents would use the Parent View link on the school's website to share your opinion about the school. It is also likely that the reviewers on Thursday morning will be on the playground to talk to parents and carers, too.

## **Staffing Update**

Parents of children in our two Year 3 and 4 classes were notified on Friday that Miss Taylor has resigned and will be leaving us at the end of term. Mr Price will continue to teach her class for the remainder of the year. Mrs Wood will teach Monday and Tuesday in Mrs Burland's class and Mrs Burland will teach Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Philpott, a member of our Admin team will be leaving us on Thursday 16th March, to take up a new position in HR for an organisation in Harrogate. We would like to thank Mrs Philpott for all she has done at Moorside, and especially for her work to organise our many visits, and wish her the very best in her new position.

## **Moorside Out of School Club**

The private owners of this before and after school club facility have given notice to close their out of school club business. On behalf of Governors and parents we would like to thank them for the facility on our site over the past two years. I would like to reassure our parents that we are looking to continue this facility from September, and will be sending out more information in the coming weeks.

## **Key Stage 1 Visit from some Amazing Animals**

Last week Mr Stocks kindly brought in a selection of animals for the children to learn about and to hold, to begin their science topic of animals and their habitats in Year 2 and grouping animals in Year 1. The children really enjoyed getting up close to the animals and had the opportunity to meet owls, a python, a tarantula, a degu, a scorpion, gecko lizards and a selection of insects too. They will be following up this work in their science lessons over the next few weeks.



## **Year 1 Forest School**

The children began their forest school activities last week and it was mudtastic! It was a very wet afternoon but the campfires still lit and it was the perfect opportunity to put up some shelters and dens. We all enjoyed hot chocolate made on the campfire or in a Kelly kettle. Thank you to our parent volunteers who came along to support. Please ensure the children bring their outdoor and waterproof clothing every Friday afternoon.



## Moorside Safer Internet Day Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Internet Safety is a topic that is on all of our minds as our children have access to many devices and are so computer literate these days. To ensure our children use the internet safely and know how to get help if they are bullied or feel unsafe online, we are holding a safer internet day. The children will take part in class activities and Key Stage 2 children will take part in a workshop with a visiting youth officer.

We are also holding informative meetings for parents in the Infant School Hall so you can support your child to use the internet safely and ask any questions you may have. We strongly advise that you attend one of the sessions below which include a talk from the youth officer and an opportunity to ask questions informally over a cup of coffee. Supervision will be provided for children whose parents are attending the 3.30pm meeting and children will be able to watch a DVD in a classroom in the Infant School. Letters will be going out about this so please send the reply slips in by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

## Bag2School

Bags will be going out this week for you to use to return any unwanted clothing, shoes, soft toys, hats, belts and handbags. These will then be collected and school will receive payment by weight, so the more that are returned the more we will receive. For more info visit [www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com). Please return filled bags by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please note NO duvets, pillows, cushions, uniforms, curtains, towels or bric-a-brac. Thank you.

## Appointments in School Hours

Can we please remind parents to organise non urgent doctors and dentist appointments after school or during school holidays. We appreciate that urgent appointments may have to be taken during school time but an increasing amount of parents are collecting their children in school time for non urgent appointments. This means missed lesson time for the children and staff time spent collecting children from classes. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Class Updates

**FSU** – We have had a ‘flipping’ great week! Lots of reading of recipes and pancake making. We also made Gingerbread Men - we had to go to the shops and buy the ingredients after finding a recipe on our iPad. Thank you for giving us baking money – that’s what makes these activities possible. This week, we are starting to think about Spring and new life.

**Year 1/2** – In Maths we are working on our addition and subtraction. In English we are writing reports about arctic animals and in Science we are learning about animal habitats.

**Year 3/4** – In Science we are learning about the sun and moon, and in topic we are learning about North America.

**Year 4/5** – This week we will be writing news reports about last week's successful Stone Age Museum and practicing written methods for addition and subtraction to solve problems.

**Year 5/6 & 6** - This week we will be writing persuasive letters based on Wolf Brother in Literacy and solving word problems in Maths that involve ratios. In Science we are creating circuits in electricity, experimenting with insulators and conductors as well as completing a materials scavenger hunt.

## Attendance

Every lesson counts..... It is really important that your child is in school, on time, every day. Children with less than 90% attendance will now be included in national statistics as being persistently absent. Current attendance figures are:

To date:

Reception (FS2)	Mrs Goss	Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Hunton	Mrs Burland	Mr Price	Mrs Taylor	Miss Ryder	Mrs Plummer
92.82	96.37	98.20	97.08	97.03	96.07	96.86	94.44	96.80

Last week:

Reception (FS2)	Mrs Goss	Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Hunton	Mrs Burland	Mr Price	Mrs Taylor	Miss Ryder	Mrs Plummer
93.75	98.95	97.50	99.47	96.60	95.71	96.57	94.03	96.58

## Diary Dates

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	E Safety Day & Parents E- Safety Talks – 3.30pm and 5.30pm. Letter to follow.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter 3pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	National Offer Day for Reception and Junior school places