

Newsletter February 11th 2016

Ukulele Showcase

On Tuesday, Y4 impressed their parents and teachers (and even themselves!) with a fabulous ukulele performance. Led by Mr Wood, each class played, sang and danced their way through their own songs, and parents were treated to; "Forget You" by 4J, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" by 4S and "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" by 4H. It was a lively performance that demonstrated how much the children had developed in learning the ukulele, keeping to rhythms and developing a sense of timing, and especially showed off their growing confidence and enthusiasm for music. There were a lot of smiley parents, and very proud teachers too! Well done to Y4!



Cowboy blues, minotaurs and moon landings... It's Showcase Assembly

In our second *Showcase* talent assembly of the year, we were treated to a classical guitar performance by Alfie Turton, Joshua Haigh's presentation of his vivid mythical drawings and an original space drama by Jessica Balaam, Jessica Hair and Rebecca Eley. Joshua said, "I was excited and a bit scared. Now I've done it, I've achieved something I never thought I would."

Are there any hidden talents we should know about for this year's Showcases?

Services Tuesday 9th February

On Tuesday the whole school went to church to celebrate a Christingle service with Reverend Beadle. Mr Wood led us in singing and we enjoyed holding the Christingles to help us think about Jesus. Thank you to everyone who made donations using the candle boxes to the Children's Society we raised £178.98.

Huddersfield Giants Sessions

Our Year 3 pupils have benefited from specialist teaching from the Huddersfield Giants in this half term's PE lessons. Everyone agreed that they have had lots of fun whilst developing some great ball skills and agility.





Honley Shakespeare Ensemble

This year we are taking part again in the Honley High School Shakespeare Festival. Drama group are rehearsing for the Honley Shakespeare Ensemble production of Henry V to be held at the High School on 18th & 19th March. Everyone is working hard and looking forward to developing their work further during a visit by Mr. Cotgrave from the High School after half-term.

Specialist Gymnastics Lessons

In year 6, we have been developing our gymnastics skills in very high paced sessions. We have been doing conditioning work, to improve our muscle strength, as well as a range of gymnastic warm ups - such as tuck jumps, and table walks - to be as flexible as possible for the activities. We have been building up to work on the box, with a range of different vaults. The children have been very focused and enjoyed seeing the progress they have made.

On-line Safety Day

In school we supported the national On-line Safety Day on Tuesday 9th February to reinforce the vital message of how important it is for our children to know how to keep themselves safe on-line. For parents and carers this is a massive job too and we want to support you as best we can. Therefore, we will be holding an On-Line Safety Parent/Carer meeting on Wednesday 24th February from 5:30-6:00pm followed by a questions and answers session until around 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome as we know this is a growing concern and no question is a silly one so please come along to share safety tips.

The Thinkyouknow website is really useful so please check it out. Here are their top tips for on-line safety:

1. **Talk to your child about what they're up to online.** Be a part of their online life; involve the whole family and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.
2. **Watch Thinkuknow films and cartoons with your child.** The **Thinkuknow site** has films, games and advice for children from five all the way to 16.
3. **Encourage your child to go online and explore!** There is a wealth of age-appropriate sites online for your children. Encourage them to use sites which are fun, educational and that will help them to develop online skills.
4. **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online.** Children grow up fast and they will be growing in confidence and learning new skills daily. It's important that as your child learns more, so do you.
5. **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.** Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to discuss boundaries at a young age to develop the tools and skills children need to enjoy their time online.
6. **Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space.** For children of this age, it is important to keep internet use in family areas so you can see the sites your child is using and be there for them if they stumble across something they don't want to see.
7. **Know what connects to the internet and how.** Nowadays even the TV connects to the internet. Make sure you're aware of which devices that your child uses connect to the internet, such as their

phone or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – is it your connection, or a neighbour’s Wi-Fi? This will affect whether the safety settings you set are being applied.

8. **Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child’s online safety, but they are a good start and they are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly.

School Development Focus – Writing

Writing is a main area for improvement in our School Development Plan and has therefore received a lot of attention in training sessions, planning meetings and monitoring activities. Paul Lomas, an LA consultant has been working with us for a long time and has recently led some training around using drama and talk in the build up to pupils’ independent writing. This work has led to great steps forward for our pupils and they tell us that they really enjoy the new way of working. Check out how this looks for your child at parents’ evenings after the holidays – I’m sure they will enjoy telling you all about it.



500 words competition

Here are some writers from across school that are working hard on their 500 word story entries. Our young authors have been writing at home and during lunchtime at school in order to complete their short stories before the closing date. Good luck everyone!

Parent / Carer Forum

We held our second Parent Forum last Friday and I am pleased to say the turn-out had improved as we had 8 parents who joined us. Thank you to those who came along! It was a really useful meeting as I was able to share the children’s views about how they learn best and about safety in school. Parents added their ideas around these subjects as well as raising their own questions for discussion. The minutes of the meeting can be found on our school website in the ‘Communities’ section.

We decided to hold our next meeting on Friday 18th March at 2:30pm and that the main area of discussion would be around lunchtimes and school meals. Mrs Thackray, our school cook will be joining us to consult parents and share pupils’ ideas for new dinner menus and Mrs White will be available to talk about lunchtimes in general. Mrs Thackray has also promised some snacks so I do hope you can join us as your ideas are greatly appreciated.

School Crossing Patrol – important information

Please note there will be **no crossing patrol on the morning of Monday 22 February 2016**

Head Teacher’s Message

It has been another great half term at Honley Junior School with so much happening and so many achievements for our pupils. Over half term, to improve safety for everyone, we are having a new entrance to school installed with a pedestrian gate, fenced in walk way and gates to the playground and the main office. This is something we have been hoping for, for such a long time, and I can hardly believe it is happening.

I wish you all a super half term break and I look forward to seeing everyone back ready for more learning and laughter as we head towards the summer term!

Diary Dates:

Date	Event
11.02.16	School Closes for INSET and half term holiday
22.02.16	School reopens
24.02.16	Strictly Pennine Dance Festival – 5.20pm
24.02.16	On-Line Safety evening 5:30-6:00 & questions
01.03.16	Parents' Evening 1
03.03.16	Parents' Evening 2
07.03.16	Year 4 Visit to Eden Camp
07.03.16	Hand to Mouth collective worship
12.03.16	West Yorkshire Games 10:00
18.03.16	Whole school – Sports Relief Mile
18.03.16	Parent Forum 2:30 – 3:30
22.03.16	Easter Service at St. Mary's 10:30
23.03.16	French Theatre Company
24.03.16	School closes for Easter and Easter raffle
11.04.16	School reopens –Summer Term
13.04.16	Year 3 Viking visit to Tatton Park
14.04.16	Year 3 Viking visit to Tatton Park
20.04.16	FOHJS Film Night
w/c 09.05.16	Year 6 SATS week
10.05.16	Pentecost Service at St. Mary's 10:30
18.05.16	Swimming Gala 4:30 – 6:30
24.05.16	Leavers photograph
26.05.16	School closes for INSET day and half term
06.06.16	School reopens
w/c 20.06.16	Olympic Sports Week
12.07.16	Transition day
19.07.16	Leavers Service at St. Mary's 10:30
20.07.16	School Closes for summer holidays