



# YENTON NEWSLETTER



## Yenton Primary School

Issue No.

15th February 2018

Chester Road, Erdington, B24 0ED 0121 464 6588

### Head's Message - Paul Smith

#### Dear Families

It has been a short but extremely busy half term for all of our staff and pupils. We have been visited by Viking and Saxon Warriors, a wide assortment of animals and insects and an Olympic athlete to name but a few of our highlights. Please do follow our twitter feed on our school website as it offers a fantastic window into the day to day activities of our school. We are entering a very important time for our pupils, especially Y1, Y2 and Y6 who are involved in statutory end of year assessments. Should you need any further information on how best to prepare your child for these important assessments, please see your child's class teacher. I am very impressed by the turnout for our Y6 breakfast club, helping to prepare our Y6 children for the maths SATs assessments coming up. A massive THANK YOU to all parents, pupils and staff for supporting this club. We would like to wish you all a happy and restful half term and remind you that all pupils are due back on Monday 26th February at the normal time. Happy Holidays!

### Book Fair Rocks!

Thank you to all of our parents and staff who supported the book fair that we recently held at our school. I am pleased to tell you that the book fair took a massive £1395.47! This is a huge improvement on our previous best total and has helped to raise over £800 in commission for the school. The money raised will help to restock class libraries with books that are recommended for each year group. A big thank you to Mrs Hillman and Miss Firstbrook for organising this.

Reading is a key skill for all of our pupils and is one that needs to be mastered at primary school. Please make an effort to read with your child as often as possible, and at least three times a week. Thank you for your support!

### SMILERS week

Last week was Children's Mental Health Awareness week—This was called SMILERS week at our school. All of our classes took part in activities that raised awareness of this very important issue. Mrs Berriman held an informative assembly which concentrated upon how having a positive view of ourselves can help us to cope with life's challenges. I was very impressed with the mature and sensible way our children coped with this—they were a credit to the school and to you as parents and carers.



Important information, such as school closures, is shared with parents through the schools text messaging service. It is vitally important that we have up to date contact numbers for you so that we can get in touch with you in the case of an emergency. Unfortunately, we had a case of a poorly child who needed to go home but couldn't as we could not contact the parents. Please let the office know if you have changed your contact number recently.



email: [enquiry@yenton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@yenton.bham.sch.uk)



web: [www.yenton.bham.sch.uk](http://www.yenton.bham.sch.uk)



twitter: [www.twitter.com/Yenton Primary](https://www.twitter.com/Yenton_Primary)

## School Attendance

Our current school attendance sits at 94.6% (Y1 to Y6). The national average attendance is 96%. If your child's attendance drops below 90%, this works out to a half day of learning lost per week! This is classed as persistent absence and may result, as a last resort, in legal action being taken against you, up to and including imprisonment. I would like to remind you all that taking your child out of school during term time is not allowed, except under exceptional circumstances. A list of these circumstances is available from the school office. If you do take your child out of school during term time you may be issued with a £60 penalty notice, per child, per parent. So if you have 2 children in school and you take them out during term time, this can result in £120 fine per parent, doubling if the fine is not paid.

### School Matters!



We have a wonderful and talented staff but we cannot educate your children if they are not here!

## Warriors and Weird Creatures!



The school has recently been invaded by a plague of weird and wonderful creatures, as well as Viking and Saxon warriors! The Animal Lady paid us a visit and brought a wonderful selection of animals for our children to see, and for some of the brave, to touch. She was very impressed by the behaviour and knowledge of our children, especially Y3, who could list all of the features of a mammal! Y4 received a visit from Viking and Saxon warriors as part of their Cornerstones topic.



## Parent Pay

To further help streamline our services to you as parents, we have introduced ParentPay to allow all of our parents to pay for dinners online. You will have been provided with an individual login to set up your own account via the ParentPay website. This means that we will not be able to accept any money for school dinners. This also means that you will only be able to change your child's lunchtime arrangements at the start of each half term. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Rafique in the school office.



## Staff changes

Unfortunately, and due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, Mrs Wintle (1W) and Miss Akhtar (2A) will be leaving us after half term. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them all the very best of luck for the future and thank them for their efforts to support our school in the time they have been with us.

I am pleased to say that Mr Aslam will be joining us to take over from Mrs Wintle and Miss Dass and Mrs Bailey will be taking over from Miss Akhtar. We are pleased to say that Mr Hurley will be re-joining us to take over Miss Dass's cover role. Welcome one and all!

## Parking in and around our school

Please make sure that you park considerately and legally when you are dropping off and picking up your children from our school. Please respect our neighbours by not parking on the Chester Road and blocking off access to the houses and flats close to our school. Please note that traffic cameras and enforcement patrols are regularly in operation on Chester Road. It is essential that we avoid traffic congestion on the main and surrounding roads - traffic problems are a nuisance to our neighbours and pose a health and safety risk to our children. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

# Forest School update



During the next half term we will see the life coming back into the forest as we welcome some warmer weather (hopefully) and our beautiful spring flowers. The children will look forward to welcoming frog spawn back in our pond and identifying the new leaves as the buds start to appear on the trees. This is always a lovely half term as we watch the ever changing landscape right before our eyes!

Mrs Carn, Forest School Leader.



## Xmas jumper day

We are pleased to say that our Christmas Jumper Day managed to raise a staggering £427.10. This money will be donated to Save the Children. Many thanks to all parents and staff for their fantastic support.



## Reception

Reception's topic for next half term is 'Why Do Ladybird's Have Spots?' in which we will be learning about different sorts of creepy crawlies! Can you think of any rhymes or songs with mini-beasts in that we could sing? We will be exploring fiction and non-fiction books, and learning a story about a caterpillar in talk for writing. Our Maths work will focus on adding and subtracting, and making sure we can say and recognise numbers to 20. It is RD's turn again for Forest School, so don't forget your wellies. We will also be getting ready for Easter with hats, cards and other Springtime crafts being made.

## Year 1

Year 1 next term will be starting their new Cornerstones topic, Paws, Claws and Whiskers. We are very excited to be looking at animals that have soft fur, sharp claws and twitching whiskers... What's your favourite animal? One that meows? One that barks? Or maybe one that scurries or slithers? From pets at home to animals in the zoo, we will find out what animals like to eat and where they like to sleep. Keeping with the animals theme our T4W will be looking at the story 'The tiger that came to tea with a special visit to help remember the sequence of the story. Maths we will be learning to tell the time as well as moving into counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We are looking forward to a fun packed term.

## Year 2

In Year 2 our maths will focus on the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will then move onto investigating number through fractions, recognising and naming halves and quarters and three quarters. We will also investigate how to write simple fractions for example,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 6 = 3. This term's Cornerstones Topic is The Scented Garden and we hope to visit the Botanical Gardens to explore their wonderful plant collection. Next half term in English we will be learning the story of "The Flower" by John Light. We will be focusing on the skills of writing in past tense, using expanded noun phrases and including common exception words. After this, we will be learning the poem "The Sound Collector" by Roger McGough.

## Year 3

Y3 will be exploring the exciting world of fractions; counting in tenths and recognizing equivalent fractions with small denominators. We will also be learning how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. We will be continuing to secure our knowledge of our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. As part of our T4W learning journey, we will be reading the exciting tale of the Firework Maker's Daughter, focusing on using speech in our narrative writing. We will also be reading the poem 'The Owl and Jelly Fish', developing our use of figurative language such as similes, metaphors and alliteration and composing our own poem. In Cornerstones, year 3 will be shaking things up with our new topic, 'Tremors'. We will be learning about volcanoes and earthquakes and the reasons for their causes.

## Year 4

Next half term, Year 4's Cornerstones topic is Burps, Bottoms and Bile, studying the workings of our Digestive System and Teeth, including how to care for them. In English, we will be looking at tales of fear, and poetry, as well as continuing to practise our reading. In Maths, we will continue to practice our written methods as well as learning about decimals and time. Also, we look forward to learning more on Tenor Horn and Flute.

## Year 5

Next term we will be learning all about Egyptian Pharaohs – we'll be refining our research skills when learning all about the physical features of Egypt. We will be discovering all that Ancient Egypt has to offer such as; drawing artefacts, designing headwear, creating clay water carriers, sampling Egyptian food and creating hieroglyphics. In mathematics we'll be learning all about percentages and decimals. For the first three weeks we will be reading 'The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess' where they'll be beginning to use a range of devices to build cohesion within paragraphs. Later we will be exploring the poem "I'm Already There".

## Year 6

Next term, year 6 will be covering the topic Blood Heart where we will learn about the circulatory system and how we can keep our heart healthy. In reading, we will be continuing to read *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo and will be producing some work to display in our book area. Also, we will be continuing to prepare for our SATS tests by solving problems and reasoning questions in Maths. An exciting part of next term, will be when some of us go on our first residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes, where we will be completing lots of outdoor, team building activities.

**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."**

**William Butler Yeats**

## Parents' evenings

Our Spring term Parents' evening will be held on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th March. Letters and appointment times will be coming out after the half term break. Please make every effort to attend one of these evenings. Research has proved that one of the biggest factors in a child's success is parental interest and involvement. If you are unable to make any of these dates, please see your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment.

## Safer Internet Day



On Tuesday 6th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day in school, looking at ways we can help to safeguard our children in an increasingly online environment. We were pleased to welcome PCSO Tracey Baker who talked to our children about being safe online. Please ask your child about STOP, FEEL, THINK and DO so they can remain safe online. Thanks to Mr Devaney and Miss Vadgama for organising this important training for all of our pupils. Thanks as well to all of the parents who attended the Parent Workshop. We hope you found it useful.



## Dates For Your Diary

| Day   | Date       | Diary Item  |
|-------|------------|---|
| Fri   | 16th Feb   | Half yearly attendance reward afternoon                     |
| Fri   | 16th Feb   | School closes for half term holiday                         |
| Mon   | 26th Feb   | School opens for all pupils                                 |
| Mon   | 26th Feb   | Y4, Y5 and Y6 visit to Symphony Hall                        |
| Thurs | 1st March  | World Book Day—dressing up as your favourite book character |
| Tues  | 13th March | Parents' evening 3:30—4:30pm                                |
| Wed   | 14th March | Parents' evening 3:30—6:30pm                                |
| Thurs | 15th March | Parents' evening 3:30—4:30pm                                |
| Mon   | 26th March | Y6 residential trip begins                                  |
| Wed   | 28th March | Y6 residential trip ends                                    |
| Wed   | 28th March | KS1 Awards assembly (Provisional date)                      |
| Thur  | 29th March | KS2 Awards assembly (Provisional date)                      |
| Thurs | 29th March | School closes for Easter holidays                           |
| Mon   | 16th April | School opens for all pupils                                 |
| Fri   | 20th April | Flip and Dip PTFA performance after school                  |
| Mon   | 7th May    | May Day Bank Holiday—school closed to all pupils            |
| Mon   | 14th May   | KS 2 SATs exams week begins                                 |
| Thurs | 24th May   | PTFA cake sale  |
| Fri   | 25th May   | School closes for half term holiday                         |
| Mon   | 4th June   | School opens for all pupils                                 |
| Mon   | 11th June  | Phonics screening check for Y1 and some Y2 pupils begins    |
| Thurs | 28th June  | PTFA summer fayre   |
| Mon   | 2nd July   | Diversity week begins                                       |
| Thurs | 5th July   | Summer disco and Leavers' Fish and Chip Supper              |
| Fri   | 20th July  | School closes for summer holidays                           |

### Vacancy for Lunchtime supervisor.

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor. If you are interested, please contact the school office for more information and an application pack.