

### Seeds from Space

In Sept 2015, 2kg of rocket seed travelled on the Soyuz 44S Rocket to the International Space Station. They were taken up by Tim Peake (the first British European Space Agency Astronaut) and held in microgravity, before being returned to Earth in the Spring of 2016. Honley Junior School is one of 8,500 lucky schools to have applied for some of these 'space' seeds, and received them.

The nationwide project was initiated by the UK Space Agency to celebrate Tim Peake's mission to Space. They are working with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Campaign for Gardening, in a bid to encourage young children to become space biologists at school and weigh up whether it is possible to grow our own food on other planets, millions of miles away from Earth.

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, the whole of Honley Junior School was involved in planting 8 trays of these seeds. The school received two packs – a red packet and a blue packet, with 100 seeds in each. Which pack contains the space seeds? The children don't know! Over a six week period they will water, rotate and measure the growth of the two comparative seed packs, before entering the carefully recorded results on a national database.

The school is lucky to be supported by Jennie Hibbard from Urwin Lab at Leeds University (#UrwinLab). Jennie works in the Centre for Plant Sciences, but also has a child at Honley Junior School. She came into assembly to explain the project and get us ready to play our exciting part in this amazing experiment. How do you think the micro-gravity seeds will grow? Watch this space!

### Tatton Park Anglo-Saxon Visits



Last week our Year 3 pupils went off to Tatton Park to learn about the Anglo-Saxons. They all had a great time and for some it even felt like they'd gone back in time! Here are a couple of extracts from pupils' recounts about the day.

**Sophie Mayes** - Finally, after an exhausting coach journey, we arrived at Tatton Park. Then in the distance I saw a strange man approaching the huge coach. Suddenly, the doors of the coach flung open and a figure stumbled on which made me feel uncomfortable.

**Aimee Sewell** - At the end of the day we got to take part in a competition. Miss Giles, who was holding the big shield, squealed like a scared little mouse as the man was crashing his axe against the shield. Then we got to learn some shield formations, my favourite was the shield wall because we had to work as a team.

## **School Meals**

At our last Parent/Carer Forum meeting we looked at school meals and Mrs Thackeray our school cook explained that she is currently designing the menu for September 2016 working with the very strict guidelines from Kirklees Catering Service.

On Monday, we will be holding the next School Forum where all pupils will be consulted on the draft menu. As you will be aware from the media there is also a Government push to reduce the amount of sugar we all consume and to reflect this Kirklees are launching a campaign called Sugar Smart which is designed to educate children about how much sugar there is in different foods. Consequently, Mrs Thackeray and her team are trialling some of the Sugar Smart pudding recipes including cocoa swirls, apple scones and Yorkshire tea loaf and pupils will be asked their thoughts on these during lunchtimes. If you would like more information you can check out the Catering Services website at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals) or Change4Life for free support, tips, ideas and recipes to try at home. We will keep you informed of how the trials are going and what the outcomes are from our consultation of pupils regarding the new menu.

Please do not hesitate if you have questions regarding school meals to contact Mrs Thackeray on 01484 662681.

## **Maths Parent/Carer workshops**

It was great to see so many parents and carers at our Maths Workshop on Monday about addition and subtraction, where Miss Gabanski and Miss Morritt talked through what strategies and calculation methods we teach in school. They made it fun and also showed what apparatus we use to reinforce the concepts involved.

The feedback from those present was very positive:

*'I really enjoyed that!'*

*'Now I know what to do to help my child without confusing her.'*

*'I will remember not to talk about 'borrowing' anymore and use 'regrouping' instead.'*

Next week, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> (6:30-7:30pm), we will be running a similar workshop focusing on multiplication and division strategies and we hope even more people will be able to attend and feel confident with supporting their child.

## **Sports News**

### **Sports Relief Mile**

The grand total raised for our Sports Relief miles was £852.74. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all those who donated money.

### **Football Match Review**

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, we went to play at New College in a football tournament. The players were; Oliver Frost, Sonny Pickup (captain), Charlie Morgan, Zak Roberts, Henry Rayner, Bailey McIntosh and Thomas Howatson. We played five games, winning two and losing three. We came in the top 6 teams of the year 6 boys football team despite many of still being us being year 5! (By Oliver, Sonny and Thomas)

## Football Tournament report from Mr Hind (17<sup>th</sup> March)

The beautiful sun shone across the fields of Honley Junior School as we welcomed the three teams who were competing in our final mini-tournament of the season. The referee for the afternoon was Mick Roberts, who again did a fantastic job of preparing the pitch before the games began. Honley were up first against Helme and we got off to a great start.

There was early pressure from Luke, (playing on the left side of mid-field) which allowed Charlie and Abigail (captains of the day), to move forward to threaten the Helme goal. Luke enjoyed a large amount of the ball, showing off his skills as he eased past the Helme defence. The pressure from Luke paid off, as he scored with his weaker foot, beating the keeper at his far post. A lovely solo effort! The goal seemed to settle Honley, and with Freddie applying the pressure up front, and Bailey and Tafari staying strong in defence, the mid-fielders were able to involve everyone in a great passing game. The position paid off, with just a few minutes to go. Freddie and Charlie were passing the ball well throughout the game, but it was an excellent long ball from Zak that applied the killer ball through to Gabriella, who slaughtered the ball past the Helme keeper to make it 2:0. Shortly after all that excitement the game finished. Players shook hands as a sign of fair play and respect for each other as we think this is an important part of the game.

Honley's next game put them up against Brockholes, a team that were level on points with them in the league. This was certainly going to be a tough game and a closely fought battle between the two teams. It lived up to expectations. The pressure was most definitely on Zak (in the goal) and the defence (Bailey and Tafari). Charlie and Luke were called in to help on some well-defended corners, but it was all too much for us and Brockholes took the lead. Our players reacted brilliantly, with Luke applying his skills once more, linking well with Charlie to threaten the Brockholes defence with menacing crosses. It was Luke, with only minutes to go that equalised. A deserved goal brought the two teams level, and that is how it finished.

The final game was Honley against Meltham, a team that was unbeaten so far in the tournament, and also level with Brockholes. The players stayed strong together, supporting each other and showing fabulous team work. Some early chances were saved by Zak. The game had moments of real end to end action, with Freddie, Gabriella, Charlie and Luke having chances that were saved. The Meltham team (all year 6) towered over the Honley team (4 of which were year 5s). The heights made a difference with the Honley team struggling to keep up with the amount of pressure. This resulted in Meltham taking the lead. Honley fought like lions and with a few more minutes on the clock, they might just have found an equaliser, but it wasn't to be. The tournament finished with Honley losing their final game 1:0.

Everything ran smoothly and our team represented school extremely well. This was the last round of fixtures in the league so we shall wait to see where we have finished and if we made the play-offs.

Diary Dates	Event
25.04.16	Parents'/Carers' maths workshops 6:30-7:30pm
25.04.16	School Forum – school dinners menu consultation for pupils
27.04.16	FOHJS Film Night for Y3&4 (revised date)
02.05.16	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
04.05.16	Neiley Races
w/c 09.05.16	Year 6 SATS week
10.05.16	Pentecost Service at St. Mary's 10:30am
18.05.16	Swimming Gala 4:30 – 6:30pm
24.05.16	Leavers photograph
26.05.16	Hand to Mouth – collective worship
27.05.16	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 10:30am
20.07.16	School Closes for summer holidays

### Safety

The new gates are working well to help keep our children safe. Please remind your child to always use the pedestrian gate and path. Also, please drop children off for clubs and before school activities outside the school grounds.

Thank you

## 500 words writing competition

Well done to all our young writers who entered the 500 Words competition where there were 123,400 entries. These children received letters of thanks and encouragement from the organisers for their stories; Evie Newton, Jonah Thackeray, Louise Turner, Holly Sweeney and Harry Millburn. Congratulations go to Jasmine Rickwood who has gone through to the last 4500 entrants – which is a great achievement.

Here is Jasmine's beautiful story.

### Staring Out of the Broken Window

Standing all alone looking through my broken window staring, at the cold damp air. Thinking ... I wish I could stop thinking... please just go away.... Slowly writing my name painfully on the murky glass. Boom!! The sounds echoed through my empty body, sending a shiver down my aching spine. I tightly squeeze my sweating fists.

I close my tired eyes, picturing my neighbour's obliterated house drifting into the misty fog. Tears do not come as much as I try. Oh I wish the fumes would stop burning my nose. Slowly I reached for my faded picture of my dad and me on the old swings at the local park. Clutching it caused so much pain but I loved it in my heart.

Personally I think when dad comes home mum really needs to calm it down with those crazy rollers. It's so embarrassing. Mum is so beautiful when she actually does something with her hair. With her red rosebud cheeks brightening up her gorgeous face and her emerald eyes she has the ability to give me hope and warmth and light up any room when she smiles. She also gives me courage to believe in my country, and that my dad is coming home and is not lost at war.

All I could smell was the lovely aroma of bread coming from downstairs. However the smell was actually better than the taste. Sorry mum!!! I think you should stick to the bakery!

Suddenly I had a flashback to last month's commotion. A landmine bomb was dropped by a parachute close to our house and exploded. We were playing on the street, terrified and we ran as fast as we could back to our houses. The blast made all of the windows shatter! All my mum's clothes were sent flying, scattered all over the street. I felt quite lucky that I actually have all my clothes. That night I was cuddling my mum in the small cupboard under the stairs fearing for my life!

It was breaking news everywhere, Germany had finally surrendered in the war and all of our brave soldiers were coming home! I could not believe my ears! This was it, my dad would be coming home and everything would be perfect again.

My mum came running through the bedroom door. Her rollers had been taken out (phew!) I paused to look at mum's beautiful face but for some reason she looked terribly worried. I was just about to ask her what was wrong when I suddenly heard a whistle. At first I thought it was a whistle bomb and I ducked under my bed. The whistling stopped and then I heard a strangely familiar song outside the window which meant...

"GRANDMA! GRANDMA!" I blurted out.

"We don't have all day! Tell me what happened next!"

"Just turn the next page of my diary!" grandma whispered.

## My dad is home!

