

Newsletter Friday 17th March 2017

Cross-Country Finals

On Wednesday 16 children travelled to Leeds to take part in the West Yorkshire School Games Cross Country Championships where they represented Kirklees and competed against children from across West Yorkshire. We had a great afternoon in the sunshine at Temple Newsam and the children really were a credit to the school. We don't yet know the exact team results but our year 4 boys and girls teams and year 5 girls team all were amazing as was Harrison Lisle who had qualified as an individual to run in the year 5 boys race.



The children are pictured here wearing their Kirklees team t-shirts. Many thanks to all the parents and grandparents who helped out with transport and who provided such fabulous support to all the children on the day.

Mrs Farquhar



Pamper and Treats Evening

The FOHJS invite you to an evening of pampering and treats at Honley Squash Club on 22nd March 6:30-8:30pm. Admission costs £5 and includes a glass of prosecco. There will be beauty and hair demonstrations and some treatments available too. There will be plenty of stalls to browse including clothing, beauty products and accessories. So we do hope that you can come along to support school whilst having a relaxing time.

Red Nose Day – Friday 24th March

We will be supporting Red Nose Day again this year. If your child would like to participate for a donation of £1 they can wear something red and come prepared to tell a joke to their class. Our red noses sold out fast but you can still purchase a nose from other outlets. There has been a year 3/4 cake sale today organised by a group of year 5 girls and the year 5/6 sale will take place on Red Nose Day.



Family Support Services

We have just been allocated a new Family Support Worker, Ian Wheeler, who is based at Crosland Moor Children's Centre. Family Support Workers can offer a range of advice and support to families. Ian and his fellow Family Support Worker Steven Roper will be in our school and available to see parents/carers from 9:00-12:00am on Monday 27th March. There are still a couple of appointments left if you would like to talk to Ian or Steven about your family situation and any challenges you are currently facing or just to find out more. To book an appointment for Monday 27th or arrange another date, please contact school.

The support Ian can offer includes:

- Information, advice and guidance about family issues
- One stop shop events including health visitors, citizens' advice, and other useful organisation
- Help to access adult education classes
- Advice on supporting your child's education and development
- Support to move towards volunteering, further training and employment opportunities, family support drop-in/surgery sessions
- Individual support for your family to help you make changes to improve the lives of you and your family
- Help in managing children's behaviour. E.g. bedtime routines
- Parenting programmes to give you support and additional skills to parent your child
- Support to make positive changes in your home and family's living conditions
- Family group conferences to help you and your family find your own solutions to difficulties
- Support of a volunteer for your child

One of our mums who has worked with Ian previously says ...

Ian is lovely to work with and he really helped me to bring about changes in my family. His ideas are really helpful and I fully recommend him to anyone.

I went on a course too and met lots of people in my situation who have now become good friends.



Netball competition

Our netball team took part in a competition at Honley High School last week. They had great fun and represented school really well showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Miss Giles was really proud of them and says she can't wait for their next match as they just get better and better.

School Improvement

This year the focus for improvement is on developing reasoning and problem solving in maths and we have worked closely with LA consultants and other schools on this area. Our children tell us they enjoy their learning and from my observations around school I have seen lots of reasoning and problem solving activities taking place which have significantly increased the challenge in lessons for our pupils. Our achievement in maths has been the hardest aspect of learning to improve and this year we are very optimistic about our predictions for the Year 6 SATs tests as outcomes across all year groups are much improved and predicted to be well above last year's national outcomes.

A recent LA audit of maths identified these as our key areas to celebrate:

- High levels of engagement from pupils (and staff) in lessons.
- Pupils keen to do their early morning maths.
- Working walls with clear models and vocabulary.
- Maths rich environment throughout school.
- Teachers who want the best for their children and want to move their practice to outstanding. Excellent relationships between staff.
- Wealth of assessment information and clear analysis of gaps.
- Reasoning support in classrooms and challenge on the displays.
- Children are secure in calculations procedures and these are consistently applied across the school.
- High levels of questioning and support from TA staff.
- Passionate leaders who want to improve the school and the maths leader who is a MAsT lead and has an honest view of the position of maths in school.

The main areas for improvement were:

- Encourage more boys into early morning maths.
- Continue to increase the challenge in lessons and keep the pace high.
- Increase the time given to enable pupils to respond to marking.
- Further develop conceptual variation (presenting problems in different ways with different parts missing).

Standards of writing across school are very good and the new handwriting scheme has dramatically improved pupils' presentation and pride in their work. I am sure that at parents' and carers evening you will have noticed a change and been impressed by the mature content of their writing.

During the summer term our pupils will sit English and Maths tests and the outcomes will support teachers in the final judgements as to whether pupils have met or indeed exceeded the expected standard for their age. Our Year 6 pupils will sit their SATs tests in spelling, punctuation and grammar, reading and maths during the week beginning 8th May. They are already consolidating their learning in early morning maths sessions and becoming familiar with the style and pace of thinking required in these tests.

Joining Schools

The Interim Governing Body have met several times to make sure school is keeping on track with the project plan to enable the Infant and Junior Schools to join by May 1st. The final Cabinet decision to allow the schools to join will take place on Tuesday 4th April.

Kirklees and Calderdale School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) Programme

We work with the Kirklees and Calderdale SCITT team and the programme is an apprenticeship model of teacher training. Instead of being based in a Higher Education institution, trainees are based in a host school and benefit from a range of training experiences, delivered both centrally and within a range of schools. Kirklees and Calderdale SCITT are currently recruiting for trainees and if you are interested and would like more information please call 01924 407547.

Diary Dates

22/3/17	FOHJS Pamper Evening 6:30-8:30pm at Honley Squash Club
24/3/17	Red Nose Day – Wear red and donate a £1
27/3/17	FOHJS meeting 1:30pm Temporary Governing Body meeting 7:00pm
4/4/17	Easter service in St Mary's church 1:30pm
6 & 7/4/17	PRIDE TIME - Whole school reward - maths and art workshops
7/4/17	School closes for the Easter Holiday
24/4/17	School opens Year 3 – Danelaw Viking Village
1/5/17	School Closed – May Day
5/5/17	FOHJS film night
WB 8/5/17	Year 6 SATs week
18/5/17	FOHJS discos
23/5/17	Pentecost Service in church Year 6 Leavers photograph
26/5/17	School closes
5/6/17	School opens
24/6/17	Summerfest – 2:00 -7:00pm
6/7/17	Year 6 Moving on Journey with Hand to Mouth
10/7/17	New parents' and carers' meeting 6:00pm
13/7/17	Leavers' Disco
18/7/17	Leavers' Service
21/7/17	School closes