

# NEWSLETTER

‘Capturing the imagination of young minds.’

April 2023



## Personal Development

### Staying safe

This term we have a number of safety training sessions for pupils, with people from different organisations coming into school.

As the weather becomes warmer, children will be out and about with friends and so the activities planned link directly to the dangers in our village—the roads, the river and the railway crossings.

Children will have sessions on water and river safety, safety on the railway, cycling proficiency, pedestrian safety and Crucial Crew (Year 6)

### Stress

Our Year 6 children are starting their last term with us, which brings excitement but also worries about moving on. Add this to the typical Year 6 hormonal and physical changes, along with fluctuating relationships with peers and parents, and we could end up with some very stressed children. We are very aware of the emotional and mental support that our oldest children may need this term and so will continue to provide them with guidance and support through our curriculum and other nurturing opportunities. Families can contact school if they have any concerns, but the Anna Freud, National Centre for Children and Families has declared April as 'Stress Awareness month'. Below is a handout with links that may be helpful for families.

[https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2616/stress-awareness-month-toolkit\\_primary.pdf](https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2616/stress-awareness-month-toolkit_primary.pdf)

## A message from Mrs O'Hara

Welcome back to the Summer Term—a busy and exciting term, packed with amazing learning opportunities, trips and events for families to get involved in! Thank you so much for joining us at 'Open Classrooms' at the end of last term—we had great feedback and it was lovely to stand back and watch children tell their parents about their work. We are always keen to get feedback and so the completed questionnaires from 205 families was really useful. The outcomes are inside the newsletter. There are a number of dates to put on your calendar so you can make plans, although there will be reminders sent out nearer the date. We're looking forward to another positive term with our school community.

## Learning this term.

Our Summer Term learning themes are outlined below. As always, you can see the full curriculum for your child's year group on the school website at <https://pop.hs.lt.academy/>

### Nursery

Place

### Reception

Growing and farming

Oceans and

### P.S.H.E this term

We use Jigsaw to form the sequencing of learning for pupils **Personal, social, health education** and as mentioned in my previous newsletter, **Relationships and Sex education**. The first half term is all about positive relationships, and then after half term it is about 'Changing me.' Sometimes children have questions that they may not feel comfortable asking in school and so may look to talking to parents at home. For some, forming answers may be difficult and so in preparation, the NSPCC give advice on how you can have conversations with children about difficult topics. You can find more information by clicking the link below.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

### Year 1

Houses and homes

### Year 2

Trinidad and Tobago

### Year 3

Stone Age to Iron Age, Food and Farming

### Year 4

Rivers and Northern Italy (The Po Valley)

### Year 5

The Amazon Rainforest

### Year 6

Law, crime and punishment

## Overnight residentials for Year 4 and 5

Our residential programme is well and truly back on track and we have overnight stays for Years 4 and 5, in preparation for the week long adventure in Year 6.

As part of their studies on Rivers, Year 4 are invited to a two day experience in the Yorkshire Dales, visiting Ingleborough Cave, Gaping Ghyl and Ingleton Waterfalls. They will stay at the Youth Hostel in Ingleton—a change to our usual venue, but a welcome upgrade to bunkbeds and rooms. We have been running this trip for a few years now and it really is an absolutely wonderful two days—lots of fresh air, walking, exploring and of course, the opportunity to take responsibility for self-care, grooming and organisation.

Also as part of their learning, Year 5 will have an evening to themselves at The Deep in Hull, taking part in a rock pool experience, slime activities and of course sleep with the sharks! There will be additional information coming out about both trips very soon and the opportunity to attend a meeting.

## Open Classroom Feedback

**1. Did you welcome the opportunity to come into class to see your child's work?**

100% felt that seeing how their child was progressing was important and interesting.

**2. Was your child keen to show you their work?**

99% of pupils were happy for families to see their work with 75% of children talking enthusiastically about their work.

**3. Were you pleased with your child's progress?**

100% of families were pleased with the progress that their child had made with 80% being really pleased.

**4. Were you able to speak with the teacher?**

76% got the chance to speak to the teacher, 22% didn't feel that they needed to and just 2% said that they didn't get the chance but would have liked to.

**5. Is there anything you would like to know more about?**

A reminder of phonic stages; *is there anything else that we can be doing at home to support?*; *More information about the extra group my child has been put in to*; expectations by the end of the year; not really, we feel very well informed and know that we can speak with the teacher if we need more information; *just wondering if we will return to the broader parent evenings eventually?*; *perhaps a very brief overview of topics at the start of each term by email*; homework and future topics; *some more feedback would be appreciated—after school when discussing activities, we are normally met with "I can't remember"*.

**6. Any other comments?**

*As always, we are so impressed with the school and the teachers*; it was a good insight, they both really enjoyed showing off their work; *it was lovely to see his work—I'm impressed with how neater his writing is now*; *it was great, thank you!*; would love to have face to face parents evenings rather than zoom; *great feedback and encouragement from his teacher*; *I really value any opportunity to come into school to see my child's work and she loves showing me*; we loved seeing his progress and how proud he is of himself is fantastic; *very pleased with his progress*; *I was thoroughly impressed with his work. It was lovely to see all the subjects and chat about what he has been learning this year*; pleased to see her work—looks like she is doing really well and is ready for a step up to secondary. Thank you; *please keep doing the Open Classroom each term*; *thank you for the opportunity*; it's lovely to come and see the classroom; *thank you for being such a caring and supportive teaching team. The change in her work in a few short months is incredible*; *Always a pleasure to come into see her work and surroundings. Could not be prouder of her progress or more content with the school, learning environment and teaching staff. Thank you*; it's lovely so get an insight to what your child gets up to in school, I can see how happy she is; *very happy with how she has progressed*; *thank you for giving me the chance to see my son's progress*; really informative and welcome opportunity to see her work; *thank you, brilliant opportunity!*; *we really appreciate the support you give him*; it is fantastic to see her work; *thank you for taking the time*; *so lovely to see the breadth and depth of their work*; too many teacher, really hoping for a stable year 6; *great to see the work that has been done so far*; *thank you for all your teaching and support*; fantastic session, thank you; *little homework*; *very impressed with the work! All work has been presented in a lovely way*; a lot seems to be on chromebook which would have been nice to see; *she has really progressed this year. We are really pleased with the school, teachers and work topics set*; *It's a good and helpful combination with a recent update via the virtual call*; really appreciate the opportunity to come into his classroom and see al his hard work; *lovely idea, some really interesting topics*.

Now maybe the right time to explain that we purposefully provide a blend of opportunities over the year for parents to speak with teachers and see children's work. We feel that the face to face parent meeting in the Autumn Term is really important and we finish the term by inviting families into school for the Christmas Fair. In the Spring, we provide a virtual Parent Evening and the Open Classroom to see pupil's work. In the Summer, families are invited to see the wider curriculum at POPFEST and Sports Day and parents receive an End of Year written report. Thank you again for your kind comments.

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## Last half term in pictures



Didn't we have fun?



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## Dates for your diary

- Monday 1st May—Bank Holiday
- Friday 5th May—Coronation Celebrations in school
- Monday 8th May—King’s Coronation Bank Holiday
- 9th—12th May—Year 6 SATs
- Tuesday 16th May—Year 4 residential—‘The BIG Adventure’
- Thursday 18th May—School Disco by FRIENDS
- Friday 26th May—last day before Half term
- Tuesday 13th June—Year 5 residential—‘The Deepover’
- Friday 30th June—POPFEEST!
- Tuesday July 4th—Parent Football Tournament
- Tuesday 11th July—Sports Day
- Wednesday 12th July—Nursery Sports Day
- Week beginning 17th July—POPS Got Talent
- Friday 21st July—Colour Run (FRIENDS)
- Tuesday 25th July—Year 6 Leavers assembly (2.45) and last day of term

## Moaning corner

### Hair tied back

Despite reminders in assembly and in newsletters, I was disappointed with the number of conversations that both myself and staff had to have with children about wearing long hair tied back. This is an important aspect of our school uniform and it was unfortunate that we had to send notes home regarding headlice in school—something that we have not had to do for a long time. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

### Drive slowly

Opposite school, the pathway on Dikelands Lane is very narrow and when cars are parked on the side, vehicles passing are very close to pedestrians walking. I am always mindful that a child could step off the pavement and into the road or even slip off giving passing drivers no chance to stop. At the end of last term, a pupil’s arm was clipped by a passing car, which could have caused a serious incident. I’d like to take the opportunity to remind drivers to pass slowly at this point to reduce the risk of injury to families. Thank you.

### P.E Kit bags

Please ensure that your child has a plain white t shirt, black shorts and trainers in a small draw string bag for P.E. Large sports bags and back packs cannot be accommodated in cloakrooms. Thank you.

### Late arrivals

Pupils need to be in school by 8.40 (KS2) and 8.45 (KS1) - too many children are walking into school late.