



School Newsletter

17th February 2017

Spring 2017 - Issue 1

REVIEW

Dear Parents,

This half-term has got off to a brilliant start and our children have been busy enjoying new challenges.

The main learning focus has been 'The Stone Age', with children learning about clothing, local artefacts and the lifestyle. There has been an exciting 'cave' in the playground for children to explore and they created paintings for this. On Thursday 16th February, they were visited by Stone Age man! This took the form of re-enacting a range of lifestyle experiences that would have taken place during the Stone Age. The children really enjoyed the activities in the forest.

We continue to work closely with Richmond Methodist School and to gradually increase collaborative events and teaching across both schools. Maths leaders from our school and Richmond Methodist School have been working collaboratively to introduce the new approach to teaching: 'Convince me Maths'. Miss Burrell, Maths Lead at Arkengarthdale, and Mrs Welch, Maths Lead at RMS, launched the initiative to teachers in December and have since worked alongside staff, supporting planning and team teaching, in order to tailor the approach to fit the particular needs of each class. Both leaders also explained the new approach during two information evenings for parents in January.

The positive outcomes of the 'Governor Learning Walk' were celebrated with Governors at the meeting on 9th February. Governors Sarah Kettlewell and Nick Baron, alongside Leaders Helen Ring and Susan Gardner, conducted a 'Learning Walk' at the end of the Autumn Term. The walk, which focused on writing, comprised of classroom observation, book scrutiny and pupil conferencing. Governors were especially impressed by the strength of the teaching team, Amy Metcalfe, Hannah Burrell and Clare Martin, who worked collaboratively to ensure high levels of challenge for every pupil and subsequent high levels of engagement in learning. Teaching and learning was judged to be 'outstanding' across each of the eight teaching standards and Mrs Gardner was heard to comment; 'It's everything you would want for your child'.

*I wish you all a very happy holiday with, hopefully, more than a little sunshine,
Helen Ring*

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Our children took part in a NSPCC number day on 3rd February. The morning was spent devising maths games which the children then took to the Richmond Methodist School in the afternoon. After having lunch with the RMS children, they played maths games, whilst raising money for the NSPCC. They also sang in the school assembly. A total of £455.26 was raised between the two schools. Well done to everyone.

At the Christingle Service on 16th December 2016 a total of £170.92 was raised for the Children's Society between Reeth & Gunnerside Schools and Arkengarthdale School.

All children have achieved a bronze award by earning 30 house points. Harry and Lily were presented with pen licenses which they are enjoying.



COMMUNITY

We had a visit from Nicky, a representative from the Community Bus Project, on Friday 27th January. She came to talk to the children about the new community bus ready to be launched for use in the dales. Our children came up with the slogan for the last bus which was 'Ring and Ride' which is displayed on the present bus. They wanted help from the children again to name the new bus. Do look out for 'Daffodil' as it travels around the dales in the near future. The children received a £10 book token for their efforts.

We had a visit from Martin Paul, a reporter from the Teesdale Mercury, just before Christmas. He has written a lovely article about the positives of being a small school. The article appeared in the Teesdale Mercury on January 18th. For anyone who didn't see it you can find it on our website.

We were pleased to support the Arkengarthdale Sports Association by providing the venue again for their annual domino drive which was held on February 10th. Lily Richardson came 2nd overall and won a hamper. George Harker came 1st out of the children, George Hird 2nd, Annabelle Hird 3rd and Emily Barningham 4th.

The Sports Association also organise the annual Sports Day held in June where they provide our children with the prizes for handwriting and artwork completed in school and also the races, crafts and baking. The bonfire night fireworks and sparklers are all provided by the Sports Association.

DIARY DATES

School opens Monday 27th February 2017

Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day—Children to wear/make a hat from a character in a book

Thursday 9th March—Cross country event at Catterick Race-course

Monday 13th March—Science week begins

Friday 24th March—Tales in the Tepee Easter 'Eggs' extravaganza—open to all 0—4 year olds. Please ring school 01748 884335 for further information

Wednesday 29th March—Parents' Evening—appointment letter to follow

After School Clubs will continue as usual with : Art Club Monday, Computer Club Tuesday, Ukulele Wednesday, and Sports Club on Thursday.

EVENTS

Photographic competition—All parents should all have received details about the competition which are also on our website. In view of this we are having three workshops in school for the children during the next half term. These will be run by Emma Moore, who is a staff member at RMS. She runs a photography club there and has kindly offered to come to school to inspire our children and show them her amazing portfolio.

16th February—STONE AGE MORNING: Rob Atkinson, outdoor specialist, from the Kingsway Centre, Middleton-in-Teesdale held a workshop in the wood. This included fire lighting and ancient cooking. Photo of children cooking bread after sampling meal worms & crickets!

