



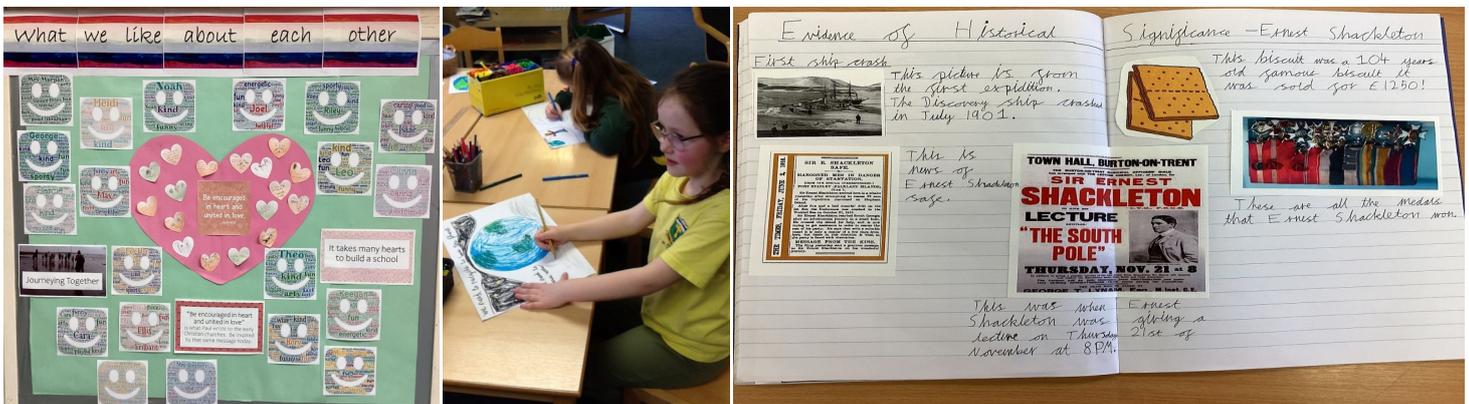
Website: <http://www.lowickholyislandschools.org.uk> Tel (01289)388268 E mail: Admin@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher : Mrs Rebecca Simpson rebecca.simpson@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

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We ended last week with a lovely creative arts afternoon inspired by the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon. The children were given a choice in creating their own dragons, choosing between clay modelling, card or paper crafts or drawing. We also learned about the story of The Great Race which explains the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac as well as watched examples of dragon dances. The children interviewed our school dragon and then had a go at some dragon dancing themselves. If you missed the video on our facebook or just want to see more photos please see our news pages on the website: https://www.lowickholyislandschools.org.uk/website/year_of_the_dragon/680982

This week we have been busy thinking about the different kinds of historical evidence, how useful it might be and what it can tell us. The children were interested and surprised to find out about a 104 year old biscuit left over from Shackleton's Nimrod expedition which sold for over £1000! Other, more ordinary, historical evidence included photos, objects from their expedition, newspaper articles from 1916 and Shackleton's medals. Older children have also thought about what the evidence can tell us about Shackleton's character. In fact we have been thinking about character a lot. In RE we have been thinking about Noah and the Ark and what kind of person Noah must have been. We also thought about each other and created a positive display of everyone's best qualities. We've turned those into word-art smiley faces and put them up on the wall to remind us of our best selves.



In Commando Joe's the children have been thinking about saving our planet and discussed the environmental changes that are happening. The children then individually designed a poster to communicate their views.

Technology upgrade

We are pleased to let you know that we are leasing a new set of ipads for school thanks to your fundraising efforts. This means that, after half term, the children will be able to access apps which were not able to run on our older models. The older models are being repurposed for Early Years use so they are still going to be used. We are looking forward to using them across the curriculum in different



For the Chinese new year, Olive made a delicious Chinese lunch. The Holy Island children also took some snacks back to Island.



Please contact us if you would like a table ...
£5 per table, table top sale/car boot style sale (no stallholders). We'll have refreshments and a small raffle so any donations would be greatly received. Also a chance to have a clear out!

Going primary update

As you know, we will be converting to a primary school from September 2025 when we keep our current year 3s into year 5. This is a big change and we are currently working with the local authority and other Berwick schools to plan accordingly. Some of the primary schools in the Alnwick partnership have kindly invited me to visit them and see how they managed the transition and developed their curriculum and wider offer so I will be visiting them over the next few months. Our aim is to keep all the positive things which make our first schools so special and successful and extend into upper key stage two. We do have an advantage in that both Mrs Stiansen and myself have worked in middle schools or primary schools previously. I worked in middle schools, teaching years 5 to 8, for 15 years so I have a good idea of what is involved with older children. In due course we will also be recruiting an upper key stage two (years 5 & 6) teacher as part of our transition to primary. Our other advantage is that we have the capacity in our buildings and grounds to make it work well.

We will be seeking parents and carer's views early in the next academic year as we want to make sure that we design a primary school offer that fits what everyone needs in our community.

Dates for your diary

Next week (from 19th February) is our half term holiday. School is closed for staff and pupils. Everyone is expected back to school on 26th February. **We hope you have a lovely half term holiday!**

Tuesday 27th February - International Polar Bear day. This will be our STEM / STEAM day for this term. We are planning work on combining work on creating news reports, films, collages, work on habitats and the environment as well as using our GPS tracker for 'Blitzberg' (our sponsored polar bear) for practical maths activities.

Thursday 29th February: Key Stage 1 (years 1 & 2) to have their postponed visit to Berwick Literary Festival puppet show at Berwick Guild-hall in the morning. They will be back in school for lunch as normal.

Week commencing 4th March; National Science Week. We will be joining live online lessons on Friday 8th March. We will have extra science sessions through this week with a focus on conservation.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day. Come to School dressed as a book character (Optional). We also have £1 book tokens for each child.

Friday 15th March - we are working with Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve (LNNR) and will be on Holy Island working on marine pollution and the issues around plastic and the environment. This also ties in with Greenpeace's **Big Plastic Count this week**. Children will need suitable **outdoor clothing and a packed lunch or grab & go** on this day. In the afternoon **at 1.30pm, we will be having an outdoor church service on Holy Island** on the theme of the environment. Everyone is welcome to join us - more information to follow nearer the time.

Monday 25th March - Year 4 transition event at Scremerston First School in the afternoon. They will be back by 3pm.

Tuesday 26th March - Easter experience for the children at Lowick Church. The children will move between stations to find out more about the story of Holy Week and Easter.

Friday 29th March: Good Friday bank holiday and first day of the Easter holidays. Everyone is back to school on Monday 15th April.