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22nd March 2019

We have had another busy but very rewarding week in school. The children have been working hard and contributing well to discussion and reasoning sessions. Our emphasis on reading is having a positive effect and the staff and I have noticed that the children are making great progress. Reading is the key to unlocking so much of the rest of the curriculum, so it is good that our children are developing greater fluency and comprehension skills. We don't forget that it is just as important for them to hopefully discover a love of reading for its own sake.

The 'Oceans Investigations' workshops were a great success. The next day the children were able to tell me all about why animals use slime. The children were also fascinated with the fossils of sea creatures (including dinosaurs) and learned a lot about animals of the sea and their environment.

Our St Cuthbert's Day celebration service on Holy Island was wonderful. It was thought provoking to think that we were standing on the beach which he walked on so long ago. The children read beautifully and contributed their own prayers for the environment. Our thanks go to Sarah (Vicar of St Mary's) and to Revd Rachel Poolman (Minister at the St Cuthbert's Centre) for leading the service. We must also express our appreciation to everyone who joined us for the celebration and made it so special.

The children have responded very well to our sensory approach to telling the story of Holy Week and Easter. We sought to engage all five senses through the story – including sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. We also charted the emotional ups and downs of the events over Holy Week and shared our ideas about different aspects or metaphors in the story. We will be doing follow up, and deepening work on Easter up until the end of this term. Next term we will be looking at other world faiths and focusing in depth on Hinduism.

In the meantime, please don't forget that children still need to wear PE clothes on Wednesdays as they are doing extended PE at the sports centre until the swimming pool is back in use.

Rebecca

National Marine Aquarium Workshops

We were delighted to welcome Dorinda Kealoha from the National Marine Aquarium North East this week. Linking with our animals and nature topic, Dorinda began with a Slimy Seas assembly. During this active session, the children learned that some under-sea animals produce slime to protect themselves from predators or to help them to move from place to place. There were some super actors present; we had limpets, a parrot fish and an octopus in the room!

Dorinda then led two exciting workshops. Fantastic Fossils saw the children become paleontologists - they used tools to reveal a fossilised plesiosaur which was hidden in sand and plaster. They were completely engaged and enjoyed finding the fossil skeleton and having a go at putting it back together. This was a great way to consolidate our fossil knowledge from last term.

Finally, the children became marine biologists as they took part in the Ocean Investigation workshop. There were examples of sea creatures for the children to identify and compare and they discovered where the creatures live and what they eat.

The children really enjoyed the afternoon and learned so much! Dorinda was very impressed with the level of knowledge and interest from the children.



Swimming Lessons

The repairs to the swimming pool at the Swan Centre are taking longer than expected so we don't think there will be any swimming lessons until after the Easter holidays. The children will continue to go and have cricket lessons in the sports hall on Wednesday afternoons.

Please can the children wear joggers and trainers, as usual, on a Wednesday for these sports sessions.

Red Nose Day

The fantastic amount of £50 was raised for Comic Relief by our own clothes day last Friday. Thank you to everyone for supporting our fund-raising for this very good cause.



Easter Lunch—5th April

Margaret will be serving an Easter Lunch after the Easter Service on the last day of term. Please complete and return the reply slip previously sent home if you would like to order an adult lunch. The cost for an adult meal is £5.00.

The Easter Service is at 10.30am at Lowick Church and the lunch is at 11.30am.



Spellings

Year 1 Using the split digraph u-e

Eg huge, brute, June, tube

Year 2 Suffixes ment, ness, less, and ly

If the suffix starts with a consonant, it is added to most root words without any change to the last letter

Eg enjoyment, sadness, playful, carefully

Year 3 Prefix irr

Most prefixes are added to the beginning of words without any change in spelling

Eg irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible

Easter Egg Hunt—29th March

We are having an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, starting at 2.00pm—there will also be eggs for parents to find so please do come along and join in!

The PTA will be serving tea, coffee and cake from 2.30pm.

Everyone Welcome.



Dates for your Diary

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| Thursday 28th March | Parents' Evening |
| Friday 29th March | Class 2 Hoopstarz Festival (morning) Easter Egg Hunt at 2.00pm + Refreshments at 2.30pm |
| Friday 4th April | Godly Play Session with Jo Simpson—the Mystery of Easter (morning) |
| Friday 5th April | Easter Service at Lowick Church—10.30am, followed by Easter Lunch at 11.30am School stops for Easter holidays |
| Monday 22nd April | Easter Monday Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 23rd April | School restarts |
| Tuesday 30th April | Whole School and Class Photos |
| Monday 6th May | Bank Holiday |
| Friday 24th May | School stops for half term week |