

# Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

## Spring 2016

### Dates for the diary

Easter holiday - break up on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March and return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

May half term holiday - break up on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May and return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June (Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May is a Teacher Training Day).

### Year 6 Maths Challenge - Polam Hall

Alycia, Andrew, Luke and Niamh represented the school in the local round of a national maths challenge.

Competing in a variety of team games, they excelled against 13 other schools and are now experts on the work of famous mathematician Emmy Noether.

### Eurovision

Earlier this month, Darlington primary schools took part in a Eurovision-style competition at the Civic Theatre. Each school sang songs from a different country, with Firthmoor Primary representing Israel.

Our wonderful choir not only sang brilliantly, but also did this in another language!

Our boys and girls sang Zum Gali Gali, which is in Hebrew, the official language of Israel.

We are very proud of them - as they say in Israel "kol ha kavok" (translated to 'congratulations').

### Young Writer

Congratulations to Kacey Hughes, who was the runner up in Royal Mail's letter writing competition.

Kacey applied for her 'dream job' and beat thousands of children from other schools.

Well done, Kacey!

### Top of the League!

Our Year 4 girls' football team were triumphant at the Darlington Football Festival held at Longfield School recently.

They returned home gold medal winners, having not conceded one goal in the whole tournament.

### Councillor visit

Councillor Lee visited school to talk to us in assembly about litter. He gave us the important message that we should never drop litter and, if we do, the effects it has on the environment are;

- Litter pollutes and spoils our favourite places.
- Litter kills thousands of animals each year.
- Litter costs over £1 billion every year to clean up.

### Groundwork Project

Some of our pupils are working with Youth Workers (from the company Groundworks) and the local Community Police, on fun projects within the Firthmoor area. The purpose of this is to encourage the children to look after their hometown and take ownership of the completed projects in the future. The projects are to include flower planting, new paths and fences, work on the nature reserve and improving play areas.

### Maths Vocabulary Work

Throughout the autumn term our assistant head teacher, Miss Murray led a project to improve children's mathematical vocabulary. She worked with children from Y2, 3, 4 and 5. Miss Murray analysed assessment tests to find out the vocabulary children struggle to understand. This helped her to set up some activities and assessments to aid children's learning. Miss Murray worked closely with teachers to ensure that class teaching linked with the project itself. All children made good progress. From the analysis, Miss Murray has identified specific vocabulary for the school to focus on this term, which will hopefully further improve children's mathematical ability.

### UK Bonus Round Maths

Ten Year 6 pupils entered the UK Primary Maths Challenge in November. As a high scorer nationally, Luke was invited to compete in a bonus round. We eagerly await publication of the results to see if he is a national winner.

### Visit to Oriental Museum Durham University

Classes 7&8 have been studying Ancient Egypt as part of their History topic. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, they will be visiting the Oriental Museum in Durham to see what life was like in Ancient Egyptian times. They will handle ancient artefacts and hear information about mummies and ancient x-rays, and witness an enactment of an Ancient Egyptian ceremony.

### Visit to Hardwick Park

As part of their topic on British animals and wildlife, classes 3&4 will be visiting Hardwick Park on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The children will be taking part in an animal detective workshop, fossil making and scavenger hunt to look for animals and their habitats.

### Visit to Thorpe Perrow Arboretum

The children in classes 5&6 will visit Thorpe Perrow Arboretum in Bedale on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, to support their studies about nature, which has had a particular focus on birds.

As well as seeing the many species of birds (including birds of prey), animals and wildlife at the arboretum, the children will have the opportunity to study the extensive display of different flowers, plants and trees there.

### Top attendance

Well done to 8PT (Mr Tunstall's class) for gaining the highest class attendance for last half term. They won £50 to spend as a class on a treat of their choice. Information on how they spent their prize money will be posted on our website. Keep an eye out at;  
[www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk](http://www.firthmoor.darlington.sch.uk)