

Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 2016

Dates for the diary

Please see the reverse of this newsletter for a reminder of important upcoming dates.

Roald Dahl Centenary Celebrations Workshops and Storytelling

In September 2016, we celebrated one hundred years since the birth of children's author, Roald Dahl.

In school, the children have read his classic books including *The BFG*, *The Enormous Crocodile* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and they also watched the stories in film to further enhance their enjoyment of the books they have read.

The children also spent a day with Roald Dahl storyteller Anthony Pedley. Mr Pedley had the children gripped with his animation and props as he told them the story of *The BFG*, theatre style.

In our reception area, we have a life-size model of Roald Dahl sitting writing stories in his armchair as well as a display of photographs of some of our pupils reading in their favourite places.

Visit to Murton Park - Danelaw Living History

The children in class 9 had a fantastic day when they visited this Yorkshire museum earlier this month. It was a superb opportunity for the children to extend their knowledge of the Roman Empire and gain a deeper understanding of the impact that the Romans had on their own lives and the lives of others. Throughout the day, the children gained first-hand experience of what living as a Roman was like, in the large outdoor classroom which was cunningly disguised as a Roman auxiliary fort! Parents were treated to a super assembly by class 9.

Toby Carvery Chef School

Following last year's great success, Toby Carvery Darlington is once again running its 'Chef School', which is a class that teaches the children about healthy diets and nutrition.

Mr Jefferies' class (class 7) had the highest attendance for the first half term, and as a reward, they will visit Toby Carvery on Yarm Road, to work with the Head Chef learning about the nutritional values of different foods and their effects on our diet. The morning will round off with lunch in the restaurant.

Book Fayre Success

Pupils, parents and staff alike enjoyed our first book fayre, which was held in September.

The support you gave was brilliant, and we intend to hold further sales because of the interest and enthusiasm shown by all.

A total of 260 pre-loved books and 173 new books were sold and all of the money raised will go towards buying new resources for our school library.

Please have a look at the display board adjacent to the nursery to see some photographs of the book fayre in 'full swing'.

Visit to Saltholme Nature Reserve

Earlier this month, as part of their studies on 'Living Things and Their Habitats', the children in classes 9 & 10 visited Saltholme RSPB nature reserve, the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

The reserve protects threatened birds and wildlife so that generations to come will continue to benefit from the beauty of nature in our towns, coast and countryside.

During their visit, the children took part in workshops, learning about various species and how they live, and they also had the opportunity to 'forage' the reserve looking for wildlife in their natural habitats.

Q.E. Student Mentoring

Some of our pupils have been working with Student Mentors from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College.

The main focus of the workshops has been Maths and Careers.

They have worked together on a number of activities to enhance the children's enjoyment of Maths, and also worked on projects designed to show the pupils the importance of further education to widen their career choices, as well as team-building activities to boost their confidence when meeting new people and when working in new situations.

Science visits to St. Aidan's

Year 6 pupils had a taster visit to St Aidan's science department where they learned about chemical & physical changes, and had the opportunity to do 'hands-on' tasks during a carousel of experiments. They were then invited to stay for lunch with the rest of the school.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff alike.