

Firthmoor Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term (1) 2020

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Upcoming Date Reminders

- Friday 14th February - Last day for children - finish at 3.05pm for Feb Half Term.
- Monday 24th February - Training Day for staff (no children in school).
- Tuesday 25th February - Children return to school at 8.55am (8.15am for Breakfast Club).
- Thursday 27th February - Y6 'Back Chat' brass band performance to Y6 Parents and Governors at 2.15pm in school hall - more details to follow.

Mayors Darlington Schools Song Contest

The fifteen children from Firthmoor Primary who have been entered into this year's Mayors Darlington Schools Song Contest, have been practising their song really hard over the past couple of months. They are perfecting a rendition of 'Under the Sea' from Disney's The Little Mermaid. The contest will be performed to a 'ticket only' audience at the Dolphin Centre at the end of February.



Visit to Grosvenor Park

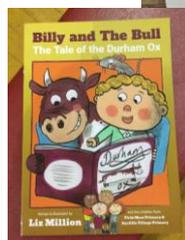
As part of their studies on local History, the children in Mrs Morrow's class recently paid a visit to Grosvenor Park Care Home, where they were fortunate enough to chat with some of the residents about how life on Firthmoor used to be when they were younger. The children were very interested to hear stories from the 'olden days' as the senior citizens reminisced about the changes in the town of Darlington including the development of the railways and how shopping has changed in the town over the decades.

Head of Steam and Museum by Me

Some children recently visited Head of Steam where they were joined by 'Museum by Me'. The children were asked to draw an object of choice which they felt was important to them. Some of the drawings will be recreated into print by professional print artist, Suzie Devey. The children have been invited back to Head of Steam of Sunday 16th February (during Half Term) to work with Suzie and see their drawings turned to print. These finished prints will then be displayed in an exhibition at Preston Park Museum for 3 weeks from Sunday 26th April until Sunday 17th May.

Liz Million - 'Billy and the Bull' The Tale of the Durham Ox

Liz Million recently returned to Firthmoor to launch her fantastic new book 'Billy and the Bull - The Tale of the Durham Ox'. The children involved joined Liz in the Hall where she demonstrated how the book was created, which included some of the children's drawings. Liz explained that she added text and colour to create the scenes in the book. Then she showed the children how she created the Durham Ox and rat. Finally, all the children received a copy of the book and Liz read the story to them, whilst they all enjoyed a slice of cake to celebrate! As the afternoon drew to a close, the children formed an orderly queue so that Liz could sign each and every copy. A brilliant time was had by all.



Lainey the Little Inventor

From 1200 entries all over the North East, only 15 inventions were selected; Lainey was one of the 15! Huge congratulations.....what a fabulous achievement! Recently, Lainey celebrated with the other 14 winners at Preston Park Museum. She met the Chief Executive of Little Inventors and the Mayor of Tees Valley Combined Authority. She was a little nervous being interviewed about her invention - The Sea Sweeper 1000 - but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Looking forward to the next stage of the process, Lainey will meet different designers, artists and manufacturers to discuss her invention with the prospect of making it real!



Best Wishes

This half term, Mrs Blagg, is commencing adoption leave to spend time with her new baby daughter. We wish Mrs Blagg and her family very best wishes for the future.

We also say goodbye to our colleague Mrs Naisbitt, a long standing member of the Teaching Support Team, who is taking retirement after over 20 years of dedicated service to the children of Firthmoor. Best wishes.

Ballet Lorent

We have been keeping you up to date on our work with dance company Ballet Lorent, and we are excited to tell you that we are almost at the point where we perform with them on stage at Darlington Hippodrome. The children involved have two rehearsals during half term, before they perform in front of a live audience on 22nd and 23rd February.

Sporting Events

Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics Festival

A team of nineteen children participated in the Y3/4 Sportshall Athletics Development Festival at the Dolphin Centre in January. The children had been practising the running and throwing events in PE lessons in the weeks leading up to the festival, and were very excited for the competition to start. All children had the opportunity to take part in two to four track and field events. The children demonstrated an amazing amount of passion, determination, team work and self-belief, which are some of the qualities we encourage them to demonstrate when taking part in PE and sporting activities. In total, nineteen schools took part in the event. Due to the computerised scoring system, we are still awaiting the results but whatever happens the children can be thoroughly proud of all their performances. Very well done!

Year 5/6 Darlington Sportshall Athletics

A team of 18 girls and boys from year 5 and 6 took part in a Sportshall Athletics competition at Wyvern Academy in Darlington. The children took part in various track and field events which included different obstacle races and field events such as javelin, vertical jump, standing long jump, standing triple jump, chest push and speed bounce. The team worked extremely well together throughout the event and encouraged each other to do well. The team also showed certain qualities such as passion and a great determination to win. The event started with all the obstacle races, followed by the field events and finishing with the running relays. Ellis and Lincoln did extremely well in the Parlauf running event, where they won by a considerable amount. The girls 4 by 4 relay ran well with good teamwork to get the 1st place win. Overall Firthmoor Primary school qualified for the town final at which they finished in 8th place.

Year 5/6 Boys' Football Festival

Firthmoor's boys football team took part in the under 11 football tournament at Eastbourne Sport Complex recently. The team played against 17 other Darlington schools with great determination and spirit and achieved a brilliant 8th place finish. Ms Lacey, their manager, who trains with the boys every Thursday after school, was very proud of their sportsmanship and overall performance. Well done boys!



Year 5/6 Benchball

A team of children from Years 5 and 6 will visit St Aidan's soon to take part in a Benchball festival. This is one of several sporting events we will have taken part in at St Aidan's, all of which are arranged by their Head of PE, Mr Goodwin. The festivals are a fantastic way of building relationships between the primary schools and St Aidan's Academy, bringing children of differing backgrounds together and teaching them the importance of having tolerance and respect for their peers, as well as having a great deal of fun along the way!

Playground Starz

28 children from years 3, 4 and 5 were chosen to work with Playground Starz. They learnt how to play and then lead games that can inspire other children to be active at playtimes, as we are trying to encourage all children to be active for at least 60 minutes a day.

Dance coaching

Children in Mrs Coad's and Miss Heslop's classes have had the opportunity to work with a dance coach over a 5-week period. The children, along with their teachers have been developing dance sequences to pieces of music, with the theme being 'cats'. They have explored how they move and interact and the children's dances reflect the animals' habits and behaviours.

In2 Project - 'Back Chat' Brass Band

As part of their work with the In2 Project, our Year 6 pupils have been working on a performance with 'Back Chat' Brass Band for the past 7 weeks.

Over the 7-week period, they have learned how to play a wide range of instruments, and they have thoroughly enjoyed it!

On Thursday 27th February, they will perform for parents, governors and other stakeholders for 45 minutes in the school hall from 2.15pm.

More details to follow after Half Term.

PACT (Police and Communities Together)

Durham Constabulary are organising monthly 'pop-up' PACT meetings in differing locations for residents to discuss issues and concerns with local police. The first one, held at Firthmoor Community Centre last Thursday was a great success. Contact a member of the policing team at the Firthmoor Police Station on Burndide Road for information on further PACT meeting locations.

They will also be organising quarterly 'Super PACT' meetings, all of which will be held at Firthmoor Community Centre - the first meeting being Thursday 19th March from 6.30-8.30pm.