



INSPIRE NURTURE BELIEVE ACHIEVE
*Working **together** to be the **best** that we can be.*

Happiness

Perserverance

Resilience

Kindness

Friendship

Respect

23.7.21

Re: Summer Newsletter and Staffing Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it! The Summer holidays are within reaching distance and what an incredible year it has been. It has been hands-on in school, and our staff have adapted to many different roles this year – all of which they have had to do simultaneously. There have been some disappointing times and missed opportunities for the children due to restrictions and staffing availability.

However, there have also been some **amazing** times - a school full of laughter and happiness, the sound of the children's exuberant chatter upon their return to from home-schooling, and a team of staff who have worked relentlessly to adapt to teaching children at home and in school simultaneously. What we have to show for a year of schooling in a pandemic is a website full of incredible learning opportunities that **HAVE** happened if you wish to take a look.

The Summer Term has been full of excitement!

Willow Class wrote and performed a Battle Cry related to the Anglo Saxon and Viking struggles and recorded their passionate speeches to 'rally their army'. Their artwork has been incredible – from intricate Viking Crosses to incredible watercolour Artwork linked to the story 'At the Mountain's Base' by Traci Sorrell and accompanied it by writing their own wish for peace. Part of a prayer from one child was:



*Great Ancestors,
Hear my plea. Keep my family safe from danger. They are locked away in my soul. So much devastation; destruction needs to stop for the good of all. All I want is peace.'*



Silver Birch delved into the Industrial Revolution, exploring the changes over time in Leeds, and experiencing a day as a child from the Victorian era. They worked in chalk on a blackboard. Their teacher was very stern and serious that day and they had to stand up respectfully every time an adult entered the room. In the afternoon, they learned about children who worked in factories and the pressures they would face.

They explored the life of Nelson Mandela and Ada Lovelace as inspirational people and also ventured back to Egyptian times, mummifying a tomato and carefully removing the 'organs' from inside.

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Our youngest children in **Cherry Blossom** ventured back to the late Edwardian era to launch their learning about Transport through time.

Everyone came to school dressed as a passenger, ready to travel to New York. The children had to show their boarding pass (which had been posted to them at home) to Captain Smith (played by Miss Bartlett) before being placed on the boat according to which class they were in - 1st, 2nd or 3rd. They enjoyed a virtual tour of the ship once 'on board', ate an Edwardian snack (a jam tart) and played Edwardian lawn games during P.E.

In class, their themed activities included investigating a ship in a bottle, constructing the Titanic outside, loose parts eg, pasta, beads and lentils) transport pictures and creating the Titanic a la carte restaurant during role play.

This half term they have explored the Geography of the coast and enjoyed a Beach in the classroom!



Arts and Other Faiths Week:



Each class has been looking at a different religion and exploring that religion through Art and stories. It has been impacted slightly because of the various bubbles isolating, however, they children have produced some excellent work and learn a lot of new knowledge. Willow who have remained in school have learnt about Judaism and created some beautiful Hamsa Hands.

Thank you to the PTFA for supporting school with this project and the other enrichment activities: Bikeability and Pottery. The children have thoroughly enjoyed them!



Staffing for 2020-21

Following the latest guidance on maternity shielding, which was released late this week, we have had to make some staffing adjustments.

Cherry Blossom –
Miss Bartlett and Mrs Johnson-Ware

Silver Birch –

Miss Thomson will be the school-based Class Teacher from September. I have had lots of meetings with Miss Gimeno this week – she is doing well and eager to be working with us but in the safest way possible for her. Following the guidance, Miss Gimeno will work from home delivering interventions and carrying out other tasks until her maternity commences.

Willow –

Mrs Fitzpatrick

The teachers have all completed their handover meetings ready for September.

Teaching Assistants

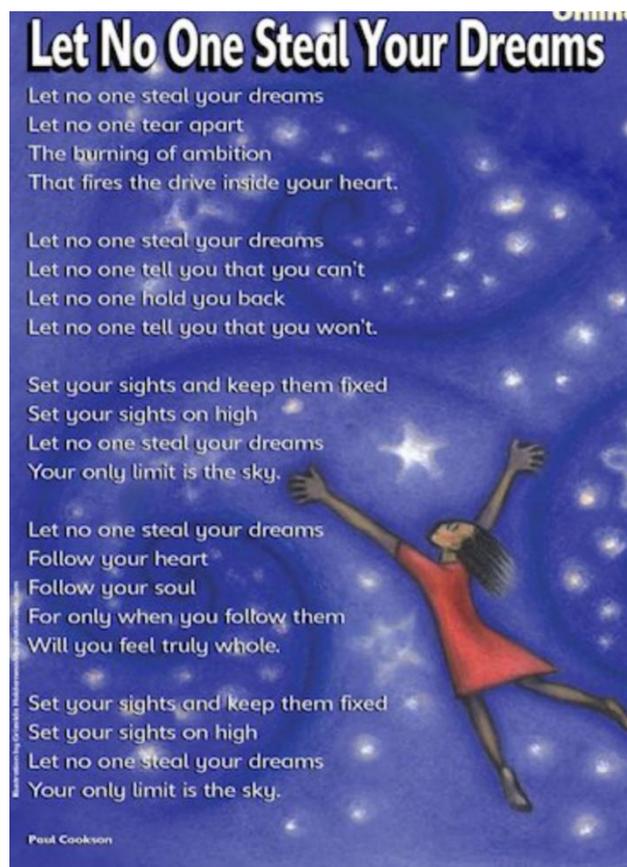
This year, we will deploy our fantastic support staff across classes to ensure that the legal requirements of SEND support and other interventions are fulfilled. This is great news for staff and pupils – the children have lots of friendly faces to help them with their work and the adults have lots of opportunities to make an impact on our children, and to have a varied work life.

Miss Fielding will mostly be based in Silver Birch but she will work across the classes.

Miss Kirby, our latest appointment, will mostly be based in Willow but she will work across the classes.

Miss Mason (Mrs Thompson!) will finish her NQT year by **covering a Maternity Class at Goldsborough**. This was due to be from October half term but following the Maternity Shielding Guidance this must now commence from September. She will still be at **Sicklinghall** on a Friday. We will recruit to cover her additional TA hours in September.

Year 6 Leavers:



I am sure that they will remember their self-penned A-Z of Sicklinghall Community Primary School for the rest of their lives. They have made us so proud this year – they have each grown in self-belief and become the young people who are now so clearly ready to navigate their high school journey. This is thanks to the whole school team, but it is a result of the expert daily guidance and patience given to the children by the Willow staff members.

These children will be read about in history books in years to come. Rather than a subheading about 'Life in the Victorian Era', future generations will ask: 'What was school like for children during the Covid Pandemic?'

Their memories are priceless - I am sure that they will look back and appreciate all that they achieved and all they enjoyed in spite of the challenges they faced. Lots of them simply summarised when discussing it with us that being back with their classmates and teachers was the best thing after being away from their friends and Teachers for so long.



Good Luck Year 6 – you are all superstars!

I know that this year hasn't been all that we hoped it would be but I am so proud to be the Headteacher at our school, and across the federation, more so than ever after witnessing the dedication to the children's learning that has been displayed from the staff members in school during the pandemic.

Considering the impact of the pandemic, it is remarkable that we have only had to close 'bubbles' twice. We have been fortunate to enjoy spending most of our time with the children in person. The staff have adapted so quickly to every demand that has been placed upon them. The regular support sent in via countless emails from parents has really made the world of difference, so thank you to each and every one of you for being the boost we have needed to keep going. Thank you for taking the time to share your appreciation when behind the scenes it has continued to be incredibly busy, even up to yesterday – one day before the end of term - when I was dealing with staff needing to isolate at both schools.

We wish you a happy summer and look forward to a more 'normal' term in the autumn... hopefully!

Be prepared for possible last-minute updates from the government that we need to share without much notice.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Settings only needed to do contact tracing up to and including 18 July. Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Under-18s identified by NHS Test and Trace as close contacts will continue to be asked to self-isolate for 10 days up until August 16 by Test and Trace, when the rules will change.

From August 16 onwards, pupils under 18 identified as close contact will not need to isolate and instead will be advised to take a PCR test.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/test-results/help-the-nhs-alert-your-close-contacts-if-you-test-positive/>

We aim to be back to regular school time for all classes: 8:50am – 3:30pm. The playground will be open from 8:40am but children are the responsibility of parents until the teachers come out just before 8:50am ready to ring the bell.

The first two days are training days, so we will see you on **Wednesday 8th September**, fresh-faced, well-rested and ready for the exciting academic year we have planned. Please refer to the website for any upcoming dates <https://www.sicklinghallprimary.co.uk/calendar> subject to change sorry for any inconvenience.

I cannot wait to be able to mix with all families, from all year groups, on the playground once more! How novel even the smallest things will feel.

With very best wishes,

Miss Pickard
Headteacher