

# Newsletter

10.2.2023



Menu Week 1 – W/B 20.02.2023

**My highlight of the week ...** is unquestionably the Y6 visit for a week of outdoor education to Bewerley Park in the Yorkshire Dales. From the moment they arrived for an early start, slightly delayed because of many large cases (lots of spare clothes) and a slightly smaller coach boot than expected, to the re-packing at the end (much more rapid) the children have been amazing. They have been a credit to their families, the school and have been a perfect example that children can apply all their learning to situations that most have never experienced before.

I have been able to witness this first hand on two days this week. However, Mrs Buttery, who has led the visit, summed up the thoughts of all the school adults perfectly on Thursday evening: 'Some very tired children and adults but it's been a privilege to spend a week with them using the outdoors to facilitate so much more than physical skills. Their growth emotionally with resilience and determination to succeed, the setting of self-challenges and ensuring they support and celebrate their own and others' achievements, and the social bonding, has been immense. An immeasurable experience from which memories will last a lifetime.'

Please check the news on the school website for further details of the week. The Year 6s will continue this learning back in school. My thanks to Mrs Buttery, Miss Watkin, Miss Blakeley, Mrs Gortzak, Miss Castleton, Mrs Allenby, Mrs Lok and Miss Massender for their work at Bewerley, to Mrs Price, Mrs Bland, Mrs Moss, Mrs Sweet, Mrs Wardman, Mrs Castleton and Mrs Bates for their advance preparation and to all parents who enabled their children to attend and a special mention to Mr Draper for helping me get the cases on to the coach. I must also thank the governors who have shown their commitment to subsidising the visit as they know the value to the children's all-round education.

## Other news:

- Year 5 have done great work taking over from the Year 6's jobs while their older peers have been away. Our lunchtime supervisors have been full of praise.
- The Year 5s also ran a very well-received Mayan museum for Year 4 children. They shared their history learning, their art and design skills and their home learning. It was a slightly tense experience in the early part of the week seeing home-constructed artefacts being carried into school. I must single out Bradley who skilfully explained to me the chronology of the Mayan civilisation.
- Next half term, there is further potential disruption due to industrial action by the National Education Union on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February. I will give as much notice as possible about the impact of this.
- School opens again on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February. Please remember, school is closed on Shrove Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup> February) for a training day.
- Year 1 are preparing to welcome parents into school on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow on the parent app.
- We wish Mrs Bates well as she starts her maternity leave. Look out for updates.

**And finally ...** Our assembly themes this week have been related to National Children's Mental Health Week. We have shared ways of doing our 'Five a day' (connect; be active; take notice; give; keep learning) every day. I hope you all can do some of these together over the half term break.

*Best wishes, Paul Davidson Interim Headteacher*



**Working to learn together**