



NEWSLETTER

28.05.21



Message from Mrs Hird

Thank you, as always, for all your support this half term. I am sure you will agree that there have been lots of exciting experiences in school, including chicks, cycling, gardening, signing, African art and much more besides. After half term, our swimming lessons will begin, which I know the children are looking forward to, and there will be lots of other activities including a visit to Blakey Ridge, transition events and our end of year celebrations (details of which will be provided later in the term, once we know what the latest COVID restrictions will allow).

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable break and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 7th June.

Mrs Hird

Update from joint governing body of Castleton, Glaisdale & Lealholm Schools

We hope this newsletter finds you and your families all safe and well. We have reached the end of another half term and are very happy that it has been one without any Covid closures! It has been fantastic to see and hear about everything that has been going on across our three schools this half term – hedgehog releases, cycling, photography, Polyfilla artwork, hatching chicks, tree hunting, number days, trips to the river, moors and forest – the list goes on! As always, we would like to extend a huge thank you to the fantastic staff team who work so hard to make all of these experiences possible for our children – we hope you all have a well-deserved, restful break over half term. We would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Nick Tindall on to the governing body who, as you may know, has recently been appointed as the parent governor for Glaisdale School.

In April, the governing body spent a day with the headteachers and together reviewed and discussed the visions and development plans for our three schools. The basis for this exercise came from information and views collated from stakeholders across the three schools and it was very interesting to see the unique qualities and strengths of each of the three individual schools come across so clearly. We particularly enjoyed some of the suggestions from the children about what they would like to see in school – we will leave it to Mrs Ward and Mrs Hird to see whether school llamas and hot tubs can be factored into future plans! Llamas aside, we are very much looking forward to seeing the plans put in to place which will keep our schools moving forward and continuing to thrive so as to offer the very best possible education and opportunities for our children.

Attendance: This week's attendance was **96.70%**, so just below our target of at least **97%**.

Breakfast Club ("Early Birds") News

It has been a busy half term for our Early Birds. Some of our activities have included fabric painting, bean bag cricket and crafts. Weather permitting, we now go outside to play after having breakfast. We aim to provide a structured environment which allows the children to lead through their own play and imagination.

We provide a selection of breakfast choices, including "Pancake Thursday."

We have more fun activities and time outside planned for next half term.

As the national restrictions are gradually lifting, many of you may be returning to work or enjoying a trip out. If you need an early start, remember that you can book your child into breakfast club any day of the week, either as a regular booking or a one-off, even at short notice. The club runs from 8am every day, including breakfast, or you could book them in for a little later at 8.30am (without breakfast). Please contact Mrs Blacklock if you wish to book a place.



News from the Classes

This week in *Acorn* class we have been watching the hatched chicks as they grow bigger and stronger. We had the opportunity to handle them carefully on Monday and observe them really closely. They have now been returned to Georgina and we will miss them very much, but we are very grateful for the opportunity to look after them and are glad that they will have the opportunity to have more space outside.

In Maths, we have completed the units on position and direction with flying colours. Y1 have moved onto partitioning numbers and Y2 have moved onto time. Reception have been looking at the wonderful maths story books that we have recently purchased and have looking at doubling numbers.

In English, we had a look at another Anansi story from Ghana. Up to his old tricks, Anasi was not a good friend to Turtle when he should have been. He regrets it though when Turtle manages to teach him a lesson!

We completed our studies on Africa and Kenya by looking at the similarities and differences between children's experiences and schooling here and there. It has been a fascinating topic that the children have really embraced and has spread across all areas of the curriculum. In RE we considered the importance of holy books to different religions and looked more closely at the Torah, which we discovered was actually a rather long scroll!

We have completed our unit of gymnastics which was great fun and we look forward to starting swimming lessons after half term. Don't forget your swimming kits and to wear a school uniform that is easy to put on by yourself!

We managed to dodge the rainfall on Wednesday by rescheduling our Forest School session for the afternoon. A slightly shorter session was definitely a good trade for staying dry.

This week's **Star of the week** is **Emily** for working so hard in everything that she does, but particularly in English this week. Her writing on Monday used so many different writing techniques, it was really, very impressive. Well done Emily!



The *Oaks* this week have been working hard in Maths with the Y5/6 children getting to grips with line graphs by reading, interpreting and drawing them. The Y4 children have continued to delve into decimals and Y3 have been mastering mass by reading scales, comparing and solving problems about weight.

In English, the children have looked at synonyms and finding out alternative words that mean the same thing. They have also begun to look at dilemmas: what they are, what decisions may be made and how people may feel during the decision-making process. They have planned a dilemma story following some feature spotting in a model dilemma text.

Our highlight this week has to be our visiting chicks from the Acorn class. We loved holding them, looking closely at them and handling them carefully.



The **Oak 2 Stars of the Week** are:
Lauren for having a positive attitude to “give things a go” and doing well too!
Toby for brilliant effort and progress in his spellings.



Internet Safety Top Tip

Please see the link below to set parent controls and information on privacy settings for **Disney+** to ensure safety while your children are using this app.

[Disney+ Parental Controls and Privacy Settings | Safer Internet Centre](#)



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Outdoor Education Training



The teachers and teaching assistants from Castleton, Glaisdale and Lealholm schools came together this week for an outdoor training session. We worked in teams to try our hand at a range of activities, all linked to how we can embed use of the outdoors across the full range of curriculum areas. This included developing our English skills through a 'bananagram' competition, looking at colour, pattern and symmetry with natural art activities, and trying our hand at fire lighting. We will be incorporating our learning from the session into our lessons and are looking forward to our next training session later in the term.



African Celebration - Invitation to Acorn Parents on Friday, 11th June, 2.45pm

To celebrate the end of such a lovely topic all about the country of Kenya, the children and staff of the Acorn class would like to invite up to 2 adults per child (toddlers can be extra) to attend a small, socially distanced African themed sharing session outside. This will also mark the end of the children's Arts Award Discover journey which they have been working on for several weeks. Please could we ask that adults wear a mask, unless exempt. Please join us on the Acorn playground on Friday, 11th June at 2.45pm.

PE next Half Term

One of our PE sessions will be swimming on Monday (please remember to bring swimming kits and wear uniform clothes "easy" for changing!) The other will be with Lewis on Thursday morning when Acorns should come in their PE kit but bring uniform with them to change into. Oaks should come in uniform and bring PE kit with them.

Week commencing Monday, 7th June

Please note that Signing Club will be on Wednesday after school for this week only.

Monday	Return to School Music Lessons with Alix Lillie (morning). Swimming at Whitby, afternoon. Choir after school. Finish time 4.15pm.
Tuesday	Photographer in for individual and group photos, morning.
Wednesday	All pupils Outdoor learning. Children can come to school dressed in appropriate clothing. Gardening after school (Oaks). Finish time 4.30pm. "Signing" after school. Finish 4.15pm.
Thursday	PE for all pupils.
Friday	Music Lessons with Alix Lillie (afternoon). African Celebration , Acorn Parents, 2.45pm.