



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
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Blackfriars Bulletin

Volume 9 Issue 8



As the half term draws to a close, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support. The spring term is never an easy one with dark nights and even darker mornings plus snow and strikes to contend with but we have rallied as a school community and come together to experience some fabulous learning moments.

My favourite assemblies are those where each class has the opportunity to tell the rest of the school how they have engaged with the school anchor – this term it is Celebration. Monday's assembly got off to a great start with Clarice leading the way and everyone dancing to Kool and The Gang's 'Celebration Time'. We were then treated to an array of recounts exploring how classes have learnt about celebratory food and cooked examples such as Colcannon for St Patrick's Day. Several classes have been finding out about Chinese New Year and Dudson showed us their decorated Dragon and Bridgewater shared that it was the Year of the Rabbit – very appropriate for the class that look after our rabbits – Bridget and Emma!



It is also a real pleasure when your students take the opportunity to instruct not only the rest of the pupils but also the staff on interesting historical facts. Oli in Portmeirion informed us all about The Great Exhibition in 1851 celebrating the finest of Britain and we learnt all about the Koh-I- Noor diamond. We think Buckingham Palace must have been listening because shortly afterwards this week an announcement was made about the diamond and the crown that the Queen Consort will wear at the Coronation! Well done Oli.

You will see in the following articles that staff have been busy getting the students into the community to experience all sorts of different activities:

Mr O'Connor has been busy this half term. Three groups have been representing the school in N.S.S.S.A. competitions over the past half term. For us as a school, winning is nice but it is more about the experiences, socialisation and fun, that these days give to our students. They represent, us as a school and you as parents/carers, they do it with immense PRIDE, exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship. To say we are immensely proud of them all would be a massive understatement. We have taken part in a football competition at Fenton Manor, competing with 9 other teams from different schools. We took a mixed team of girls and boys and they equipped themselves really well. The group only lost one game throughout the competition and showed skill and tactical awareness that we have been building in our Invasion games unit of work. Well done all of you!!



Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response:
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team:
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding Referral Numbers:

Staffordshire: First Response -
0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care -
0800 561 0015



Our next competition was a new one for us, Table Cricket. Moorcroft have been lucky enough to have a Cricket Coach, Steve, visit us for their lesson and he invited us to go and play in a tournament at Stoke College. We took the whole class and they were awesome. Not only at cricket but using their communication and social skills whilst playing against five other schools.



Every single one of the students were amazing, we were bursting with pride and still are days after.



Our next group to represent the school was Clarice. Not so much a competition but an experience of being out as a group, mixing and socialising with four other groups of complex needs students from other schools and having the best time. They were due to play two games and every single student took part and it was so wonderful to see their independence and tolerance of assisted movements to allow them to take a full and active part.



A massive thank you to all the awesome staff who allow these days to take place, you make them the best days!

Railway Club have settled into their new home in the PFA room and we now have the new lay out as well, donated by Bob Badderley's family. Come down to railway club on Wednesday between 12:15 and 1pm. It is a very busy and active club and everyone is welcome. Also we are very pleased to run your own rolling stock if you would like to bring it from home. We have trips planned, including (hopefully) a visit to Crewe. This months Bob Badderley Railway Engineer of the month is Alex in Gladstone for his outstanding help in supporting our club members, well done Alex.



It was lovely to welcome so many grandparents into our school last week – we were a bit out of practise because this was our first 'Grandparents Lunch' since Covid but we soon got everyone settled in to enjoy Naomi's roast chicken dinner. A great time was had by all.





This half-term has seen Clarice adventure out into the community and experience a variety of locations and multiple surroundings. We explored through our senses to look at, smell, feel and listen familiar and unfamiliar things. We experienced opportunities to work towards Preparation for Adulthood targets and enjoyed social interactions with new people. We ventured to Hartington, went ice-skating, went to a wonderful Asian supermarket called Cheerful Links, had a blast bowling and also had the opportunity to explore a Church! Additionally, Clarice have done lots of walking to get steps in as we have embraced the challenge of 30miles (walking) to fund raise for our residential trip to Bendrigg.



Moorcroft have enjoyed our community trips out this half term – we have been to Morrisons café and the library. We developed our confidence when interacting to exchange money to buy snacks and drinks. Everyone will continue to work on this skill after half term in our Money topic in Maths. The trip to the library was brilliant! We listened to and took part in a Bag Books story called 'What am I?' – it turns out we are all just us, human beings!



We finish school tonight, Thursday 16th February. We hope that you all have an enjoyable half term holiday. Please send in your children refreshed and raring to go on Monday 27th February 2023.



Diary Dates:

27th Feb – Return to school

1st March – Strike Day – partial closure – please see separate letter

Friday 3rd March – Sparkle Day in aid of 'Newlife Charity' Please send your child in wearing sparkles with a £1 donation

Advance warning – 2 further strike days are planned for 15th and 16th March – details to follow

1st – Parent Consultation about Post 16 provision - Tues 21st at 10am & Weds 22nd at 6pm

Scholars of the Week

Lucy from Churchill has been nominated for Scholar of the week for working extremely hard in her 1:1 English interventions to decode unfamiliar words instead of guessing. In this week's lessons Lucy concentrated extremely hard, keeping focused and sounding out words she didn't know.

Caitlyn from Portmeirion has been nominated for her commitment to frame running which has resulted in her being nominated for consideration for the World Championships. Take a look at our blog on the website following Caitlyn's progress.

Also from Portmeirion are nominations for **Rebecca W** - she confidently gave visitors a tour of the school and has developed in confidence, quietly working diligently and increasingly taking the lead in group work and **Danny** for his work in English lessons, being engaged and enthusiastic about the book Holes.

Get Social!

