



Hillcrest School Spring Newsletter 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this term. It really does make a difference when we work together to get better outcomes for our lovely young people.

This term we have continued to develop our outdoor learning space. Our garden area with a greenhouse is almost complete, the yurt was erected last week and the garden area by the bungalow is coming along nicely, with the support of the project we are doing with Kirkley Hall.

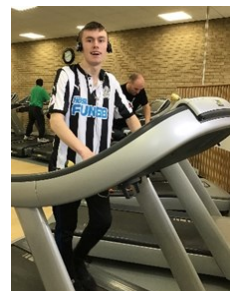


Like many schools we are facing budget cuts so we are looking for ways of saving money. Sending out a letter to all parents/carers second class costs a huge £54.90. With this in mind, we are requesting an email contact, if you have one, so that we can make a significant saving by sending out information via email. Included is a flyer for you to fill in and return after the Easter break.

Have a great break. We look forward to the summer term starting Tuesday 23rd April.

6th Form

The 6th Form have been working hard at the gym this term. We have really enjoyed learning how to use all of the equipment and getting fit. We have been exploring options for when we leave Hillcrest and had a great trip to Azure garden centre where we found out about all of the great work that they do there. As always, Morag the therapy dog has been great fun to be around every Friday. She even helps to choose our full attendance winner!



Class SW

Class SW have been looking at Convenience foods and following instructions.

We made our own convenience products independently by following the instructions on the pack.



Class SF

Class SF have had a fantastic term. We have loved learning about Ancient Egypt. We made a model of the Nile, with pyramids and shadufs. We mummified apples for Science and we have enjoyed lots of crafts, particularly making ourselves look like pharaohs. We enjoyed our second play day, made a video about the play we do and had a visit from Shelby the tortoise. We loved making pancakes in the bungalow, visiting the Tim Lamb centre and having adventures in Plessey woods. The weather has been nicer so we have taken part in lots more outdoor learning. We have laughed so much and we have worked really hard. We look forward to lots more adventures and fun learning next term.



Class LD

Class LD enjoyed a trip out to Bill Quay Farm and Newcastle Dog and Cat Shelter as part of their ASDAN Animal Care Course. Students investigated which animals were kept at the farm and reported on this in the form of a video blog. The visit to the animal shelter also supported their Duke of Edinburgh Award in which they are running a school tuck shop to raise money to support the shelter.

Class SK

Class SK have had a brilliant term! Everyone has worked so hard and achieved so much. Evie officially opened our new school library and made the papers! Everyone in the class had a part to play in the opening and we love visiting our newly refurbished library- it really is so lovely to see young people enjoying their reading so much! Our trip to Tynemouth was a great day out. The whole class behaved beautifully and were real ambassadors for our school. The chips were lovely too! We look forward to having many more adventures in the summer term, so fingers crossed for good weather. We are all very proud of our students in team SK and we're looking forward to enjoying our last term together.



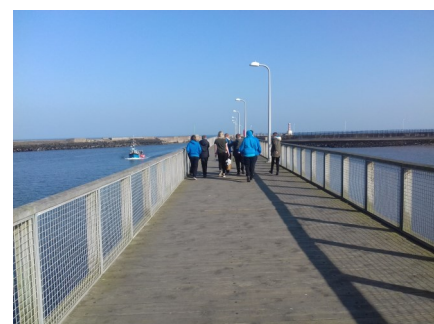
Class DM

During this term, Class DM have done some outstanding work. We have focussed on Dinosaurs and Stig of the Dump. All of the children have produced some amazing nonsense poems all about Stig in the Dump! We spent a lot of time this term focusing on making our classroom a happy space and this led to the idea of painting our classroom windows with a dinosaur theme. This activity was greatly enjoyed and looked incredible once finished! Well done to Class DM for a brilliant term.



Class HS

Class HS enjoyed an educational trip to Barter Books in Alnwick, then a play at the park and the chippy at Amble, we had lots of fun! We walked through the bookshop and looked at the different kinds of trains moving around the building. We played within the play area at Barter books and purchased various books, DVD's and CD's that we wanted. We then went back on the minibus and sang Elvis songs all the way down to Amble, where we had to share our lunch with the seagulls (we had no choice). We then walked around the harbour to the play park where we all joined in and played various games. We look forward to next term together!



Class NB

This half term has been a very artistic one in Form NB. We have written some poetry in art, pieces which are gallery worthy! We have had lots of fun researching the history of music and researched the wonderful 90's (and 70's) and built on our confidence by presenting our findings to the class. In the final week we have pulled together our new found artistic, poetry and music abilities by storyboarding an urban music video to be filmed in the heart of Newcastle and researching current artists for another presentation. In Forest School, we have built on our independence by working in pairs to build a Forest home, light a fire, cook a dish and make a hot drink all without the teachers help, we have done brilliantly and there is even talk of a Forest feast and three course meals in the next term! Our culture and community work was based selfishly on our school family this half term. We have used the moments of better weather to help prepare our community garden for an outdoor learning space and build on our social skills in helping each other with our emotions, friendships and developing our practical skills work.



Class JP

Class JP has had a brilliant term! We have all worked hard and shared many laughs together.

We enjoyed learning about levers, pulleys, gears and magnets in science. It was a real hands on topic that everyone got stuck into. In literacy we had fun doing instructional text. It was really funny telling Mrs Patterson how to make a Vegemite sandwich while she was blindfolded. Everybody worked hard during maths this term. Some of us conducted statistical investigations, while others processed data to solve a criminal investigation.

One of our highlights has been putting on a carwash to raise money for litter pickers for our school. We care about our environment and want to look after it better. The Discovery Museum was really interesting. We liked seeing the model boats and ships as well as participating in some hands on science experiments.



Class RA

Class RA have had some great visits out this half term, linked in with our Horticultural Qualification for our ASDAN Animal Care qualification. On Friday 29th March we went to Bill Quay Community Farm as part of our ASDAN Qualification. It is a community farm and is run by a charity and public donations. The students loved all the different farm animals, there were sheep, lambs, pigs, chickens, rabbits, goats, guinea pigs and piglets. The students thoroughly enjoyed looking at the different animals and taking photos and videos as part of their challenge. We even had a vlog taken by Lennox to document our visit for others! One of the ladies who worked there introduced us to Stan the lamb, he was 3 weeks old and a real hit with all of our students and staff. We nearly brought him back to school!

