



Unsworth
Primary School

Newsletter

February 2019

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Spring Term

I have really enjoyed returning to Unsworth full-time after my secondment at Radcliffe Hall for the last two terms. It has been a pleasure to come back into school and see the positive learning opportunities our children are experiencing. I would like to thank the whole team for the hard work they have put in during my absence.



As we move through this term, I am working hard with our governors and the leaders from our partner schools, Elms Bank and Broad Oak to put all the structures in place to form our multi-academy trust, Oak Learning Partnership. We are still working towards an April conversion date. Mrs Reynolds.

The Best Practice with Teaching Assistant Awards

We are very proud of the work of our teaching assistants. They take on a wide range of roles to support our children, support our teachers and support our school. Over the last 18 months we have been working towards achieving the Best Practice with Teaching Assistants Award. We will be having an external verification visit towards the end of April in order to judge whether we have achieved the award.

Through a process of self-evaluation, action planning and evidence collection, we have been discovering ways to support the work of teaching assistants, maximising their impact to benefit the whole school. This process has allowed us to evaluate how well we are working with our TAs in order to support our pupils' learning and well-being. We are looking forward to showcasing their work with our external verifier in April.

Safer Internet Day 2019

Across school all the children took part in Safer Internet Day activities to think about how they use the Internet and the types of permissions needed to access different games and sites. There is a great online resource from the NSPCC called Netaware that you can use to check social networks and games to see if they are appropriate. You simply go to www.net-aware.org.uk and type in the name of the game/site. It then gives you an information sheet with up to date reviews, comments and considerations

Whole School Enquiry

Our next whole school enquiry runs from 25th February to 8th March and is entitled 'How can technology be used to promote healthy lifestyles?' The aims of the enquiry are to promote healthy and active lifestyles and to understand how technology and exercise can be used to promote a healthy mind. At the end of the enquiry each class will make their own iMovie to showcase their understanding of being healthy and happy.



Class News



February has started with **Reception** learning all about Chinese New Year. The children have been singing celebration songs with Miss Geelan and in class, have created lanterns and dragons in our craft area. We are continuing to develop our phonic knowledge, and there are lots of opportunities for the children to apply this in reading and writing in class.

The resources that have been sent home will secure your child's recognition of the different letters and sounds. It is lovely to see the observations you are sending in of your children reading and writing at home, thank you! Miss Ashton.

Year 1 have had great fun in the outdoors during our forest school sessions, these will continue after half term. We will also begin our whole school enquiry after half term where we will focus on how technology can be used to promote healthy lifestyles and learn how to record information in a pictogram or a simple table using different apps to support this. In English we will read a range of stories from different cultures, mainly Africa and compare these to the different text types we have covered so far this year. Year 1 assembly will take place on Thursday 28th February, we look forward to seeing you all there! Miss Dooley.

In **Year 2** we are really excited to start our new science enquiry all about health. We already know lots about this as we wrote about it in our information texts. In Literacy we are looking at riddles, working towards writing some of our own and in Maths we are working on multiplication and division before we start fractions. In PE we have learnt lots of new skills in hockey and will soon be having a go at our own games in teams. Miss Garvin.

Year 3 have begun their learning about magnets and magnetism in science and have started to use maps including online OS maps to find out what mainland Orkney is like. The children have been using their multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and we will have more 'quizzes' before half term where children can show the facts they have been learning. Some excellent instructions were created for homework last week and we enjoyed sharing these in class. Just a reminder that children need to bring their reading books every Wednesday and Friday. Home spelling and times table books should be brought in each Friday. Miss Sinclair.

Year 4 have really enjoyed the forest school sessions this half term. They will continue for a further 3 sessions after half term! In Science, they are working on circuits and in Geography will be carrying on working on the Europe Topic. They will start the History topic about the Titanic once that has finished. Please ensure all spellings, times tables and reading books are brought in to school daily. Mr Garside.

Year 5 are really enjoying our Science enquiry which is all about animal life cycles. We have observed chicks hatch out of their eggs which was all very 'eggciting'. We will be keeping a record of the weight gained by the chicks over the next week and closely observe the changes they go through. Check out our Twitter feed for updates of their progress. Mrs Ali.



In our Literacy lessons **Year 6** have completed their independent newspaper reports and are now learning a new text type, persuasive writing in the form of a letter. I have been impressed with how hard the children have been working during their Science lessons and have demonstrated they can present their work in a variety of ways such as charts or tables. We have now started a new science based enquiry surrounding the purpose of our circulatory system. I have been impressed with the way in which the children are building on their prior knowledge about their bodies from previous year groups. Mrs McLoughlin.

Sports News



Well done to the basketball, netball and football teams who have represented the school in the last few weeks. The next few weeks will see our school compete in indoor sports hall athletics and swimming, both at Castle Leisure Centre and cross country. Please encourage your children to participate in the clubs on offer in school.

Book bags and ties

Book bags and ties are available to purchase from the school office. We would encourage children to use a book bag instead of a rucksack as space is limited in most cloakrooms. This is especially true in Years 3 and 4 where children are also bringing in kits for forest school and running club. The book bags can be stored in classrooms and they are perfect for bring books and homework to and from school.



School crossing service

The school crossing service has a number of vacancies for patrols at several crossing points throughout the borough. If you are interested in applying please ring 0161 253 5990 for further information or look on the Bury Council jobs website.

PTA News

The PTA was disappointed to cancel the Valentine's Family Disco this year, but are looking forward to our next big event, Easter Egg Bingo! Be on the lookout for announcements on Parent Hub and on the PTA Facebook (@UnsworthPrimaryPTA) page to keep up with requests for volunteers and updates. We need helpers to make our events happen!



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event or Activity	More information
14th February	School closes for half term	3.30pm (after school club will run as usual)
25th February	School opens	9am
28th February	Year 1 assembly	9.10am in the school hall
7th March	Year 5 assembly	9.10am in the school hall
13th March	Year 6 Communitree curriculum day	Communitree garden
21st March	Year R assembly	9.10am in the school hall
25th/ 26th March	Y1—Y6 progress meetings	3.30—6pm
29th March	School closes for spring break	3.30pm (after school club will run as usual)