



A Small School with a BIG Heart

Ellingham C of E
Primary School

Headteacher's Monthly Update

Staffing

We have bid farewell to Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Hammond, after years of outstanding service to our school. They will both be a huge miss!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to their retirement gifts. We gave Mrs Hammond a gift voucher for the Mick Oxley art gallery- to choose something for herself; we have exchanged Mrs Wilkinson's donations into Euros-to spend on her European travels.

Our student teacher, Zoe Williams, is off to St. Michael's in Alnwick until half-term- we are looking forward to having her back in February.

Curriculum

We are currently redesigning the creative curriculum. Our HMI inspector was very enthusiastic about our plans. We will no longer have a four-year rolling programme for the whole school, but will have a two-year programme for each Key Stage. We will maintain our 'enquiry-based' curriculum - which she saw as a strength- focusing on developing the pupils' skills in researching, and answering key questions, with the main focus on knowledge and understanding of the world around them. More detailed information will follow during this long-term project.

For the Spring Term, the topics and key questions will be:

Splash: People and Places (Living long ago and what is life like around the World?)

Space Base: Who were the Victorians? (Find out about jobs children did)

Earth Works: Who were the Greeks? (Find out about Greek myths and legends)

Time Zone: Who were the Mayans and where did they live?

Any holiday research, of the appropriate topic, would be much appreciated and the pupils can present their research in any way they like, on their return in January.

Sports- reminder

Next half-term, we will be running two after-school clubs. Badminton will continue on Mondays, but now for Years 4, 5 and 6. Cricket will start on Tuesdays - 3-4pm for Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Please sign up with Kathy, as places will be limited. Both clubs will start the first week back.

Ofsted

Due to the timing of our inspection, we are not expecting our draft report until after the Christmas holiday. Thank you again to your outstanding children; for your questionnaire

responses; for the dedication of all of the staff and volunteers and for your ongoing, valued support for our small but precious school.

The Mousehole Cat

Earth Works pupils (Year 3 and 4) delighted us with their performance of their drama 'The Mousehole Cat'. I have put a video of it in the 'Galleries' section of the school website. They did an amazing job, especially following on from school Christmas lunch! Drama and performing skills are an integral part of our English curriculum and pupils take part in a variety of these experiences throughout the school year.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Many thanks,

Diane Lakey December 2017