



St Nicholas C of E School Newsletter

Autumn term 2021

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<http://www.west-tanfield.n-yorks.sch.uk/Dates.aspx>
Diary dates for this term

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Welcome back...

It has been a great half term at school!

We welcomed all of our parents and children into school on our open afternoon before the start of term. This gave everyone the chance to see the newly redecorated and refurbished classrooms completed during the holidays. The children loved to see all the changes that had happened over the holidays and have been enjoying their new classroom environments.

As you will have seen they have also renamed all the classes after a vote at the end of last term; we now have Rocket, Comet and Asteroid class.

Residential



Our school year started with a bang for the Asteroids and some of Comets going on a residential trip. What an amazing time was had by all at Ingleborough Hall!

The children took part in activities designed to ensure they were confident communicators – celebrating our golden thread for the half term.

They took part in gorge scrambling, orienteering, a hill walk, problem solving challenges, den building and archery.

It was amazing to see their confidence in themselves grow and the superb team work. Both schools in the federation worked so well together and some great friendships were formed that week.



Forest School



It has been a real joy to be back down in our forest for forest school this term.

All the children in school have the opportunity to visit the forest each week. Our younger children have been learning the rules of the forest and have enjoyed exploring all the areas such as the mud kitchen, fire pit, mud slide and wildlife area.

Our older children have been exploring light and dark as part of their Science learning for the term



Nursery

Our new Nursery provision has also opened and has been very well attended with six new children on roll. It has been delightful to watch how well our new Reception and Nursery children have settled in to our school community. Please pass the word that we still have a few spaces available for after Christmas if you know anyone with Nursery age children looking for provision. Places can be booked in advance for a September, January or Easter start now.



Our new Nursery and reception children have particularly loved the new outdoor area specifically for our younger children, especially the new hobbit hole. They are also looking forward to the new raised beds due to be installed before Christmas so they can start to grow their own fruit and vegetables too.





A huge thank you to the following people for all of their help over the summer... Thanks to Mr Petchey and the Petchey family for spending considerable time revamping our hobbit hole by re-roofing and painting it so it was fit for purpose. It was kindly donated by Wendy Thickett from Bilton Grange, thank you also to Mrs Wakeford for sourcing the AstroTurf. It has proved very popular with the children!

Harvest Festival - living out our values...

It was lovely to come together as a community again for our Harvest Festival at church. This year we supported our local community by asking for donations of dried produce for Ripon Foodbank. As well as supporting our local community, our children are also keen to support our global community. As the children have become aware of the crisis in Afghanistan, and the plight of Afghan refugees, they decided they would also like to raise money to support a family in need. Many thanks to all those from both the school and church communities who supported our collection for Ripon City of Sanctuary at our Harvest service and this month's all age worship at St Nicholas Church.



A special mention also for Mr and Mrs Bourne-Arton who have rallied the village to further support this cause. Nicola, from Ripon City of Sanctuary, came into school this week and gave us a talk about her work with these families and we presented our collection to her.

The daily mile

Now school is open fully, our commitment to staying fit and healthy continues. The daily mile has started again; the children run and walk a mile three times a week trying to improve on their fitness target from the start of the year. We are also skipping for 10 minutes a day to raise our fitness levels.

Miss Asker

Miss Asker will be returning to school after the half term break. For the first few weeks, she will work alongside other staff to ensure there is appropriate time for staff hand overs.

Once this has been completed, Miss Asker will teach in Asteroid Class each Monday and Tuesday, with Mrs Sharpley teaching Wednesday to Friday.

Miss Asker will also teach Comet Class each Wednesday morning.

Clubs

Our clubs have continued this term, with Lego masters proving very popular! Football club has been a great addition to our line up and with some budding footballers in our midst.

Health eating cookery club is also well attended with some lovely recipes this term such as raisin cookies. Booking forms for after half term are now available on the website. Have a lovely half term break!

We look forward to welcoming you back after half term.

Mrs Sarah Taylor
Head teacher