

Pre-Prep Newsletter Friday 8th March 2019

Dear Parents,

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have been completing the NFER Assessments in English and Maths this week. These are year on year assessment materials that help build a picture of exactly where your child is educationally in terms of nationally recognised standards. The results of these assessment tests will form the basis of your child's spring term report and will be discussed at Parents' Evening on March 28th. Please look out for the list of appointment times available, which will be displayed soon outside each classroom door.

We had an exciting day yesterday with everyone coming to school dressed as their favourite book character. Children in the Pre-Prep joined those in the Nursery for photographs and a costume parade where we had to guess the identity of each child and which book they had chosen to represent. Our book sale during the day and after school was such a success that we have decided to set up a permanent 'Book Swap Corner' in Bronte entrance hall. This will enable all our little bookworms to have easy access to a wide range of stories and factual texts throughout the year.

School photographs took place today, with all children from the Nursery through to Sixth Form photographed individually, in sibling groups and as part of the whole school photograph! Please watch out for future information from the photographic studio telling you how to view and purchase your photographs.

Star Assembly

We began this week's Star Assembly with the Year 2 star work certificate which went to Herbie Shaw-Clutton for fabulous progress in reading, and excellent work in English and History lessons. Herbie has been desperate to start the 'Project X' alien adventure reading books and achieved his goal last week. These stories have really caught Herbie's interest and he has excelled himself with his effort to de-code, blend and comprehend many new tricky words. Last week Herbie also completed a tricky piece of grammar work, changing verbs from the present into the past tense and learnt some new vocabulary in History when he wrote about the siege engines used to attack castles in medieval times! All exciting stuff - but not as exciting as Herbie's progress.

Georgie Strachen has also been focussed on stories this week including one called 'The Bunk Bed Bus'. Georgie retold the story including all the different characters and then produced a fabulous piece of written work, retelling the beginning, middle and end of the story in her own words using only one or two 'key' words from the board. Lastly Georgie had made a great collage picture of the bunk bed bus by carefully measuring, cutting and sticking the various pieces together. What a lot of work! Well done Georgie.

This week's Reception 'Star' was Bruce Fisher. Mrs Laughland explained that when Bruce first began to use reading books, the amount of words on the page and the busy pictures somewhat overwhelmed him. Now, however, Bruce is really enjoying the challenge of reading and making real progress. He even likes to read the first page in a book which is designed to be shared with an adult. Bruce demonstrated his growing confidence by reading aloud the story of 'The Old Woman and the Hen'. Well done Bruce.

Care Club pick up time

Would all parents who collect children from Care Club, please note that it finishes at 5pm. If you have an emergency after this time, please phone the school or arrange for another parent to collect your child. Likewise, if you have children in Clough House to collect, please call in to Bronte first. Mrs Forward has commitments after school, as well as running a local Beavers' pack that many of our children attend and she needs to leave at 5pm sharp. There is a charge for late collection after this time. Thank you.

After school use of playground

As the evenings become lighter, many parents allow their children to stay and play with their friends in the school playground. May I remind you that once your child has been collected from their classroom, the responsibility for their care and safety lies solely with the collecting adult. Use of playground equipment is discouraged due to the possibility of accidents. No child should ever be left unsupervised on school grounds. Thank you for your understanding.

Forthcoming dates for diaries

Parents' Evening Thursday 28th March

Appointment sheets will soon be put up outside each classroom. Please sign your name alongside a time that is convenient for you to meet with your child's teacher.

Easter Play Friday 5th April

Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to attend our Easter Story Chapel on the last Friday of term (5th April). Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will tell their version of the Easter story with drama and songs. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Dining Hall.

Mrs S Duckett
Head of Pre-Prep