

NEWS FROM HUSTHWAITE SCHOOL

The children have arrived back in school refreshed from what seems like an extended Christmas holiday. Although Christmas seems like a long time ago now, the school enjoyed its most successful Christmas Fair to date raising a fantastic £834.00; a huge thank you to everyone who supported our main annual fund-raising event.



Year 6 pupils with their Christmas Fair stall.

Performance Tables

Last month the government released School Performance League Tables and we are pleased to report that Husthwaite School has not only performed well amongst its fellow schools but has also performed very well in North Yorkshire as a whole; gaining a position in the top 25% of schools in the local authority for children achieving their expected levels in both English and Maths. This is a great achievement for the school in our drive for delivering our vision for enabling all children to reach their full potential. Details can be viewed on line at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/special/education/school_tables/primary/11/html/eng_maths_815.stm?print=true

Class activities

The school's topic this half term focuses on Asia and will include the countries and cultures that make up this continent. Mrs Bainbridge has incorporated Bhangra dance in KS2's PE lessons and Mrs Houlston has cooked the children a Chinese meal to celebrate Chinese New Year, which this year celebrates the Year of the Dragon. The next half term topic will focus on festivals and the children will be researching the different festivals from around the World. The children will participate in a festival workshop exploring the different aspects of some festivals which will include dress, dance and food.

There are once again wealth of extra-curricular clubs on offer to children that range from sporting activities to ICT to chess. Each term the choice varies ensuring each child within the school from Year 1 upwards has the opportunity to partake in such activities.

Once again the school will be involved in various sporting activities with other schools in the cluster this term.

Pupil voice groups continue to meet and for the past year the focus for all groups has been to enhance our school grounds. Children have already helped to plant over 1000 spring bulbs (we hope to start seeing the appearance of early shoots soon!), we have installed some fabulous wooden sculptures, seating for an outdoor classroom, raised vegetable beds (which produced a bumper crop of carrots, onions and lettuce leaves), a willow-den and an area has also been set aside for a wildlife garden. Children have made bird boxes, bird feeders and a bird table as well as bug dens. Some groups are producing designs for more playground markings, bird hides, the Eco Warriors will be making outdoor musical instruments from junk and the Pupil Enterprise Group have applied for trees from the Wildlife Trust to plant a copse.

We are holding an outdoor celebration day on Tuesday 27th March to mark all the hard work the children have put into helping improve our fantastic grounds and we shall be inviting members of the community to come and share our success; further details will be posted on the school and village website.

Husthwaite School supports many and various charities throughout the year; so far this year we have raised money for Children in Need, MacMillan Cancer Support and Jeans for Genes. The Pupil Enterprise and Healthy Schools Groups will be organising a fund-raising event for Sport Relief at the end of March.

Valentine's Lunch

Mrs Houlston will be cooking a special valentine's lunch on Thursday 9th February. The pupils will be able to invite a family member or other loved one to join them for lunch. This has proved popular in the past and the children enjoy having the opportunity to invite someone of their choice to have lunch with them.

Toddler Group

Our weekly Toddlers @ Husthwaite continues to meet each Thursday morning. All children up to school age are welcome to come along and pop in any time with their parent/carer between 9.15 and 11.15 am every Thursday morning. It is also proving a great way for adults to meet new people and familiarise themselves with the school. This weekly toddler group is in addition to the monthly sessions held in the foundation stage class and hosted by Miss Goodchild.

Community Service

Our next community service to be held at school will be on Tuesday 27 March which will be in conjunction with our Pupil Voice outdoors celebration. It is hoped members of the community will join us.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 7 th February:	Toddler sing-song and story (monthly session in class 1)
Thursday 9 th February:	Valentine's lunch
Friday 10 th February:	School closes for half term
Monday 20 th February:	School opens
Thursday 9 th March:	Toddler day (monthly session in Class 1 with Miss Goodchild)
Thursday 15 th March:	High 5 and Football cluster tournament
Thursday 22 nd March:	High 5 and Football cluster tournament
Friday 23 rd March:	Sport Relief
Tuesday 27 th March:	Pupil Voice Celebration Community Service.
Friday 30 th March:	School closes 2.45 pm for school holidays

Visits to the school are always welcome, or if you would like more information please feel free to contact us (01347 868371). Visit our website: www.husthwaiteschool.co.uk