



**Respect – Responsibility - Resilience – Kindness – Teamwork**

## **Mrs Thirkill's Blog – 11.3.22**

Good afternoon,

We started this week with a teaching and learning review. The review went well and the visitors can see how we are moving forward as a school. Our visitors noted that reading is a high priority in school and that we are doing everything we can to ensure all our pupils are good readers. We are hoping to run some workshops for parents to help you with reading with your child at home, in the meantime, we would like you to read with your child as often as possible.



We have got some lovely events coming up in school, including a trip to Countryside days at the Yorkshire show ground, a visit from Zoolab and hopefully even a visit to the beach in summer for key stage 1. We have to ask for parental contributions to enable to help these visits go ahead. I wish we had the budget to pay for all these experiences but unfortunately we do have to ask for parental support. Thank you to all those parents who have made contributions to help visits and visitors go ahead.

We have been planting this morning and have managed to get 500 bulbs in the ground. Thank you to our volunteers and also to our recently elected eco-team. I would like to continue to improve and develop our grounds and any expertise particularly around grounds maintenance would be greatly appreciated. We have been getting some help from Baildon Agricultural Society and have also received a very kind donation from Mervyn Flecknoe to help us get our own orchard planted, up at the top of the field, near the poly tunnel. Thank you both for your generous gift and support. If any other families would be able to provide any bulbs for school then that would also be greatly appreciated.

We are also hoping to do some work on a school allotment with some help from Baildon Horticultural society. Any additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Can I remind parents and carers about the need to send children in correct uniform? The uniform details are on the website. Children must have black school shoes and on PE days they should have PE kit and trainers. Next year we are considering sourcing our uniform through Marks and Spencer, their pricing is competitive and the quality looks good. We are just trialling some examples in school at the

moment to see how well they wash and if they hold their colour well. It is not possible to order yet but we are hoping to get it moving if we're happy with it.

I am beginning to think about plans for the summer and particularly our Year 6 leavers. We will be having an inflatables day with a BBQ and other celebrations going on which parents will be invited to join, from mid-afternoon. I am also considering whether we do a prom for the Year 6 children as I think it is a rite of passage as the children move on from Primary School. I know previously it has been a BBQ on the field but I am keen to investigate options. I will ask Year 6 children and families directly to ensure the children get a great experience.

We have our peace day in school next Thursday which will be handled very sensitively. Our key message will be supporting each other and people in need. We are very mindful that we want the children to not feel worried or scared but also learn empathy and care for others in need. We will wear yellow and blue. Please don't buy anything new. It can be anything at all with some yellow/blue on it. If anyone has any spare plant pots or compost which they could donate for our sunflower planting we would be very grateful.



The following day is Red Nose day. We would ask that the children make a voluntary donation of £1 on one of those days, but it is not necessary to make contributions on both days.

We will have a Mothers / Grandmother's Bake Sale on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. If you are able to bring baking to contribute on that day, that would be wonderful. All proceeds will go to our PTA.

Our wonderful PTA have just donated another 8 iPads to school. Thank you so much for all your support. The iPads are such a wonderful resource with some brilliant learning apps. We are working towards a class iPad trolley. Thank you again PTA.

Please can I remind parents to ensure they make punctual payments for lunches and wraparound care. Unfortunately if there are outstanding arrears we may have to stop attendance at wraparound care and availability of school lunches.

We have had a couple of cases of sickness bugs this week. Can I remind parents that if children are sick they need to be at home for a minimum of 24 hours and for any episodes of diarrhoea, they must be kept at home for 48 hours. We want to ensure that bugs are not spread around school.

Enjoy a wonderful weekend. The longer days are great!

Kind regards

Claire Thirkill