



Bleasdale School Autumn Newsletter 2019



Ofsted have a section for parents called **Parent View**. Parents can access this at any time to tell Ofsted what they think of their child's school. Please go to the Ofsted site to register.

Term Dates

School re-opens for pupils at 9.00 am on Tuesday 7th January, 2020 and closes after school on Friday 3rd April 2020.

Half term break—Monday 17th—Friday 21st February

This term 16-19 have welcomed 4 new students—Emily, Alfie, Hannah and Leon. Students have been working very hard towards the John Muir award. They have been very busy discovering parts of the garden and then planting bulbs ready for the Spring.



Class 14-16 welcomed a new pupil, Jack, in September who transferred from another school. He has settled in well and is responding positively to his new surroundings, people and curriculum.

It has been an exciting time for Primary this term! They have welcomed four new members to the primary classes, Lily, Brad-Lee, Cyrus and Ahmed. The children have enjoyed meeting new friends as they continue inclusion with Silverdale School. There is a 'buddie' system and they take it in turns to go to one and others classrooms each week.

Early Years have a new pupil this term—Bobby. He has settled in to school really well.



This term we welcomed Leon & Hannah to the residential group. Both pupils have settled very well. Activities this term have included a sensory 'Space Odyssey' story. Pupils became space cadets and took part in a rocket launch into space. Once there they explored different planets each week which they had made in their DT sessions.



Within our communication and interaction sessions EYFS have followed a Toy Story theme. We have explored the Sensory Suite and played with a range of switch toys.



EYFS have begun to use an online journal called Tapestry. Parents get weekly updates of their child's learning through pictures and videos. They can also share things they have been doing at home.

Primary have been taking part in different traditional stories. They have concentrated on the two traditional stories; 'Pinocchio' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have used their fine motor skills to explore materials to make puppets. Some children threaded buttons for the puppets' jackets and others explored different types of wood to mark make. The children have also been developing their gross motor skills by making bridges, working together as a team to create the bridges from the Billy Goats Gruff Story.



In creativity sessions the Early Years pupils enjoyed making lava lamps. They tracked the lights as they could see them through the bottles.



Emily and Alfie from 16-19 have completed a work experience placement at Cornerstones Café in Lancaster and each week the students in that department run their own pop-up café "Bleasdale Brews", serving drinks and toasted tea cakes in the Lower School Dining Room. Please pop along any Friday between 10 and 11.30 am.

This term we have been busy raising funds for a number of good causes. In September we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning and raised £174.60. We had a fun day for Children in Need in November, taking part in a variety of sponsored activities such as rebounding, triking, etc and raised £435.00. Our Christmas Fair raised a whopping £900.00 for school funds and by wearing our Christmas jumpers we collected £80.37 which will go to Save the Children. Thank you to everyone for their support with these efforts!

Secondary have been immersed into their new topic 'Australia' during Skills for Learning lessons this term. They have been playing 'I'm a Celebrity' style games and challenges to see who can collect the most stars and become the king of the classroom each week, so far Kibibi is in the lead! They were very lucky to have Ian from Morecambe Road School come in to play the didgeridoo, the pupils were really responsive to the sounds and the vibrations - we've never seen them sit so still before as they were memorised by it.





EYFS have had fun in our music sessions and have been exploring a range of new musical toys as well as our sound wall.



Class 14-16 students have been exploring our local community and spent some time using the village library.



Everyone in the 14-19 department took part in a vocational Christmas workshop recently. We spent time shadowing a florist and musician learning more about their job role. We explored all the materials to make a wreath then helped the florist create one. You can see the finished article hanging in the School reception area. We also heard a brass band play Christmas songs.



Some Early Years pupils will be joining Silverdale School as part of their nativity on 13th December. We are excited to be performing with our friends.

Residential Educational Visits:

After school on Tuesday 29th October we visited Blackpool Illuminations. The weather was dry and pupils were able to see lots of large, bright displays. On the 4th December three pupils went to watch the Christmas lights 'Switch On' in Carnforth, whilst others went to a youth club in Morecambe and on Thursday 12th December pupils went late night Christmas shopping to buy presents for each other.





During work on duration - long and short sounds in music 14-16 have used a range of cleaning tools to create our own music, in the style of Stomp. Our class governor, Mary Ripley and one of our parents were able to join in our interactive Stomp session before half-term.



The children in Primary have been learning through songs, such as 'Five brown teddies' and through the story 'How many legs?' The children have also been learning about 'big' and 'small' by going through the magic door and bringing back very large and very small items to compare and measure. The children have continued to explore 2D shapes, they have been using the Sensory Suite to follow a shape dance and going on a shape hunt.



On Friday mornings Secondary have been using the garden and conservatory to follow the story of 'My Empty Bucket' linked to our volume topic. Following the story the pupils go around the garden to collect certain items in order to fill their bucket, which they have been doing in pairs. Everyone seems to really enjoy being out in the fresh air and we also invited parents in to join us for one of these mornings which was a great success.



Class 14-16 had some really sad news that one of our pupils, Esmee died during the half-term holiday. Esmee was a pupil at our school for many years, she started in the primary class, and we all have very happy memories of our time with her at our school.



Residential Events:

On the 5th November we celebrated Bonfire Night. We made a 'Guy' to put on the bonfire and enjoyed watching and tracking the sparklers before eating a supper of baked potatoes and barbecued beans. This was followed by the homemade gingerbread which the pupils helped to make the night before. On the 10th December Emma Holroyd our local Methodist Minister narrated a Christmas Story called the 'Noisy Neighbour'. We invited parents and day pupils to join us. This was an interactive story, all pupils had great fun listening to the different sounds relating to the story on switches and we sang carols and played instruments. Pupils have also taken part in different team games such as rugby. Pupils were encouraged to choose and wear their team colours before taking part in the 'Bleasdale Hacker'. There was lots of rivalry throughout!



In Citizenship the Secondary pupils are looking at accessing the community. Pupils have been going out in small groups to use the bus to get to Carnforth in order to access the shops and then will be looking at travelling by train also.



Staff changes. This term we have said goodbye to several colleagues. Rosemary Whittaker is leaving after 16 years teaching at Bleasdale and 31 years teaching in total. Joanne Whyke has also left us after 7 years of teaching here. Alison Cross retired in October after working as a TA for 23 years at Bleasdale. Asher Lockley, TA in Primary, and Laura Williams and Rachael Deaden, CCAs, have all moved on to new adventures. We wish them all the best. Judith Salisbury joined us as a Domestic this term and we have two supply CCAs working with us in the House—Danielle Hall and Alison Hall. Julie Bridgeman is also working with 14-16 as a Supply Teacher.

The pupils, staff and governors would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.

