

19th March 2021

Dear Parents

It has genuinely felt like Spring in school this week, My favourite moments have been watching pupils play on the grass at break. One of our Year 11 students summed it up when she said how excited she was to just sit under the Rose Arbor – 'because we didn't get to have a summer in school last year'. Let's all hope the sun continues to shine.

We are starting to re-establish the wider life of the school as well this week. CCF began to parade again on Wednesday – and we were able to welcome our new School Staff Instructor for the first time. Andrew Clark will be working at Polam two days per week with our CCF and then also two days a week in the CCF at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. He brings a wealth of military experience and will be a fantastic addition to our cadet force – as well as helping to make the links between ourselves and QE even stronger than they are.

Miss Rachel's dance classes began again this week as well; She has written this report for me:

This week I had the pleasure of teaching my first dance lessons of 2021. I have enjoyed welcoming all my lovely Polam dancers back to class in the Old Gym and am amazed at how much everyone has remembered the work from last term (including me)!!!! Well done everyone.

This evening I had the pleasure of the very smiley Year 2s and Year.3s - the pictures are proof. Anyone wishing to join our dance classes may contact me via armin.r@phs.woodard.co.uk

Keep Dancing.....



One element of our Concordia Crescimus Curriculum is NTI – or Nosce te Ipsum. This is the name that we have given to our programme of personal, social and health education. Mrs Staerk's class have been focusing on health this week:

This Saturday is World Oral Health Day, so as a class we spent this week's NTI lesson learning about the importance of good oral hygiene. The children had many facts of their own to share and were fascinated to learn more. This year's slogan is 'Be Proud of your Mouth' and they enjoyed making picture frames to show theirs off!



On my visits to Reception this week (always my favourite place to be!) the children have been learning the story of the Three Little Pigs – complete with actions! Mrs Crosby then sent me a report and picture of the work that the children have been doing:

Reception have been having a lot of fun working on the story of The Three Little Pigs. We have investigated materials to build a house, made pens for pigs, created play-doh pigs, acted out the story and produced some lovely writing and pictures. We are all so happy to be back!



Year 2, on the other hand, have been exploring the story of space exploration with Mrs Mawson and Mrs Elsdon:

This week in History, Year 2 have been learning about Neil Armstrong and the Moon Landing. This afternoon, they have performed a news report about space exploration over the years. We have uploaded this to Tapestry if parents wish to view it! Have a lovely weekend Year 2.
Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Mawson.

We haven't done a great deal in school for Comic Relief today – and this is because we are going to support a Darlington wide charity day next Friday. The Mayor has asked all the schools in the town to support him in raising funds for Dementia charities. The wording below is taken from the letter that the Mayor sent to school:

The beneficiary will be Dementia Friendly Darlington. This is a Dementia Friendly Community working with the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friendly Communities programme in

partnership with people affected by dementia, local communities, volunteers, organisations and people of all ages, to make Darlington a place where people with dementia have a voice, are understood, included and respected in our community. From becoming a Dementia Friend to making your local businesses or service – your shop, cafe, museum, or GP Surgery - more dementia friendly, to working with young people in schools and colleges to create a dementia-friendly generation, now and for the future. We all have a part to play in making Darlington a place where people with dementia remain active in our community, as they choose.

Pupils and staff are therefore invited to join the Mayor in raising funds for to support dementia by wearing denim and home clothes next Friday 26th March. Whether they wear a lot or a little, we hope everyone will be able to get involved. No need to buy anything new, borrow something!



I hope that all of our families have a good weekend – let's keep our fingers crossed for more sunshine next week!

Best wishes

K. Reid.

Kate Reid