



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Happy Easter!

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have worked incredibly hard over the past term (and had lots of fun too!). The Easter holidays are nearly here and it's time to reflect on the past term – and what a term it's been! In addition to classroom activity, we celebrated World Book Day by developing sketching skills with the illustrator, Liz Million; 'Dressed to Express' on World Mental Health Day; raised lots of money for Comic Relief 2022; found out more about Parliament (from a government minister) and how to keep safe by completing virtual safety workshops (including assemblies with Durham Fire Service) AND enjoyed a full schedule of Easter activities for the first time in two years! Please read on to find out what else has happened at Ribbon this term.

### Nursery



The children have had so much fun in the Woodland Room this term! During group time, they have been using 'Squiglet' to support their mark making. It's been wonderful to see the progress the children have made with their drawing! The children have also been exploring their names through self-registration, writing their names, and listening to the sounds and syllables. In the Den, the children have been exploring Numicon in the playdough area by pressing the shapes into the dough and counting the patterns. We have also set up a playdough-making station to support the development of mathematical concepts. The children have also been busy in the construction area where they worked together to build a boat which even had a propeller! In the home area, the children have been exploring and tasting a variety of fruit and vegetables and talking about which ones they like and dislike. Outside, the children have been developing our new allotment area – planting a whole host of fruit and vegetables and looking after them every day, making sure they have plenty of water to grow. Children in Early Years have also benefited from a set of outdoor instruments kindly purchased with funds in the memory of William Jones.



**Miss Wynn, Miss Wilson, Miss Blake & Mrs Robinson (Nursery Team)**

### Reception



It has been very busy and fun this term in Reception. The children have had many opportunities to discover, explore, enquire, and gain experiences in a wide range of contexts. We have read lots of exciting stories which have opened lines of enquiry for learning including: 'The Tiger who came to Tea' where we practised story freeze frames and made sandwiches independently to enjoy at a tea party. We explored lots of planting and growth stories such as 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Jaspers Beanstalk', 'The Tiny Seed' and 'Oliver's Vegetables'. The children planted a range of seeds including beans, cress seeds and sunflower seeds. We have also introduced the allotment space and have planted potatoes, a range of herbs and strawberries. The children have been looking for signs of growth, such as the roots of the beans sprouting. They discussed and estimated time scales and the importance of taking care of their seeds to ensure their growth. We discussed seed dispersal, looking at where the seeds come from. The children have loved our visits to the Ribbon Forest on a weekly basis. The children have become much more experienced in risk taking and assessing a situation to decide if it's a safe choice to make, particularly when they are building obstacle courses. They have enjoyed hot chocolate, litter picking (to help the environment), exploring binoculars on their bug hut, and reading a range of nonfiction books. More recently we have been looking out for signs of Spring.



**Mrs Harris, Miss Gallagher, Miss Bernard, Miss Hope, Miss Turnbull, Mrs Lockwood, Miss Walton & Miss Ord (Reception Team)**

## Learning Outside the Classroom

At Ribbon Academy, we firmly believe that learning outside the classroom helps put learning into context and provides invaluable opportunities for enquiry across the curriculum. Read on to find out more about our recent trips and visits around the region across the year groups.

### Year 1

In January, Year 1 visited Gibside to complete a 'Percy the Park Keeper' trail around the extensive grounds. Before the visit, the children enjoyed stories about Percy and his friends, so they were very excited to follow the clues and activities when they arrived. The children made some fantastic animal habitats and explored the grounds to find animal tracks. In February, Year 1 compared Seaham and Murton. As part of this study, the children considered two key questions: 'What can we do?' and 'What can we buy?'. To answer the questions, they visited Seaham Harbour and Marina to find out more. The children found out that Seaham has a train station, secondary school, beach, and coastline, and a wide variety of shops. However, Dalton Park provides Murton with something Seaham doesn't have - a cinema! Finally, this term, the children visited the Discovery Museum in Newcastle to take part in a workshop about toys from yesteryear to support their understanding of the past. During the Easter break Miss Keeling is getting married and will be known as Mrs Johnson.



**Miss Keeling, Mrs Tweedie, Mrs Briggs & Miss Starkie (Year 1 Team)**

### Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy Spring term! The children learnt all about Grace Darling, which included visiting the Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh to find out more about the fascinating rescue! The children made shadow puppets at the museum and acted out the rescue as the different characters. The children found their favourite artefacts and sources in the museum and when they got back to school, they wrote about them - they had learnt many amazing facts. The next visit took the children to Gibside, to go minibeast hunting! The children had been learning about animals and minibeasts in science, so they already knew what they were looking for and which habitats to hunt to find the minibeasts. The children were enthusiastic and inquisitive, a fantastic day was had by all. We cannot wait to see what the summer term has in store!



**Mrs Lowes, Mrs Rookes, Miss Layfield, Mrs Rooks, Mrs Millet, Miss Greenfield & Miss Ord (Year 2 Team)**

### Year 3

This term, Year 3 visited Sargedunum in Wallsend to experience life as a Roman soldier. The children took part in a workshop where they adopted the role of a Roman soldier practising their drills - tough work! The children also observed the ruins from the lookout tower and watched a video to see how the area had changed over time. To end the day, the children explored the contents of the museum whilst using the iPads to photograph artefacts. In March, the children visited Gibside to enjoy a den building activity which encouraged teamwork, communication, and resilience - our children have plenty of these virtues. Highlights of our time at Gibside include exploring the environment, visiting the amazing adventure playground and of course, eating our packed lunches (always the best part of an off-site visit!).



**Mrs Bates, Mrs Callan, Mrs Dixon, Miss Moore, Mrs Reay, Mrs Percival & Miss Williams (Year 3 Team)**

### Year 4

Year 4 have been developing their knowledge and understanding of the Anglo Saxons in History lessons, looking at artefacts and sources to make inferences about the past. In January, a visit to Durham Cathedral not only aided historical understanding but gave the children an opportunity to broaden their understanding of Christianity. During the visit, the children were told a 'live story' where they were invited to act out events - they loved doing this! This term, Class 14 also visited Washington Wetlands where they looked at different animal habitats. Whilst exploring the wetlands, they were able to identify the importance of looking after our environment, with the help of Ava (the stimulus which supported the theme of the visit). The children were very lucky to have the park keeper as their tour guide and had the opportunity to watch the otters feeding. Class 13 are visiting Washington Wetlands in May - they cannot wait!



**Miss Rispin, Miss Cobb, Miss Smith, Mrs Mason & Miss Champley (Year 4 Team)**

## Year 5



What a busy Spring term Year 5 have had! The children started the term with a visit Gibside to develop key geographic skills. The children had an amazing time tackling the low ropes, orienteering, and following maps to discover new places. It was great to see the children demonstrating many of our Ribbon Virtues, mainly resilience and teamwork. To support this term's RE topic: 'The Importance of the Last Supper to Christians', the children visited Holy Trinity Church in Murton. Here, the children met Reverend Harrison and enjoyed stories, re-enactments, and handled resources

to help them better understand what Christians believe and practice during the festival of Easter. As Summer is fast approaching, the children are very excited to see where their learning takes them next.



**Mrs Harrison, Mr Dobson, Mrs Walton & Miss Williams (Year 5 Team)**

## Year 6



At the beginning of the Spring term, the children got into character from their class novel, 'Holes' and travelled to Seaburn Beach to see who could dig the biggest hole! The children had an amazing time and used their experiences to support writing an informal letter 'in character' back at school. There were more adventures to be had on their second trip to Gibside, where they used GPS devices to locate the hidden Geocaches around the site. A visit to the shelter building area, the play area and the ropes course finished off the day. What a busy term – what will the final (EVER) term at Ribbon bring.

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**Miss Thorne, Miss Goodman, Mr Frankish, Miss Jones, Mrs Brown & Mrs Smoughton (Year 6 Team)**

## Learning Outside the Classroom – Summer 2022

**Year 1** – Washington Wetlands Centre & Asda, Seaham

**Year 2** – Tweddle Farm & Residential (Overnight camp at school)

**Year 3** – Sunderland Landmarks Tour, Rainton Meadows & Residential (Moor House)

**Year 4** – Tynemouth Beach & Residential (York)

**Year 5** – Beamish & Wheelbirks Farm

**Year 6** – Eden Camp & South Shields

## Residential Experience 2021/22

**Year 2** – Overnight camp on the school field (Summer 2)

**Year 3** – Moor House (Summer 2)

**Year 4** – York (Summer 1)

**Year 5** – Carlton, Cleveland (Summer 1)

**Years 4, 5 & 6** – Paris (Summer 2)

As usual our termly trips and visits will continue, please watch out for further information early in the spring term.

## Summer Term Holidays

After the Easter break, we will publish a comprehensive list of events for the summer term. In the meantime, here are the holiday dates:

School closes for Easter - Friday 8th April @ 3.30pm

School reopens – Monday 25th April @ 8.45am

Bank Holiday Monday (School Closed) – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

School closes for Spring Half Term – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May @ 3.30pm

School reopens – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June @ 8.45am

School closes for Summer - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July @ 3.30pm

It only remains for me to say, on behalf of everyone at Ribbon, a **huge thank you** for your unwavering support and encouragement over the past year. We hope that you have an enjoyable Easter break, and we'll see you soon for the start of the summer term – always the busiest term at Ribbon!

Warmest regards,

Mrs A Sheridan (Head teacher) and the Ribbon Team