



Ribbon Academy Trust
Barnes Road
Murton
Co Durham
0191 5175900

Mrs A Sheridan (Head teacher)
www.ribbonacademy.co.uk

Friday 19th July 2024

Happy Holidays!

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have worked incredibly hard over the past term and, as usual, had lots of fun too! The summer holidays are nearly here and it's time to reflect on the final term of our 2023/24 academic year – and what a term it's been! In addition to busy classroom activities, we raised money for UNICEF through our Soccer Aid sponsored event; completed lots of sports themed activities during Sports Week including, a visit from Erin Ward (a professional footballer) and many sports activities where parents/carers could spectate; participated in a week-long music celebration, loved every minute of the Summer Fayre (especially throwing sponges at Mr Houghton and Mr Lowerson!), watched the amazing performance of 'Rumpelstiltskin'; hosted our very first 'Ribbonfest' with a House Picnic, ice cream van, and a special guest appearance from 'Artistas del Gremio' (a Spanish charanga band from Durham Brass Festival); loved competing in the Colour Run on the school field; and celebrated the successes of our children in our end-of-year award ceremonies and graduations before finishing with our Year 6 Leavers' assembly where we wished our Year 6 superstars goodbye and good luck as they embark on new adventures in secondary school!

Nursery



This term, our Nursery has been brimming with fun, excitement and exploration under the sunny skies! Outside, the children have been honing various sports skills, including throwing, aiming, and bouncing with one and two hands, all while learning the importance of teamwork. They've also been busy burrowing for insects and using binoculars to spot birds, fostering their curiosity and observational skills. Inside the classroom, the children have been learning about life cycles, from humans to plants. The highlight of this unit was the two-week visit from our resident chicks. The children observed their development from eggs to tiny chicks to large chicks with feathers. They learned about the necessities for survival and the responsibilities of caring for living creatures. Additionally, the children enjoyed creating their own life cycles by looking at photos of themselves as babies, alongside images of the staff at various stages of their lives. Well done, Nursery! We are incredibly proud of you as you embark on the next part of your learning journey into school life – good luck in Reception here at Ribbon or at St Joseph's.



Mrs Cartwright, Miss Hope, Miss Ord & Mrs Peverley (Nursery Team)

Reception - Teams 1, 2 & 3



This term, the children have loved exploring the outdoor area in the warm sunshine – when it finally arrived! The children have explored the wonders of shadows, observed changes of state and have been on endless hunts for mini beasts. The children have been fascinated watching tiny seeds transform into beautiful flowers, measuring their growth throughout the term. Weekly visits to the forest have continued to be a highlight of the week, offering opportunities to develop gross motor skills, take safe risks and enhance our communication and teamwork abilities. In addition to their adventures in nature, the children had an absolute blast during Sports Week – what fun they had! Towards the end of term, the children had the pleasure of meeting a professional athlete, making delicious healthy fruit smoothies, enjoying dance parties and of course, participating in Sports Day with our biggest supporters—our families!



Miss Hammond, Miss Starkie, Miss Gallagher & Miss Kendall (Reception Team)

Learning Outside the Classroom

At Ribbon Academy, we firmly believe that learning outside the classroom helps put learning 'firmly' 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.

Year 1 – Teams 4, 5 & 6



It's been a very busy summer term in Year 1! After the Easter break, the children visited Seven Stories in Newcastle to take part in a workshop about the four seasons. The children identified how the weather changes during different seasons and sorted objects into groups that are used during different points of the year. Afterwards, the children worked in small groups to create their own seasonal poem to share with their Teams. Later in the term, the children also visited 'The Word' in

South Shields to explore different texts. This visit supported with their understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts in preparation for writing their non-chronological reports. The children even got to make their own pirate hat and flag – this was a highlight of the visit. Year 1 are so excited about moving into Year 2 in September.



Mrs Johnson, Mrs Flower, Miss Layfield, Mrs Briggs & Miss Walton (Year 1 Team)

Year 2 – Teams 7 & 8



The children in Year 2 have had a very busy summer term. The first trip of the term took the children to Tweddle Farm in Blackhall. Year 2's science topic was 'Animals including Humans', so this was the ideal destination to find out more about animals and their offspring. After meeting the many animals and having lunch, it was time for the tractor and barrel rides followed by lots of fun on the giant bouncy pillows and the adventure playground – the children had an incredible time!

When the Year 2 Festival sleepover finally arrived, the children were so excited to have fun with their friends on the bouncy castle after writing to Mrs Sheridan and Mr Houghton to persuade them that it was a good idea! They loved dancing at the silent disco and playing games together, before settling down in their sleeping bags to watch a movie and camp out in the hall. What a great way to end Year 2!



Mrs Lowes, Mrs Rookes & Miss Smith (Year 2 Team)

Year 3 – Teams 9 & 10

This term, Year 3 enjoyed visiting Homestead Fort in Northumberland. Here, the children lived life as a Roman soldier for the day – what an experience! The children also took part in workshops to deepen their knowledge and understanding of life in Britain during the Roman period. The workshops focussed on the art of battle & warfare, dressing as a Legionary and exploring real Roman replicas – fascinating stuff! In addition, the children had the opportunity to visit a real Roman ruin. Later in the term, a large group



of children from Year 3 visited Beamish Museum. At the openair museum, the children experienced life in the past and stayed overnight in the Masonic Hall – what a brilliant time they had! The children also enjoyed a Pit Village workshop, time in the fairground, experienced conditions down the mine and best of all...had fish and chips for tea! The children are now ready to move into Year 4 and are ready to find out what their new year group has to offer.

Mrs Bates, Mrs Dixon & Mrs Brown (Year 3 Team)

Year 4 – Teams 11, 13 & 14



This term, Year 4 enjoyed visiting Seaham Beach, to complete Geographical Fieldwork linked to the coast. The children were able to spot many of the features that they had learnt about in school, and they gathered data to answer questions they had generated in school. We also visited The Life Centre in Newcastle, where we completed a workshop on Electrifying Newcastle, and had great fun exploring the venue. Many of the children

took the opportunity to take part in a residential visit to Castle Howard this term. They had a full and fun-packed two days, carrying out lots of bushcraft activities. What a term it's been – roll on Year 5!



Mrs Callan, Mrs Tweedie, Mr Frankish, Mrs Millet, Miss Robson & Miss Wylde (Year 4 Team)

Year 5 – Teams 16 & 17



Wow! What an eventful summer term Year 5 have had. To begin this fun-packed term, some of our children had the opportunity to visit Carlton Adventure. Here they took in some fantastic outdoor activities - including den building, canoeing, high rope climbing, gully walking and orienteering. During this term, both Year 5 teams have developed their swimming skills through weekly swimming lessons. Later in the term, Year 5 enjoyed a school visit to Eachwick Red House Farm and Hexham Auction Market, linked with our geography topic on trade. The

children loved getting up close to the dairy cows, watching the milking process and speaking with farmer Dennis to find out how he makes a living as a dairy farmer. During their visit to the Hexham auction house, the children learned about the auction process, visited the auction ring and even had a try at selling Mrs Richardson and Miss Cottrell (the bids weren't high enough though and they brought both back to Ribbon!). Our final visit this term was a 'circus' taster day at Easington Academy, where the children had a great time doing science experiments, trampolining, math and writing. They even got to watch a live magic act! What a phenomenal term to end the wonderful year we've had in Year 5!

Miss Cottrell, Mrs Sayer, Mrs D Richardson & Mrs Greenfield (Year 5 Team)

**** Year 6's last term at Ribbon! ****



This has been Year 6's last ever term at Ribbon – where have the past 7 years gone?! There has been a mixture of sadness, anticipation and excitement as the children prepare to leave Ribbon and embark on a new adventure in secondary school. The Year 6 team wanted to make this term the best one ever so the children have engaged in all sorts of exciting activities and events. As the weather became warmer (but still wet!), the children travelled to South Shields Beach, where they studied the various mechanisms used by fairground rides. This knowledge supported the children with a DT project back in school. The children also enjoyed an ice cream and some much-

requested time on the beach! More adventures took place at the Wilderness Company, where children experienced many exciting activities: raft-building with water polo; archery; orienteering in the picturesque countryside; and a 'teachers v children' competition on the giant stand-up paddleboards! At the end of term, some children from Year 6 visited Paris and enjoyed a river cruise, going up the Eiffel Tower, shopping in the PSG shop on the Champs Elysees and spending a day in Disneyland Paris. We know that Year 6 have made life-long memories during their time at Ribbon, and we know that there are many great memories to come. Good luck at secondary school, Year 6!



Miss Thorne, Miss Goodman, Miss Hutchinson, Mrs K Richardson & Miss Hosein (Year 6 Team)

Learning Outside the Classroom – Autumn 2024

Year 1 - Asda, Seaham and Holy Trinity Church
Year 2 - Durham Cathedral and Discovery Museum
Year 3 - Hancock Museum and Rainton Meadows
Year 4 – Centre for Life & Segedunum
Year 5 - Oriental Museum & Teesmouth Field Centre
Year 6 - Newcastle Central Mosque & WWII Workshop

Residential Experience 2024/5

- Y1 Sleepover in the Hall (December 2024)
- Y2 Festival Sleepover (July 2025)
- Y3 Beamish (TBC)
- Y4 TBC (Summer 2025)
- Y5 TBC (Spring 2025)
- Y6 Wilderness Company (TBC)

*London **2026** (TBC)

Autumn Term Holidays 2024

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

School closes for the summer break - Friday 19th July 2024

School reopens – Thursday 5th September 2024 (Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September are training days)

School closes for October Half Term – Friday 25th October 2024

School reopens – Monday 4th November 2024

School closes for Christmas – Friday 20th December 2024

School reopens – Tuesday 7th January 2025

This term, we say 'goodbye' to the following members of staff:

Teaching Team

Mrs Flower

Support Team

Mrs Reay

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants

Mrs Bell

School Project Manager (Place2 Be)

Sue Hardy

We wish them well as they move on from Ribbon to pastures new.

Next term, we say 'hello' to the following members of staff:

Teaching Team

Mr Ellis (Year 5 teacher)

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 summer break, and we'll see you soon for the start of next academic year.

Warmest regards,

Mrs A Sheridan (Head teacher), Mr Houghton (DHT) and the Ribbon Team