HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 11
Spring Term, 26th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been busy this week in school as children complete their spring term assessments – Lower School have been very excited by their bubble writing exercises and the bubble art that went alongside it (remember to blow through not suck the straws!) whilst upper school have also been working upon types of narrative, including a poem by Raphael in Year 5 which very much inspired the children as he read it out in assembly this morning. I don't often share children's work in a newsletter, but Mrs Fletcher and I really felt that this one deserved a mention.

The Spirts of Barton Fell

As I approach the summit of Barton Fell, I feel joy beyond measure.
The wind slapping against my face, towered over by the behemoth- like rocks.
Eyeing the grass dancing in the breeze, I look towards the lake as blue as the sky shimmering in the distance.
When this beautiful lake is not calm, but wild and chaotic,
it's like surveying the Great warrior Ulf, the name sake of our lake, rise from the depths with his great Viking hoards.
My time atop this northern crag is not wasted,
I talk to the long-lost spirits of the past.
The dead Romans in legions behind me; the ancient Celtic druids of the past sipping their holy water, chanting songs and verses around me.
And, on occasion ahead I catch a glimpse of Dorothy and William surveying the lonely fellside for Daffodils.
By Raphael P.J. Barbosa

Elsewhere Mr Spooner took Year 6 on a cycling proficiency exercise around the local lanes – an important skill to learn before children venture out on main roads with bikes, and in Year 2 we managed to set fire to our craft houses – recreating The Great Fire of London to the delight of Lower

School who shouted 'FIRE, FIRE, FIRE! as loud as they possibly could! Mr White, our fire officer was on hand with buckets and water just in-case; the wind became too strong and spread to our school buildings 😉

Whilst we cannot under current restrictions end term with our usual easter delights of Spring Concert, Grandparents Afternoon, Easter Bonnet Parades and Spring fayres ☹, we have come up with an alternative plan (as always) next week. Mrs Wrightson is working on some songs within our bubbles to share with you all, in lieu of the above, and the children are all busy making cards and will be making easter nests next week. Mrs Tarrant also launched the easter egg competition this morning in assembly so you should find as template in your child's bag. Please read her note at the end of this newsletter. We also have the easter Hunter Hall games taking place next Thursday – rubber eggs a plenty ready for our egg and spoon races and I have heard a rumour that the Easter Bunny may well come-a-calling for our little ones.

You will be pleased to know that the Hunter Hall Annual review for 2019 – 2020 is due to arrive next week too; this has been delayed somewhat due to all sorts of things, but I am sure you will be delighted with the finished result. If any family would rather not have a copy of this record of the school, in what has been the most extraordinary of years, please contact the office. A reminder that £10 will be added to your bill for this publication: well worth it.

Cumbria County Council have issued further advice regarding lateral flow test kits available for school families – you will find this attached to this newsletter. A reminder please to remain extra vigilant and scrupulous with regard to handwashing and distancing and current regulations and restrictions. I read a heartfelt plea from a headteacher over in Workington this week as she implored parents not to arrange playdates and sleepovers whilst current restrictions remain; she has had to close parts of her school down on a number of occasions as bubbles have become compromised. We await the announcement from our PM over the Easter break and all look to less restrictive measures being put into place should the data gathered look promising.

Congratulations to Orla, Rafferty, Carson and Zachary on their pen licences this morning – good to see handwriting remains alive and well despite word processing etc. I'm sorry Rafferty wasn't able to be at school in person to collect it. Enjoy your weekend – I'm not sure what the weather will throw at us, but don't forget to move your clocks forward – its British Summer Time!

Mrs D Vinsome

Easter Egg Design Competition

This Easter, as we are unable to run our usual Easter bonnet and 'real' egg decoration contest, we are launching an Easter egg design competition. This is open to all children in the school. They have been given a design sheet with an egg template. They must decorate this template using paints, felts, gel pens, colouring pencils or collage materials. The designs must be brought in by Tuesday 30th March so that they can be judged. The winners will be announced in Thursday's assembly and they will receive an 'eggcellent' Easter prize. The categories are: Year 5 and 6, Year 3 and 4, Year 1 and 2 and EYFS (Reception and Preschool). Get creative 😊

Pre School News

We have had such an exciting week in pre-school. First, we have had a great time exploring bubbles! We looked at what colours we could see, took turns to pop them, talked about how they felt and counted how many we could pop before they floated away. We also had a go at bubble painting which was very messy but extremely fun! The bubbles created a range of patterns.

This week we have also been talking about our brand-new season: Spring. We learnt that there are so many lovely things which happen in Spring, but one of the most exciting things is that it means the Easter Bunny will be coming to visit soon!

We have been listening and looking for signs of Spring outside; we have been lucky enough to spot lambs jumping around which have been in the field next to school. We have painted beautiful observational pictures of daffodils too. We explored the colours of the daffodils and talked about what they look like.

Miss Borthwick

Week Ahead – Week 12

Monday 29 March 2021

15:20 - 16:20	After School: Hockey (Lower School)
15:30 - 16:30	After School: Choir (Upper School)
16:30 – 17:30	Additional Cricket Coaching with Mr Hetherington (Year 5) (Places Full)

Tuesday 30 March 2021

13:30 - 16:30	Outdoor Education (Year 3P)
15:20 - 16:20	After School: Tag Rugby (Lower School)
15:30 - 16:30	After School: Chess (Upper School)
15:30 - 16:30	After School: Drama (Upper School)
16:30 - 17:30	After School Prep (Year 5)

Wednesday 31 March 2021

15:20 - 16:20	After School: Mindful Colouring (Lower School)
15:30 - 16:30	After School: Fencing, Block 1 (Upper School) *Places limited to 10*

Thursday 01 April 2021

12:00	Spring 2021 Term ends (12 noon)

Have a lovely Easter break