HUNTER HALL

PREPARATORY & PRE-SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 4
Summer Term, 13th May 2022

Dear Parents

As year 6 and year 2 have been getting on with SATs this week, the rest of school have also been busy settling down, getting ready to complete assessments etc. Full reports will be written by the end of term – which appears to be stealthily creeping up behind us with alarming speed.

Next week, year 5 and 6 will be in Shropshire. The weather is set to be fine, and their itinerary looks fabulous. I am sure they will have a wonderful time, and we look forward to them making many happy memories which will last a lifetime.

The rest of upper school will run a little differently next week– year 3 and 4 will have exams each morning. We will run them alongside some independent learning activities – giving the children the chance to research and implement their own planning on a topic of their choice, supported by their teachers when needed. Over the weekend they may want to think about possible topics to research.

Please note as we have limited numbers of staff due to the residential, after school activities will be affected. Upper school clubs that are run by Hunter Hall staff will be cancelled. Clubs run by external coaches (football, tennis) will operate as normal, however. There are also one or two other additional changes, so check the week ahead carefully, as whilst we will always be able to offer after school care, we may not have the manpower to run activities as normal.

We have hosted and been hosted by Barnard Castle this week and Mr Hetherington was bowled (😊) over to find none other than Mr Ian Botham spectating at Barney! Needless to say, the children went on to acquit themselves very well and enjoyed a super afternoon of cricket!

Sailing has been a little choppy on the lake, but bin bags are the thing to use when one cannot get the sails up due to blustery conditions apparently (!) and the children (on communal paddle boards) have continued to have a fun time collaborating and problem solving to keep afloat and not capsize!

Further across the water, Madame Roberts and her year 5 class have been communicating in French to their pals in a French school via TEAMS. A super experience for them all as the children get to know their French counterparts.

This morning, we took the choir and band to rehearse at the Methodist Centre in Penrith. We are all very much looking forward to the gala concert tomorrow evening. It will be busy – a very large number of tickets have been sold, so you may need to think about parking. There are two council run carparks very close to the Methodist Centre and some on street parking, but obviously priority will be for residents of those streets. There is extremely limited parking at the centre itself. If children are performing in the concert, it will be full school uniform, please. if they are there as a guest only, then mufti may be worn.

And finally, I thought you might like to see photographs from the year 6 history trip last Friday morning to Brougham Hall where a display of World War two memorabilia was on show. What great ambassadors the children were for the school as Mrs Wilson and myself accompanied them – Dads Army comes to mind!

We look forward to seeing many of you at the concert tomorrow, but I hope you also find some respite and down time this weekend too.

Mrs D Vinsome

Parents' Group

Jubilee Big Breakfast

The next Big Breakfast is on Friday 27 May and coincides with our whole-school Jubilee celebrations. Everyone is invited to come along for bacon/egg rolls, croissants and pancakes.

Pre-School News

We have had such a fun week in pre-school!

This week, we have been learning all about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This is a great story to learn about size and feelings, which have been our focus for the week. We read the story and talked about what happened at different points such as at the beginning, middle and end.
The children all helped to retell the story as a group, and we discovered we have a great set of up-and-coming actors and actresses in pre-school!

In our water tray, we had porridge oats to explore- with bowls and spoons, the children had to choose the big, medium and small ones. We also had a go at putting a range of objects from around pre-school into size order.

As well as this, we talked about how the bears felt once they found what Goldilocks had done and joined in with a 'zen den', all about feelings and what makes us feel a certain way.

Our Work it out Wednesday this week was to get our gingerbread men over the river, which was made out of oil, water or milk 😊

Mrs Parker and Miss Graham

STEM WEEK: WHIZZ, POP, BANG!!

STEM week was back with a whizz, pop and a bang last week, with chemistry taking centre stage as our focus this year. With a bank holiday Monday, there was a huge amount to pack in to just four days starting on Tuesday, but we hit the ground running with our spectacular maths day, wonderfully organised by Mr Sturgess. Children were arranged into mixed groups and rotated around different classrooms, attempting to solve various mathematical puzzles and challenges, whilst working together as a team. Decimals, train timetables, tangrams and prisms – we had a bit of everything!

It was a very early start for upper school on Wednesday morning, as they set off from school at 8.00am, heading for the Life Centre, in Newcastle. What a fantastic experience this was! Split into two groups, we were handed our schedules for the day and whisked straight off to our respective activities. We enjoyed a science show all about clever animal adaptations and the

planetarium movie about ice was breath-taking. There were hands on exhibits about the brain and physics, whilst the space area was a real draw for many. Tying in perfectly with our theme, each group also had a chemistry workshop up in the Life Labs, where they tested different coloured substances over Bunsen burners and watched chemical reactions with various liquids. Before we knew it, our time had run out and it was time to leave, with the children wanting more! It illustrates just how good a time was had by the pupils, as they had all behaved and conducted themselves impeccably during the visit and it was a pleasure to take them to such a fantastic science museum.

Lower school and Early Years' STEM week started early when they built papier maché volcanoes before leaving them to dry. They began by screwing up balls of newspaper dipped in flour paste to make the cone before covering the sides with more paste-coated paper and finishing by forming a crater in the top. On the Wednesday of STEM week, we started by painting the now-dry volcanoes in realistic colours. Later, we learned about the science of volcanoes, helped by Vladimir the Volcano who had a funny feeling in his tummy, which turned out to be Maggie the Magma. By the afternoon, the children were exploding with excitement – we were ready to trigger some eruptions. We mixed bicarbonate of soda (an alkali) with a dash of washing up liquid and some red food colouring into a paste and packed it into the crater of our volcanoes. Then the children used a pressure syringe to inject distilled vinegar (an acid) into their crater, the resulting chemical reaction caused the mixture to bubble up and overflow like lava down the sides of the cone (and onto the tables!); a spectacle that was enjoyed by the children and adults alike.

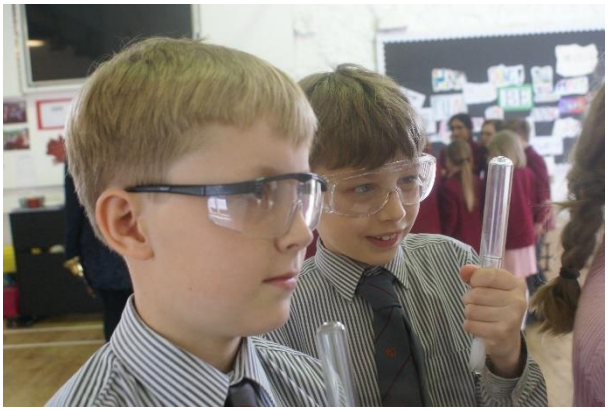
On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome the fabulous science staff from St.Bees school, who had kindly offered to come over and put on four superb experiments for upper school children to try. The Van de Graf machine proved to be something of a hair-raiser, whilst there was also slime making to have a go at. Bunsen burners and coloured flames was popular again but the 'Squeaky Pop' experiment possibly earned the best reviews. Here, the children caught hydrogen in their test tubes before making it pop with a burning splint.

Lower school and Early Years had a visit from Professor Price, who showed the wonderful chemical reactions that can happen just using things you can find in your kitchen. We began by playing with the wonderful properties of cornflour and water (a non-Newtonian fluid) which behaves like a liquid until you put pressure on it when it becomes like a solid. Then we tested the disappearing message, by writing with a *Frixon* pen and using a hairdryer to make the message disappear (it's the heat from the friction that makes the ink disappear) and if you put it in the freezer the message will reappear! Did you know bubbles can be square? – we tried that next. Then came the amazing lava lamp – put coloured water and oil in a jar – add a fizzy headache tablet and watch the coloured water dance through the oil – that was a favourite of the staff and the children. Next on the list was finding out that the ink in brown felt tip pen is actually a mixture of pink and blue and yellow; we used coffee filter paper and water to split out the colours – known as chromatography. Our penultimate experiment was red cabbage indicator

– by boiling red cabbage in water you get a purple liquid; this changes colour if you mix it with acids or alkalis! It goes red if you add it to lemon juice and greeny-blue if you add it to bicarbonate of soda! Our final experiment was sweet – Smarties actually – by arranging them around a white plate and then adding warm water you get a rainbow-like effect, and you get to eat the spare Smarties afterwards! The children were an amazing audience, they enjoyed helping Professor Price with her experiments and finding out what fun you can have in the kitchen – with your parents' permission of course!

Children moved around classes on Friday, as we held a rotation of science lessons in both upper and lower schools. Mr Spooner's activity saw children attempting (successfully!) to extract the DNA from fruits, including strawberries and kiwi. The experiment involved mashing up said fruit, and using various substances to break down the DNA from within the cells. He had tried to encourage a human volunteer but none were forthcoming! Over in Mr Sturgess' room, children were learning about dinosaurs, and they were tasked with drawing an example. 'Escape the science lab' was the challenge set by Mrs Price in her room. Various science related clues needed to be solved before a getaway could be made.

This was indeed, a superb way to round off a very special science week and our thanks go to the staff from St. Bees who made an extra special effort to help our week go with a bang!



Mr Spooner and Mrs Price

Week Ahead

Year 5 and 6 in Shropshire
Year 3 and 4 exam week

PLEASE NOTE: ALL UPPER SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RUN INTERNALLY BY STAFF ARE CANCELLED DUE TO STAFFING THIS WEEK.

Monday 16 May 2022

09:30 - 12:00	Richard Evans - Drums
14:00 - 18:30	Barbara Gilbertson - Voice, violin and piano
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School- Cricket

Tuesday 17 May 2022

PM	Outdoor Education Year 3 and 4 Group 2 - Note: still going ahead with Mr Hetherington and Miss Graham, despite Mr Spooner's absence.
10:30 - 11:00	Lower School Swimming (Penrith Leisure Centre)
15:00 - 16:30	Barbara Gilbertson - Voice, violin and piano
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Athletics – cancelled, due to Mr Hetherington on Outdoor Ed

Wednesday 18 May 2022

15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Drama

Thursday 19 May 2022

All Day	NO Outdoor Education - RESIDENTIAL WEEK
08:30 - 16:00	Barbara Gilbertson - Voice, violin and piano
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Board Games
15:00 - 16:00	Lower School - Football
16:00 - 17:00	Upper School - Football

Friday 20 May 2022

	NO LAMDA
15:15 - 16:15	Lower school – Tennis
15:30 - 16:30	Lower School - Free play
16:25 - 17:25	Upper School – Tennis