



Walton and Lees Hill CE Primary School News

We had a very busy week to end our last school year. It started with our PTA Afternoon Tea event on the village green in Walton on Sunday 14th July. This was a hugely successful event and raised just over £1000 for PTA funds. FANTASTIC! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event.

On Thursday 18th July, we held our end of term church service in St Mary's church, Walton and we said goodbye to Calvin, Evie and Tomasz as they finished their time with us. In the afternoon, the children set up their FUNds day stalls which was another well supported event and raised a fantastic amount of money for school funds. We finished the year off in Lees Hill style with tea and cake as we said farewell and good luck to our head teacher; Mrs Dagleish.

The school year started off with the excitement of our new name

WALTON AND LEES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL!



This is to celebrate our school being the catchment school for children living in Walton and to show that we are here to serve the people of Walton and surrounding areas; such as Nicky's Hill, Kirkcambeck, Askerton and West Hall. We also welcomed a change in role for our teacher of 13 years, Fiona Stobbart, who is now acting head teacher. Lynn Rooney is now full time teacher of the children in KS2 and Chris Howard is our full time infant teacher.



Out and About was our topic for the first half term and the children enjoyed being out in the forest or down in the Lake District one day a week. Embracing the outdoors is something that continues to feature a lot as we appreciate our wealth of space and fantastic field, outdoor classroom and garden areas. In the short time we have been back at school, we have achieved



The Green Tree School bronze and silver awards, which we are very proud of. This celebrates our love of the outdoors. The children have also produced some beautiful sculptures using natural resources; inspired by outdoor artists Andy Goldsworthy, James Brunt and Chris Drury.



We have teamed up with Ian Blair and Hospice at Home this term. To celebrate 25 years in business, Ian has kindly given each pupil in school £5 and they have been set the challenge of making it grow. We have already set up a school snack shop, stocking fruit and veg from Rooting 4U in Penrith and all money raised from this will go to Hospice at Home. The children have submitted their planning sheets and have come up with a range of fantastic ideas; a car wash, pudding night and making Christmas decorations to sell are just a few! Christmas decorations and Hospice at Home cards are on sale in Walton tearoom and Lucky Squares are selling fast! We also came to school in our pyjamas on 18th October to take part in Hospice at Home's big pyjama party! We raised £30 from this event.



We've enjoyed several visitors to school, which included Julie Boothman and Cara Varty from Hospice at Home. They informed staff and children about the wonderful work that the charity do and how we can help through our fundraising efforts. Jamie Normington from Cumbria Wildlife Trust visited to share their work on the award winning book 'The Lost Words, which links young people with nature, art, poetry and words. Giovanni, from Italy, had been staying with Jos and Rebecca so he popped up to school to share what life is like in Italy, spoke to the children in Italian and brought some tasty parmesan cheese and lovely smelling basil! This was a fantastic opportunity to link with our school chosen language to learn, which is Italian. Thank you Giovanni! We all took part in RE Week in October with the theme of Children in the Bible. Puppetsually Puppets – A Bible based puppet show, came to school so start off the week and shared the message that 'God loves us all'. The children in the junior class visited Brampton Methodist Church the end the week, and shared their presentation about Isaac from the Bible, with a group of other church schools. Pudsey Bear came to visit us on 12th November, to help us with our fundraising efforts for Children in Need. During the week, we also had a craft afternoon, a bear hunt, non-uniform day, penny trail and a games afternoon. All of these events were held to raise funds for Children in Need.



World Mental Health Day was on 10th October, and we celebrated in school with a 'Hello Yellow' day. All children came to school wearing something yellow and they brought cakes to sell at snack time. We raised £40.80 for charity.

On Saturday 12th October, our school football team did us proud in the tournament at William Howard School. They reached the semi-final and were literally pipped at the post to a place in the final. The game went to golden goal. It was so close and

very nerve-wracking for spectators! A huge thank you the Nev Waugh for giving up his time on a Friday to prepare the children for doing so well. The team looked very smart in their new kit and a huge thank you to Margaret Main for some fine needle work, to make sure that we were WALTON & Lees Hill for the tournament!



We celebrated the season of harvest with our harvest festival in the school hall on Thursday 17th October at 9.30am. This was well attended and took the theme of trees. The children all researched the different trees in our school grounds and prepared displays about each one in our hall. They shared stories, poems and prayers about trees and Reverend Angela gave a blessing at the end. We made £56.20 from the sale of harvest produce and we gather 2 large boxfuls of non-perishable items for Carlisle Key – a charity supporting homeless young people in Carlisle.



Stand up tall and proud
Sink your roots into the Earth
Be content with your natural beauty
Go out on a limb
Drink plenty of water
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!



After returning to school following the half-term break, it has been all systems go! We are continuing to work with children at Bewcastle School, with gymnastics as our focus for this half-term. On Monday 11th November, we held our own act of remembrance in school which included the ringing of the bell to signal the start of the 2-minute silence. This was a very moving time and allowed us to be still and remember. We took advantage of the lovely weather and held our worship time in our beautiful outdoor space. This allowed us all to hear the bell which is a church bell, as our school used to be a church.

The next day, the children in the infant class went to see a production of Stick Man at The Queen's Hall Theatre in Hexham. The show was filled with brilliant acting, songs and live music. All children thoroughly enjoyed it; including our friends from toddler group.

We have also enjoyed a stroll around Walton to do Walton's Window Walk. The trail was book themed and we all had different favourites; Elmer, The Snail and the Whale and Stick Man. We made time to pop into St Mary's Church, in Walton, to observe some of the features and look in more detail and the stained glass windows. The afternoon was rounded off very nicely with hot chocolate and a gingerbread man, kindly provided by Helen from The Reading Room Cafe.

At the time of writing, we still have lots to look forward to as we approach Christmas. We have our whole school Christmas trip to Beamish planned, carol singing at Walton Christmas lights switch on, The Christingle service at Lanercost Priory, whole school Christmas performance of 'How Christmas Came To Be', Christmas Party, The Brewery in Walton Christmas Fair, Christmas Lunch and our Christmas church service followed by carol singing around Walton.

We would like to appeal to anyone who feels that they have something to offer to share with our children. This can be anything from a one off hour listening to children read, a weekly slot helping out in the library or garden or a sewing or baking stint now and again. The possibilities are endless! Please let us know if you or anyone you know may have something to offer to share with our children. Caring, **sharing**, always learning!

Toddler group runs in our school hall every Tuesday morning 9.30-11am, 50p per child. This includes a healthy snack and drink, a cuppa for the parents and carers and we even sometimes have cake!

If you would ever like to get in touch with us at school, please give us a call on 016977 2577, e-mail head@leeshill.cumbria.sch.uk or pop along to see us anytime!

