

Victoria Lane Voice

July 2019



Beamish Builds Replica Coundon and Leeholme Welfare Hall



Class 4 have been participating in a fantastic project with Beamish Museum, to celebrate a replica of the Coundon and Leeholme Welfare Hall being built there, as part of major plans to allow people to relive the 1950s. The hall is a replica of Leasingthorne Colliery Welfare Hall and Community Centre, near Bishop Auckland, which opened in 1957. Beamish Museum, near Chester-le-Street, has worked closely with the community members at the original hall, now known as Coundon and Leeholme Community Centre, who shared memories, stories and objects.

Our Year 4/5 children took part in a workshop in school, where they planned 1950's kids clubs and enjoyed a fantastic visit to Beamish Museum. Free transport and reduced price entry tickets were offered for the opening event. Many community organisations in Coundon and Leeholme were involved and the opening event was a fantastic success. Three coach loads of visitors from Coundon and Leeholme descended upon Beamish for the opening celebration! The 1950s welfare hall is the first completed building of the £20million Remaking Beamish project. The hall hosted 1950s activities for visitors to enjoy, including music, dancing, crafts, keep fit and amateur dramatics, and it also featured an NHS clinic. When complete, the 1950s town will include a cinema, houses, shops, café, fish and chip shop, hairdressers and bowling green.



Attendance Rewards

This year, attendance has been severely hit by the outbreak of chicken pox and vomiting bugs which have resulted in far fewer children than usual achieving 100% attendance. This year, 12 children are on track for 100% attendance for the full year and they will all receive an end of year reward to celebrate this achievement. Anyone who has 100% attendance for the full summer term will be entered into the termly £100 cash prize draw. We also continue to issue a £10 weekly award for full attendance the previous week. Nursery children have their own Superhero weekly reward system as good attendance needs to start as soon as children enter nursery to ensure children are ready for starting school.

1. Here at VLA, we aspire to reach 96% attendance in line with national figures. Between good school attendance and achieving good results for children. All parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. Our school motto is "To be the best that you can be": you can only achieve your full potential by attending school regularly as missing school is missing out!
2. It is widely recognised there is a strong link between good school attendance and pupil achievement; this is the reason we celebrate and reward attendance!

End of Year Reports

End of school year reports for your child will be issued on Friday 5th July. You are invited into school on Monday 8th July, after 3.15pm, to speak to your child's class teacher about the report for this school year. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact the school office.

Sports Day Reminder

Our annual Sports Day, which is space themed this year, will be held on the school field, on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. **Please can you ensure your child has a PE kit of a white t-shirt and navy/black shorts and trainers for this event.** Due to warm weather forecast, please can you send in sunhats, caps and sun cream for your child. School will provide refreshments for all of the children so they will be kept hydrated during this event. Spectators can purchase drinks for a small donation and there will be a tombola, with lots of lovely prizes to be won!

School Organisation 2019-2020

A letter has been previously issued, detailing which class your child will be moving up into from September for the new academic year. All children will move into their new class for three transition days, from Wednesday 10th July until Friday 12th July. School will continue to open for Breakfast club at 8am and our 'Book and Bagel' classroom breakfast is available from 8.40am, when the school gates open.

Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual summer fayre and a huge thank you to the parents, children and all of the staff who supported, helped organise and ran it! Luckily, the rain stayed away so children could enjoy the outdoor activities including a Total Wipe-out inflatable, bouncy castle and a penalty shootout.

We raised an amazing £700 for school funds! Fundraising is more important than ever so we are able to offer all of the activities that we do, subsidise visits and rewards, as well as purchase new resources and toys. Once again, our funding has decreased, due to government cuts to spending. The outdoor nursery is being refurbished in the summer holidays by volunteers from Northumbria Water and some of the money raised will buy new outdoor construction toys for the youngest children to enjoy.

Business Kids

We would like to thank King James 1 Academy for engaging our pupils in a wide range of quality transition activities throughout the year. Eight Y5 pupils entered the Business Enterprise Challenge this year and they were the overall winners! They were recently presented with the winning trophy, at an award assembly. Raising a fantastic £412, they sold a range of items including Valentine and Mother's Day gifts as well as 50p Friday treats in school. As a reward, the Business Kids will be visiting Crafter's Companion for a fantastic day of activities. Hopefully, they will have the opportunity to meet the new inspirational dragon from the Dragon's Den, Sara Davies, who runs a worldwide company and comes from Coundon herself!



Environmental Education

Oases is running an excellent free environmental project with Year 3 and selected Y4 pupils, that commenced in May and will run until September 2019. The children are currently developing a nearby woodland area, Westerton Woods, to clear it of rubbish and further work is planned in the autumn term.

Kielder Residential Visit

Twenty six of our upper Key Stage 2 pupils participated in a fun -filled and exciting visit to Kielder Calvert Trust, for a three-day residential visit. Despite torrential rain, the children thoroughly enjoyed a range of challenging activities including swimming, canoeing, ziplining and climbing , as well as the Giant 3G swing!

Two further visits have been planned for the next academic year, Dukeshouse Wood at Hexham for Y4 pupils and for the first time ever, a Y3 residential visit is available. The overnight visit to Middleton - in - Teesdale in September offers a range of Stone Age activities, at the amazing reduced cost of £40. These trips form lasting memories which stay with children forever and result in much improved social skills, self-confidence, independence and resilience and essential life-skills. Thank you for enabling your children to take up these great opportunities. If you are interested in any of these visits, please contact the school office.

First Aid

Our KS2 pupils recently took part in first aid training, organised and co-ordinated by Believe housing association in partnership with St Johns Ambulance. Children in Years four, five and six were taught how to assist someone in trouble; simple steps they can take while waiting for help to arrive; along with the importance of keeping airways clear using the recovery position and how to deal with bleeding and using bandaging. We would like to thank Believe for their continued support.



New Parent Governors Appointed

We are delighted to announce that two new parent governors are joining our Victoria Lane Academy local governing body. Both parents, Mr Lawton and Mr Duff, are enthusiastic and passionate about our school and will help us continue to improve and develop our school as it moves forward in the future.

Teatime Club and Extra-Curricular Clubs

As staff are busy making preparations for the new school year, Teatime Club will only be open on Friday of week commencing 8th July and will not run at all in the final week of term. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause but it is unavoidable. All after school clubs have now concluded for this year and we are currently collecting Pupil Voice to determine which clubs our children would enjoy after school, next year.