



SPRING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020



Happy Easter!

This term, our newsletter is coming to you under unprecedented circumstances. As the country fights the coronavirus pandemic and adapts to a very different way of life, we have worked hard to retain some sense of normality and keep pupils learning at home. I'd like to personally thank every parent and carer who has supported us in this endeavour.

Before the pandemic struck, lots of great things had happened in school, which is why we want to go ahead with our newsletter this term, albeit electronically rather than the usual printed copy.

It has been an action packed half term here at Diamond Hall Junior Academy. Pupils enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters for the much loved World Book Day and we had lots of interesting visitors in school. Our children also enjoyed transforming areas of our school into a cosy bedroom, exciting safari and frozen paradise

for new, dedicated reading areas - read more inside!

Education outside of the classroom has taken place at Beamish Museum and other interesting locations including Thornhill Academy, where children took part in an exciting afternoon with Kielder Observatory - we have lots more exciting trips planned for our children to enjoy when school is resumed.

Finally, I'd like to thank our parents and carers once again for your continued support as we try our best during this very difficult time. I'd also like to extend my thanks, along with all staff at Diamond Hall Junior Academy, to those in our community and beyond who are working on the front line to care for us all.

Mrs F Hoare
Headteacher



Pupils help the community

This term, we had the pleasure of welcoming staff from Sunderland Royal Hospital to our celebration assembly.

The visitors were invited into school so that our head boy and girl could present them with a cheque for £400 for their coronary care unit.

We would like to say a big well done to our Year 6 children who raised the money by planning and delivering a very successful fundraiser with the help of Years 3-5.





WORLD BOOK DAY 2020!

For World Book Day 2020, our children had a fantastic day dressing up as characters from their favourite stories!

We saw everything from wizards and witches to kings and queens. The children had the opportunity to recite their favourite stories as well

as write some of their own. Everyone had a great time in their newly transformed reading areas, relaxing while sharing tales.



Safer Internet Day

As part of Diamond Hall's 'Safer Internet Day', our Year 5 and 6 classes were visited by Beth from Bigfoot Arts Education.

Our very special visitor delivered some fun and insightful workshops with our older children linked to cyber safety.

The groups discussed the wide range of ways in which people use the internet, from gaming to video calling friends. The children then considered the issues people may face online such as stranger danger, viruses, hackers and scams.

The children came up with some great solutions to prevent the dangers such as creating a secure password, installing anti-virus applications and sharing concerns with safe adults.

To finish off the day, Beth kindly shared a helpful acronym for SMART with everyone:
Safety, **M**alicious, **A**wareness, **R**espect, **T**ell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we cannot commit to any fixed school events at the moment. Planned events in school are postponed until further notice.

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.



A mysterious visit...

This term, Year 4 took a trip to Beamish Museum to help solve the mystery of Joe the Quilter's murder!

The mystery of the trip was based on a true story from the past where a reward was offered to anyone who could catch the criminal. The class had to use their investigation skills to interview suspects who were spotted near Joe's cottage in the hours before his death.

Each group of children came up with their own decision about what happened, once they had investigated the situation. After spending the morning inquiring, the class were shocked to find out the real story - that the suspect was never caught and the reward was never collected!



A special visitor

Earlier this term, our Year 5 pupils were visited by Sheree, who delivered a workshop about refugees.

The children took part in a matching task which helped them learn the definitions of key terms such as refugee, asylum seeker and migrant.

They then considered push and pull factors that may cause somebody to leave their country.

Afterwards, they listened to the story of a refugee's hopes and dreams before considering their own dreams and thinking about what barriers they might face in their lives.

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@DiamondJuniors



facebook.com/DiamondJuniors



Reading area transformation

This term our school's shared areas had a wonderful transformation!

After speaking with our pupils, they decided that they would like areas around the school dedicated to reading.

Each year group decided on their own theme based on their interests, and their choices were fantastic!

Year 5's area was transformed into a 'bedroom' where the children could go and relax and read during their reading time.

Year 4 stepped into a safari tour as their animal theme brought the wild and wonderful

to Diamond Hall.

Year 3 decided on a frozen paradise theme where they got comfy, relaxed and read!

Matthew said: "I love our new reading areas! They're so relaxing when you read inside them. It makes me want to read as soon as I get into school."

Lexi added: "Our reading areas now mean we have a special place to read in. It is brilliant, sitting comfortably with my friends reading my favourite book."



A visit from Blue Cross

This term our children enjoyed an assembly presented by the Blue Cross.

The assembly was based on 'safety around dogs'. As we all know, dogs can be friendly and have a reputation as 'man's best friend' but we must all remember that unfamiliar dogs can sometimes react aggressively.

All of our children came away with a leaflet with top tips on how to behave around dogs. Please take time to read the leaflet and discuss the top tips to reinforce what the children learned.



Stargazing fun!

This term, a group of our pupils were 'over the moon' to be invited to Thornhill Academy to take part in an afternoon linked with their science topic, Earth and Space, provided by Kielder Observatory.

Our pupils had the opportunity to handle rocks from the Moon and Mars as well as fragments of the Chelyabinsk asteroid which hit Russia in 2013.

After handling the rocks, the children entered a pop-up planetarium and explored the stars from the comfort of Thornhill Academy. The group looked at different constellations and compared them to the animals they are named after.

While stargazing, the children listened to the voice

of astronaut Tim Peake as he described life on the International Space Station.

To finish off their day, the children took part in a competition to design their own spacecraft to protect an egg when dropped from the sky. Our pupils worked well in teams to make their crafts and five managed to protect the egg from breaking!

Olivia said: "It was incredible to hold something from millions of miles away!"



An Easter poem from our pupils

It's Easter time, we will eat Easter eggs,

Time for spring cleaning, washing hung on pegs.

As it's getting warm, baby animals appear on the farm.

Hopping around, here's the Easter Bunny,

He brings us eggs and is very funny.

The grass is green and the sun is bright,

Welcome to Easter and Jesus' light.

By Olivia and Lexi

Teacher training opportunities

Shotton Hall
SCITT
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Did you know that Diamond Hall Junior Academy Hall helps to train the next generation of new teachers and are looking for new recruits to start in September 2020?

Through the North East Learning Trust, we are a partner of Shotton Hall SCITT, the Trust's very own outstanding teacher training provider.

Trainees start their training at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee,

before undertaking placements in schools right across the North East.

Applications are now open for primary and secondary courses starting in September 2020 with bursaries of up to £26k available for certain subjects.

To find out about entry requirements and the opportunities available, as well as hearing from people who have taken the leap and changed career visit:

www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk

