

23 March 2016

Dear Parents,

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Festival



This half term has been short but very busy. Many of you came into school to have a look at, and take part in, our STEM festival. A 'mad scientist', Pocahontas, Elsa and Captain Jack introduced the children to a range of challenges including building a bridge, designing and building a boat that floated and working out the quickest way to unfreeze the jewels. It was an exciting two days that stimulated a lot of questions,

thought and learning. Next time you are in school, take a look at the display of photographs and read the children's comments including, *"I have really enjoyed today and yesterday. It was nice to have some different people around school. It has come to my knowledge that ultra-violet light can make things glow. That's awesome!"*

Attendance

As you know, we have had a real focus on working with you and your children to improve our school's attendance. We are pleased to be able to say that our whole school attendance this year is 96% which is 0.8% better than last year. This means that the children at Newby have been at school for a total of 343 more days than last year which is approximately one extra day's education for each child in Years 1 to 6. Well done and thank you for helping us to make a difference!

School Council and Uniform

The older children in school have asked the School Council if they would be able to wear a school tie in Year 5 and 6. They said that it would help them to look more mature than the younger children and would also help to prepare them for secondary school. When asked, 80% of the children in Year 5 and 6 said they would choose to wear a tie. The children have also run a competition to design a tie that represented Newby and we are looking into the cost of having this specifically made for our school. The School Council, represented by Sukainah Haq and Mohammed Awais, met the governing body and put forward their case. As a result, from September we will be offering the children in Years 5 and 6 the option of wearing a school tie with a collared shirt, blouse or kameez. The governing body decided to buy a tie for any child who will be in Year 6 as they would only be wearing it for one year. The governing body have listened to the children in school and agreed to a change in the school uniform.

School Council and Sport Relief



On Friday 18 March, the School Council arranged for all the pupils and staff at Newby to take part in Sport Relief's 'Run a Mile' event. They worked out that 20 laps around the MUGA was one mile and they asked the children and staff to be sponsored by their friends and family. The school raised an amazing £1112.95.

**"Mutual respect is the school's cornerstone
on which its success is built."**

- Ofsted 2013



Community Involvement

The Year 4 children have recently written a very persuasive letter to ask me if they could raise money for homeless people in Bradford. They have also chosen to donate half of their attendance reward money. Working with Reverend Jimmy Hinton from St. Stephens' Church, the pupils have discovered that there are about sixty young people and adults who are sleeping rough every night in Bradford.

The Year 5 and 6 pupils have been working with Sheila Brett, the Little Horton Ward Officer, to litter pick in our local community. They were shocked and surprised to collect 26 bags of rubbish in two hours just from St. Stephens' Road, Cotewall Road and Ryan Street. The Year 5 children have since decided to organise a litter picking group once a week to improve the local area. The Year 6 are writing letters to local businesses to see if they are able to raise enough money to buy some more bins to encourage people to dispose of litter properly. I am really proud of the way that the children are developing a sense of social responsibility.

Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to the 47 parents who completed and returned the parental questionnaire to the governors at Consultation Evening. The winner of the draw was a family with children in year 1, 3 and 6. All of your comments will be analysed and the outcome will be published on our school website www.newbyprimary.co.uk If you would like to make a comment about any aspect of school, there are blank copies of the questionnaire available in the entrance hall or please call in and see me or any member of staff.

Easter Holidays



School will close at 3.30 on Thursday 24 March and will open again at 8.00 for Breakfast Club or at 8.55 for the start of the school day on Monday 11 April.

Have a wonderful holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Janice Stephenson
Headteacher