

# Dame Dorothy Primary School Weekly Newsletter

*Forward Together!*  
**What's gone on... 27th April - 1st May**

Remember, our whole school target is above 95%.

*Forward Together!*

## Star of the Week

There are so many stars from Nursery and Reception we can't fit them on! Names can be seen in the windows outside the Nursery and Reception classrooms.

Year 1	Demi-Leigh Robson
Year 2	Beau Regan
Year 3	Aleesha Chisholm
Year 4	Louie Dixon
Year 5	Thomas Taylor
Year 6	Bilal Khan

House Group Winners!	Best Class Attendance	Whole School Attendance
Yellow	Year 5 97.3%	 95%



*Head Teacher's Award*  
**Micky Herron**

### Beamish Visit

Many thanks to Fred Williamson's, who kindly financed our trip to Beamish. The children had a lovely day helping in the pit houses to do the chores without the help of modern day appliances. We visited the mine and enjoyed a ride on the open top tram. The staff commented on the excellent behaviour of the children too. The children were able to learn about how things worked before electricity.



**Alnwick Castle** Year 5 had a fabulous day at Alnwick Castle, stepping back in time to a medieval age, making soap and tiles, dressing up in costumes and fighting dragons! Alnwick castle was being invaded by the Scots (Team 1) and England needed to learn quick how to defend the castle, through draw bridges, spikes in the moat, buckets of unimaginable disgust and much, much more. Year 5 had a great time stepping up to the task of being the kings knights, until we were lead to the dungeon. It was very dark and Mrs Campion needed her hand held! It made the children think that maybe modern day and having to go to school wasn't so bad after all! After a quick stop for lunch and a play of the medieval toys, it was time for more adventures. We stepped forward in time and unveiled our true identity as wizards. With the back drop of Harry Potter being filmed at Alnwick, We had to have a go at broomstick training! I think Dame Dorothy might have found our new sport... Quidditch! We whooshed through the air, learning key skills of flight. We can now say we have flown at Hogwarts. A fantastic day, with amazing children, yet again.



### Winners of Read Write Review:

Year 6 Jake Bennett      Year 5 Shaun Booth  
Year 4 Rhianna Storey    Year 3 Stephanie Peebles



### Derwent Hill

Final reminders for payments. Final payments must be made to school by Friday 8th May.

### Gentoo Event

Year 4 took part in Gentoo's enterprise week which involved a litter pick around the surrounding area followed by a special afternoon of flower arranging with our stars of the week and elderly residents from the local flats. The children really enjoyed themselves and we believe it is very important that our children take a keen interest in our locality. Of course, they were excellent ambassadors for the school. Gentoo also organised a flower arranging demonstration with residents of Dock Flats in which some of our children also participated in.



Tesco have donated the paper for this newsletter. Thank you.

## Year 4 Special



Year 4 is where a lot of children really begin to develop as independent learners. We encourage the children to take more responsibility for their learning and that includes making sure that homework is taken home, done and returned as required. Also, children are given books to read by various authors with a view to a final book review being written. Children should read what they feel is an appropriate amount each night and hopefully have the chance to talk about what they've read with someone at home. Reading for understanding is such a massive part of what we encourage the pupils to be able to do by the end of the year. Another massive requirement is times tables knowledge. We insist that all children know all of their times tables completely-they are the cornerstone of nearly all the maths they'll cover for the rest of their school life! So if there's a spare few minutes at home, chant, sing, rap, whatever your times tables!

### Vindolanda

Our topic this term is Gods and Gladiators- in other words, The Romans! To begin our topic in style, we travelled to Vindolanda to see for ourselves where and why and when the romans came here. We were met by an archaeologist who explained to us what excavation work was going on and showed us examples of what had been found already. The children loved the remains of the butcher's shop! We explored the whole site then headed off to the museum to see a 3D movie and get a Latin lesson from a virtual teacher!

Ipsium!



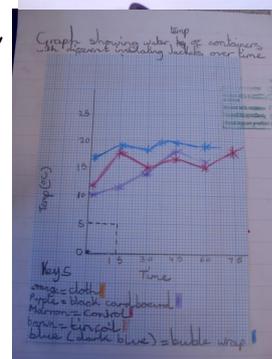
### Super Mathematicians!

We are currently working our way through the new curriculum in our Numeracy studies. It consists of 52 objectives (split over 7 units) to be taught over the 39 weeks of the year. Many of the things we're studying this year were once Y5 and even Y6 objectives in the previous programme of study! We're currently studying fractions- we've just converted mixed numbers to improper fractions- now we're simplifying fractions! All very technical. We are all working towards mastery of all the objectives and we'll be doing lots of short but informative assessments as we go-these tell us what we still need to practice. Maths homework comes home every week and reflects what it is we're doing in maths that week.



### Scientists!

Within our science topic we have been looking at living things and their habitats. This involved us learning about how we actually define if something is alive or not. Then we looked at classifying animals in their class as either vertebrates or invertebrates and then into their orders as either reptiles, insects etc. This all was taught under our topic heading of the 'Blue Abyss' all about life under the sea. The children really benefit from many of the lessons that are taught through the day being linked under one heading. This half term our Science topic will be sound. In this we will be looking at what sound is, how it travels and how we hear different volumes and pitches. The new curriculum focuses on the three strands of biology, chemistry and physics to help prepare children for the rigors of secondary school.



## Community

As a school we think that the school should be a very important part of our local community and as a result we encourage our children to take part in lots of community based activities. Just recently we were invited, as a class, to help Gentoo to help litter pick the area surrounding the school. We were given some instruction on how to use the pickers, given gloves and a bin bag and then set to work trying to pick as much litter as we could. Prizes were generously donated by Gentoo for the children who'd worked best a team, were best behaved and finally for the most litter picked. As a class, we've learned that littering is a bad idea and it makes our community a messy place! Also, many of Year 4 children are choir members and as such have taken part in many carol services for some of our local residents. Its become a regular and really popular event in our Christmas calendar!

## Sport

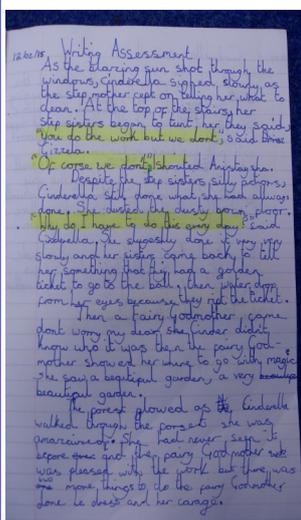
We love our sport. As a school, as a class and as individuals. We see sport as an essential part of learning and developing into productive citizens. At DDPS we are focusing on football, netball, cricket, swimming, gymnastics, rugby, dance, tennis and athletics. Our aim is to encourage children to fulfil their potential through competition and participation. We aim to enter twenty four different competitions across the school with other schools- either city wide or just within our cluster. This year we have a Year 4 child representing the school at football, three children at Castleview Cricket Academy, one who swims for Sunderland and two who compete in martial arts- and all this in a class of only nineteen! In the future we would like to see every child in every class having had their talent spotted, nurtured and developed through excellent lessons, in school competition and out of school clubs. Lots of our children also attend out of school clubs which we would always encourage.



## Literacy

Writing, handwriting, reading for understanding, spelling, grammar and punctuation are all aspects of the new literacy curriculum. All of these strands have to be woven together, to enable children to be able to write fluently and clearly to a certain standard. Certainly, there are many challenges, but pupils can help themselves a lot by reading appropriate books daily, practicing their weekly spellings and talking about their experiences at school with adults at home.

We give children their spellings at the beginning of the week and use a range of tasks to encourage their understanding of the objective. We then hope to see these words popping up in their writing where appropriate as well!



This half terms genre is narrative in an historical setting- fits in perfectly with our Romans topic!

## E-Safety—Written By Jael Braimah Year 4

The importance of E-Safety is to stay safe on the internet because there could be dangerous things there.

There are particular things you shouldn't go on to on the internet. You should keep your personal information to your self in case it happens to you. If your in a situation, where there no adult there, what do you think you'll do?

This is what you should do when your keeping safe. Don't give your personal information to people you don't know. Don't talk to bullies or they will tempt you to do what's wrong. Be careful to who you talk to.

Every time your not sure and you get an 'uh oh' feeling tell a grown up that you trust. If you see a stranger online, don't talk to them because they not always who you think they are. Check information be you go on it.



When looking through photos for our newsletter, we had a hard time deciding, so thought we would share a few for you today.



One of science experiments was to see the effects of certain drinks on teeth (we used eggs instead though!). We found that the orange juice completely removed the outer shell. Quite surprising for a 'healthy drink'!

Below shows our digestive system made entirely from the recyclable box!

Some of our new friends from the Blue Reef Aquarium. Do you know what animal groups they both belong to?

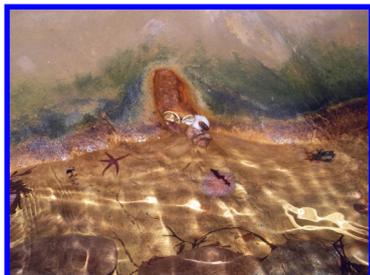


Some shots from our various PE lessons, days out and competitions.



## Blue Abyss

On Tuesday the 3rd of March, Year 4 took a trip as part of our topic, to the Blue Reef aquarium in North Tyneside to take a closer look at life under the sea. We spent the first part of the morning looking closely at fresh water and sea water fish in their aquariums. The first tank was the red bellied piranhas! We found out that they were carnivorous fish- that's why they had the huge teeth! We decided not to stroke those ones!



Next we saw the Amazonian otters. These were coming up to feeding time so they were very lively and made a lot of noise (and a lot of smell!) but were very cute. These are also meat eaters and mostly feed on fish and shell-fish and they were our first mammals of the day.

From our reading about the different animal groups, we were quite excited to see the octopus but he was very well hidden in his rock crevice so unfortunately he proved impossible to see. Shame because he would have been our first invertebrate of the day.

We were then directed onto the tunnel under the sea. This salt water aquarium was enormous and the tunnel allowed us to look up at all of the fish and crustaceans. A favourite seemed to be the stingray, that was happy to land on the top of the tunnel and allow us to study its underparts very carefully! We saw that his teeth were like rasps for eating shellfish and other shelled creatures he finds on the bottom of the sea.



Then came the highlight- the sea lions. Two Californian sea lions live in the outside tank. We were able to view them swimming from the side viewing window and also got to see the show that coincided with feeding time. We were all very shocked at the size. Finn, the male was 40 stone, and Lucy, the female was a mere 25 stone! They were both very noisy and very intelligent. They were trained to perform little movements and tricks and seemed at least as smart as dogs.



They just perhaps need a bit more food every day. The day ended with a classroom session from one of the very well informed staff, who asked us questions about what we'd learnt already and told us lots more information. She based her lesson on rock pools and what we might be able to find in them- starfish and sea-urchins. We now know that a star-fish has five arms but hundreds of legs and only one mouth. We got to hold one and ask as many questions as we wanted. The day was rounded off with a trip to the gift shop. A fabulous day out!



## Vindolanda

Last week we travelled all the way up to the wilds of Northumberland to visit Vindolanda as part of our studies into our topic of 'Gods and Gladiators'. With plenty of preparations made for the long, bumpy journey we set off early with a great deal of excitement.



We finally made it and was met by one of the archaeologists working at the site. She told us about what the fort was for, how it got its name and why it was built where it was. We discovered that Vindolanda means white fields- so we figured that the romans arrived when the weather up there was at its finest! Our talk took place in a room with a Y shaped groove built into the floor. We were challenged to guess what this building was used for - the butchers shop! The grooves were to let all the blood from the dead animals run out and into the, still running, stream outside the door. One of the first examples of a sewage system seen in England!

Next we were allowed time to explore the rest of the fort and village. Each building had a sign telling us what it was and what it was used for. With the sun shining we had a great time finding out that each roman fort built anywhere was built using the same plan- the theory being that a roman posted anywhere could still make his way around any fort without getting lost- very simple yet very clever!

Then we jumped back on the bus for the short journey up to the museum where we sat down and watched a 3D movie about Vindolanda showing what it would have looked like and who lived there. We discovered that most of the troops were from Gaul, which is modern day France with some soldiers even coming all the way from the middle east and Africa! Very cosmopolitan. We completed our day with an interactive lesson with a holographic teacher. He taught us how to speak some latin. We counted 1-3, said hello, goodbye and thank you. He even gave us homework! Another fabulous day out and a great way to begin a topic on romans. We almost felt like we were romans by the end of it all!



**Don't forget to check out latest news, photos and videos on our school website  
[www.damedorothy.org.uk](http://www.damedorothy.org.uk)**

**The Anti-Bullying Coordinators for the school are, Mrs Burdon Mrs Maughan.  
Please use the link to the school website to view the Anti-bullying policy.**

### **Reminders for upcoming events:**

- 04.05 May Bank holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 11.05 SAT's week—Year 6
- 15.05 SAT's Celebration lunch
- 25.05 Half Term Holiday Begins
- 01.06 Children Return to school
- 02.06 Year 2 Trip to Alnwick
- 08.06 Bikeability Week
- 15.06 Derwent Hill
- 10.07 Summer Fayre

School Website

