



## Newsletter May 2015

We are now in the middle of a very busy half term. It is a half term that is full of assessments and observations of the children as we are getting to the time when we have to report on children's attainment and progress, and also pass on information for those children leaving us in July. So please, if at all possible, can you please make sure your child is in school every day. Our Year 1 children will have their phonics screening check in the week beginning 15th June, so another important week!

### Staffing

We are pleased that Mrs Lillie is recovering at home and will hopefully be back to join us sometime after the May half term break. Miss Hannah Rogerson is covering for Mrs Lillie in her absence. We have also been joined this term by Miss Lyndsay Ellis. Miss Ellis is a PGCE student from Northumbria University, training to become a teacher and will be with us up until 19th June.



### Romans topic

Our children from Reception to Year 4 are enjoying finding out about the Romans and the Roman way of life. Years 1, 2 3 and 4 have their visit to the Roman Army Museum and Vindolanda in a couple of weeks. On Tuesday 19th May Miss Plunkett, Miss Ellis and Miss Rogerson are holding a 'Roman Day' when our children are invited to dress as 'Romans' for the day and take part in a variety of 'Roman' activities. There will also be a sharing assembly on Wednesday 20th May when all parents and friends are invited to join us.



### Countryside Day

In the first week back after half term we will be attending the Countryside Day. It will be on Thursday 4th June and our Reception to Year 4 children will be attending with Miss Plunkett, Mrs Bone and Miss Ellis. Please complete the attached reply slip and return it to school by Friday 22nd May. The cost for the transport to this event will be approx. £60.00 and therefore we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £4.00 per child.



### Happy Birthday Branton Community School!

Our school will be 90 years old in August this year and so we are hoping to hold a tea dance in celebration in July. We are hoping to have some dance lessons for our children in preparation, and so are looking for dance teachers who could teach our children (and any interested parents!) the Lindy Hop, Charleston and other dances from the 1920s. If any one has information about any dance teachers who may be able to help us, please let us know. In the meantime, be thinking about your 1920s style costumes!



**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Our PTA 'The Friends of Branton First School' have been very busy again fundraising, this time for outdoor play equipment. They ran a very successful 'pop-up' shop in Wooler on 17th and 18th April and raised a fantastic £673.58! The Air Ambulance bags to school were collected today, again a fantastic amount of bags donated, we will let you know how much was raised when we have confirmation. A big thank you to our hard working PTA and also to everyone who helped or donated in any way. Thank You!



### **Holy Island visit**

We are planning a whole day, whole school (and nursery) visit to Holy Island on Monday 6th July. Our Year 3 and 4 children will be visiting the Priory as part of their topic work on the Vikings, Our younger children will enjoy a day exploring the island and weather permitting having a picnic lunch! More details about this trip will follow when our travel arrangements are finalised.

### **Library Van**



The library van will be visiting us next on 12th May, sorry for the previous incorrect dates! After half term the next visit will be 9th June.

### **Photographs!**

A reminder that the school photographer will be in school on Thursday 21st May. We will be sending out forms for parents to indicate if they would like any group or family photos taken, and if so, to give time slots to avoid waiting. All our children will have individual photos taken along with siblings in school and a whole school group photo, so an important day to be in school! Our Goslings are also invited to join us for photos on that day.

### **School lunches**

We are really enjoying our new school lunches and there is such a lovely variety of meals. The menu is varied and balanced and our children seem to be really enjoying some of the new dishes on offer. A big **thank you** to Glendale Middle School kitchen and Mrs Wyld for all their hard work organising and supplying these meals.



### **Dates for your diary!**

Friday 15th May - Year 1-4 visit to the Roman Army Museum and Vindolanda, class 1 in school.

Tuesday 19th May - Class 2 'Roman Day'

Wednesday 20th May - Sharing assembly, everyone welcome!

Thursday 21st May - School photographs!

Friday 22nd May - school closes for half term

Thursday 4th June - Children's Countryside Day for Reception to Year 4. Nursery in school.

Friday 19th June - Fathers' Day sharing assembly, we would love to see as many Dad's as possible!

Wednesday 24th June - Music concert at Duchess High School 6—7.30 pm for YR-4.

Thursday 2nd July - Alnwick Partnership transfer day, Y 4 children to visit new schools

Monday 6th July - Whole school visit to Holy Island (Y3 & 4 to visit Lindisfarne Priory)

*The Branton First School team*

*Find us at [www.branton.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.branton.northumberland.sch.uk) and on Facebook*