

## Welcome

It has been another busy and exciting half term. Many thanks to everyone who has visited our Art Exhibition – inspired by the National Gallery Take One Picture project. This year we have used the work of George Seurat and Pointillism as our focal point. (PHOTO). The children's work has been creative and imaginative and they have all worked so hard. Many thanks to everyone involved in the project and especially to Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Bradshaw for all of their hard work in organising the Arts Week and Exhibition.



It has also been wonderful to see the children bringing in their work for their Home Learning Exhibitions this week – again, these have been such high quality and very creative.

Congratulations to the Badminton Team on winning a silver medal at the tournament this week. Many thanks to Ms. Davis for organising and running training sessions before the event - it clearly worked!

Next term is likely to continue to be a challenging time. Although we were able to remain open over the last NEU strike, there are another three dates (1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March) and staff may well decide to show support and strike on one or more of these dates. I will keep you updated as much as possible. Staffing and recruitment also continues to be a significant challenge. We have one member of staff currently off long-term sick, and another two are due to go off in March for 6 weeks and it is proving difficult to get supply cover for all of this. In addition, it continues to be difficult to recruit quality Teaching Assistants, but we have another advert out at the moment. All of this has an impact on staff wellbeing and morale, while trying to provide a quality education to our children - especially to the most vulnerable. As before, please bear with us – be assured, staff are committed and working incredible hard to provide the best provision for our children and families.

In the meantime, have a lovely half term and we will see you on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Michael Dillon - Headteacher**

## Year 1

This Half term Year 1 have been busy learning about Plants in our topic 'What Lives in our Garden?'. We have grown and looked after cress heads in Science.

In Food Technology we also had fun chopping and blending our yummy Strawberry and Banana Smoothies. Everyone had a taste and we definitely have a few chefs in the making in Year 1!



## Year 2

What is growing around us? In Year 2, we have been exploring life cycles. Children have looked at a variety of life cycles including the life cycle of butterflies, frogs, chickens and humans.

We have thoroughly enjoyed having the chicks and watching them grow this term. We are delighted to share that all of the chicks have now been re-homed in free-range farms across the country.

In English this term, we have been researching and finding out about our favourite animals in readiness for this week's fact file writing challenge. The children have found out all sorts of fun and interesting facts!



## Year 3 & 4 Badminton Festival

Eight children from Years 3 and 4 were lucky enough to be invited to a SMASH badminton competition, which was held at Edgebarrow School. In the weeks leading up to this the children worked incredibly hard within their PE lessons and additional sessions with Miss Davis.

On the day of the competition, the children participated in a number of skills based activities. The children were impeccably behaved and did very well. They represented the school beautifully and we are very proud of them. They demonstrated great determination, perseverance and collaboration as they worked together as a team. They did so well that they came second and won silver medals with just one point away from gold!

Well done and congratulations to Mason, Stanley, Naomi and Maya in Year 3, and Taksh, Katie, Miklos and Eve in Year 4.





### 1M Family Learning Workshop

Parents and carers of 1B attended the “How to be great at story writing” workshop this week. The children had fun planning their stories on the story sandwich planner. Parents and carers expressed that they enjoyed working with their child in school and found the take home resources helpful.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY—FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY</b>
5K Parents' Evening	Tuesday 21st February - 3.45—7.00pm Thursday 23rd February - 3.45—7.00pm
Reception Family Learning	Tuesday 21st February - 9.00am Thursday 23rd February - 9.00am
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28th February - 3.45pm-7.00pm (face-face) Thursday 2nd March - 3.45pm-7.00pm (virtual)
Possible NEU Strike Days	Wednesday 1st March, Thursday 2nd March & Wednesday 15th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Sunday 12th March—Saturday 18th March
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>FRIDAY 31ST MARCH</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 17TH APRIL</b>
<b>START OF SUMMER TERM</b>	<b>TUESDAY 18TH APRIL</b>