



Masham CE (VA) Primary School

Registered Charity: 1047646

'Learning & Caring Together'

Head teacher: Mrs F. R Lawson-Ross

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Newsletter 4 22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a half term! I cannot reiterate enough how brilliant it has been to return to some form of normality in school in terms of children mixing and being able to resume whole school activities such as Worship and playtimes. Thank you for your support in following guidance for isolation and PCR testing with your children and for bearing with us while we have dealt with a huge range of circumstances linked to Covid. We're really pleased to say that half term assessments for the children are looking very positive and huge thanks to the staff who have really worked hard to keep things as consistent as possible for the children.

Harvest

Similarly to the above we couldn't have imagined a lovelier end to the half term than being able to gather together, for the first time in a while, with our families for our Harvest Service this morning. Big thanks to Miss Lawton who masterminded the event and of course, to our wonderful pupil Worship leaders who did a fantastic job leading the Service. Thank you also for your generous donations to the foodbank which will benefit lots of families in our locality.



Outdoor Learning

One of the things we are most proud of this half term has been the success of implementing our Forest School Programme – already we have seen the children get so much out of it across all areas of the curriculum! The feedback has been resoundingly positive from the children with some of the Year 4/5 children telling me that 'it lets your imagination go wild', 'we do amazing teamwork' and 'it's just like learning outdoors but it's more exciting – we do maths, writing and making friendships'. We're hoping to share a display with you soon to show some of the photos from this half term but for now, a reminder of how the activities form part of our curriculum is overleaf.



Autumn 2

Thank you for all your support with making sure the children have the correct equipment for the sessions mentioned above and that they have their PE kits on the correct days. Bain Class hit upon the great idea of compiling the information into a 'fridge sheet' so families have a quick reference to what is needed on each day for each class – a copy of this for your child's class should be attached to this letter and please remember that we are always around at the start or end of the day should you have any questions. Nothing is ever too small. We will be in touch after the break with arrangements for the more formal parent's evenings which will include time to see your child's work and classroom (Covid restrictions permitting).

Have a wonderful half term.

Best wishes

F. Lawson-Ross

Head teacher

Forest School is the name given to our outdoor learning sessions in Malcolm’s Meadow at the bottom of Millgate. The children have great fun learning while playing. They certainly enjoy the health benefits of the fresh air but also build other essential skills such as practical maths (measuring trees and working out their age) and develop their literacy by extending their descriptive vocabulary.

Forest School is a different way to learn, and research shows it benefits children in different, equally valuable ways to more traditional classroom learning. It’s an approach used extensively in countries with high educational standards such as in Scandinavia, and works by developing children’s natural curiosity, and helping them to build resilience

When they come back to the classroom, we build on the skills learnt, and observe good progress across all areas of development. We believe Forest School is important to help children learn team-work, and self-reliance. It has very clear links to the more academic elements of the curriculum – from learning about the scientific aspects of the fire triangle when using a flint and steel, to exploring and developing Art and DT skills and interpretation, creating and using mapping skills with a Geography link, using Maths for reasoning and measuring, extending descriptive vocabulary which feeds into Literacy, the list is endless!

Sessions follow a series of broad themes with strong curricular links within a structure which enables children to explore and develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through exploration and active learning.

The three underpinning values of Forest School – inspiration, aspiration, and transformation – further embody the character of the Forest School approach to learning as being one in which the individual is encouraged and nurtured on their journey, both educational and personal, learning within, from and alongside nature. Forest School takes place in all weathers to give children the experience of the differing seasons.

If anyone would like another copy of the kit list the children will need please ask in the school office. It is very important at this time of year the children have kit that is warm and please, please could everything be named!

