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Dear Parents and Carers,

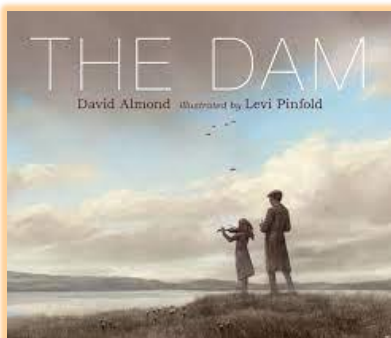
Welcome back to the first half of the summer term!

The summer term is now well and truly underway and we're all busy at school not only with our normal lessons and activities but also doing SATs for our year 2 and 6 pupils. As ever, we keep this low-key and strive to keep the pressure off - children just need to eat and sleep well and do their best.

It really is wonderful to come together once again for whole school activities and the assemblies have been a huge hit with pupils and staff alike.

I'm really pleased to be able to share details of our exciting whole school project, **The Dam**, which starts in earnest week beginning 16th May. All children from preschool through to year 6 are taking part in the project, which will cover all kinds of learning opportunities from writing, music, art, and local history.

The book 'The Dam' by David Almond is central to the project and is based on a true



story of how Kielder Water reservoir came into existence and the impact of it on the local environment. The construction of the dam meant farmland was flooded and nearby houses were demolished and the story follows a little girl and her father entering the empty houses and playing music.

We will be inviting parents in to school on Wednesday 25th May to attend one of our celebration assemblies of The Dam project (at either 9.15am or 2.30pm) - there will be a performance of Northumbrian music and dancing. Look out for a letter with more details and timings with a booking form for you to complete.

The day after, on Thursday 26th May, there is an open event at 2.30pm in the school hall. You are invited to come along and see all of the art work (and other work) from the project. Local artist Katherine Renton will give a short presentation on her work as an artist, sustainability, the artist from the book and talk about the work across the school.

We hope to see you there!

Kevin Moloney
Headteacher



Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Ford Class are swimming on Wednesdays
- ◆ Clubs this half term:
Mondays, Cookery Bamburg
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Wednesdays, Guitar, Ford/Etal Thursdays, Physical Fun, Years 1-4
Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Whole School Project, The Dam
W/beginning Monday, 16th May
- ◆ Ford Class Skipping at Willowburn,
Monday, 16th May
- ◆ London Meeting for Parents,
Monday, 16th May, 5-6pm
- ◆ Bamburg Beach School
Wednesday 18th May
- ◆ Etal Beach School
Thursday 19th May
- ◆ Alnwick/Preschool Beach School
Tuesday 24th May
- ◆ Whole School Celebration Assemblies
Wednesday 25th May
- ◆ Ford Beach School
Thursday 26th May
- ◆ Open Event
Thursday 26th May
- ◆ Break up for half term
Thursday 26th May

Please keep checking the calendar on the school website for more events

RED NOSE DAY



The whole school joined in the fun to help raise money on Red Nose Day back in March. Here are pupils from Bamburgh Class having a great time rocking their crazy hair.



£ Thanks to everyone who contributed to Red Nose Day via ParentPay - you helped raise £24.50.



Etal Castle Class had a super science day at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle, taking part in a chemistry workshop, exploring the exhibits and enjoying a science show and the planetarium!



Space toilet!



During our Discovering Chemistry workshop, we learned:

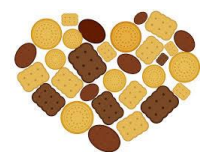
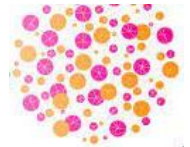
- How labs are designed to help scientists use chemicals safely.
- How to use a range of lab equipment such as pipettes, Bunsen burners, funnels, and spatulas.
- How scientists identify unknown chemicals.
- What happens when chemicals react with one another, such as change of colour, change of temperature, change from liquid to solid.
- An irreversible change is one that cannot be reversed and that examples of this often involve a chemical change where a new material is made, often a gas.
- How scientists create new substances by mixing chemicals together.



The science of dunking ...

Etal Castle Class used their enquiry skills-pattern seeking and fair testing- to investigate a very important question for Science Week...what is the best biscuit to dunk? We tested a range of biscuits for their 'dunkability' and found that the thickness and fat content of a biscuit were the factors that had the greatest impact on how well the biscuit retained its shape after dunking and so we concluded that the thicker the biscuit, and the higher its fat content, the better it is for dunking!

Perhaps a good investigation to try at home too!



On your bike!



Year 4 take on the bikeability Challenge!

Some of our year 4 pupils took part in the bikeability level 1 challenge back in March. They learnt how to control their bike and ride smoothly and be aware of their surroundings. Well done to everyone who took part!



Storm Arwen caused a lot of damage to our trees in the school grounds and the clear up has been slow-going. However, thanks to a number of our parents who kindly gave up their time, the debris has now been cleared from the woodland areas. Huge thanks go to: James Charlton (plus workmates), James Boatman, Jack Smales and Giles Bennett.



Easter seems a long time ago now - Bamburgh Class had great fun working in their crews to complete an Easter challenge to find as many crew coloured stones hidden around the school field.



Congratulations to our amazing Year 6 team- Hannah, George, Harrison and Emilia- who were the highest scoring primary school in the regional heat of the National Literacy Trust's reading championship quiz!

All of the rounds were based on fictional titles and celebrated the amazing variety and breadth of the books and genres that we enjoy- a wonderful way to celebrate all things reading!



West were the overall winners working as a fantastic team. Well done West!

Please do not send cakes or sweets in to school when it is your child's birthday. We have a number of children in school with allergies - thank you for your understanding.



Bread Bags - we are no longer collecting bread bags to be recycled as the scheme is now closed. Most large supermarkets and local Co-op stores collect soft plastics to be recycled, so you can now drop them in when you shop.



Healthy snacks please!

If you send a playtime snack for your child, please only send in a piece of fruit or veg - no processed snacks. Thank you.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches