

# CONFEDERATED SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018



Headteacher: Mrs. K. McDonald  
Tel: 01642-778202 or 712340  
e-mail: [admin@bilsdalemidcable-chopgate.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bilsdalemidcable-chopgate.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[admin@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.bilsdalecarltonschoools.co.uk](http://www.bilsdalecarltonschoools.co.uk)

Dear Parents,

The first few weeks of this half-term seem to have passed so quickly, particularly thanks to the arrival of the 'beast from the east'! Unfortunately I did have to make the decision to close the Schools for four days. It was a very difficult decision and not something I was able to take lightly. The frequent blizzards and strong winds made it impossible for us to declare the sites completely safe. We were also mindful of the conditions of the roads in the surrounding area. Our wonderful caretakers, Kelly-Ann and Jayne, made it to the schools on Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> March) and worked to clear the pathways for the return of the children on 5<sup>th</sup> March. I am most grateful for their efforts in such terrible conditions.

Our communication during the snow closure was through parent texting service, Schools' website, What's App and North Yorkshire County Council's website; I would be grateful for your feedback on how this worked, both in how early we were able to notify all families but equally how we can look to add other communication channels to our plans. I will keep you informed of any changes we make to our procedures should the same ever happen again.

Best wishes,

Mrs McDonald



Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. The length of the Lenten fast

was established in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays). During Lent, participants eat sparingly or give up a particular food or habit, often people give up smoking, chocolate or wine etc. during Lent. It's six weeks of self-discipline.

**Easter Service** will be at St Mary Magdalene Church, Faceby on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm. We are pleased to be able to hold a service at this church so we hope families will join us.

As in previous years, this will be a children friendly communion service. Any adults wishing to take communion during the service are encouraged to do so. Children will be given the choice to accept blessed bread if they wish. We will leave the decision about levels of participation to you and your children but please ensure that they know your wishes. If you have any questions please come in and see us.

Separate details and response forms will be sent to you.

Following a trial period **Breakfast Club** is still available at Carlton School starting at 8.00am (or later) every school day. Each session costs £4.00 per hour and must be pre-booked with at least one day's notice. Special arrangements can be made for 7.45am start. Please contact the school for further information or to make a booking.

## Academic Year 2017/18

12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> March - Y5 & Y6 children residential visit to East Barnby

14<sup>th</sup> March - Digital Leader Day Y4

29<sup>th</sup> March - Federation Consultation ends

29<sup>th</sup> March - Confederated Day - Easter Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Faceby\*

30<sup>th</sup> March - 13<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holiday

16<sup>th</sup> April - Staff Training Day

17<sup>th</sup> April - Children return to school/preschool

20<sup>th</sup> April - Phonics and reading with Mrs. Kilgallon \*

27<sup>th</sup> April - Themed day of activities with Yazi: Tolerance

3<sup>rd</sup> May - School Photographer at Carlton

4<sup>th</sup> May - Inference Training for parents \*

7<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday

14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May - KS2 SATs Week

\*Information will be sent separately

Tuesday clubs at both schools will be **KS2 Homework Clubs** for self-led completion of RM Maths (if can't access at home), homework and reading. Year 6 pupils will have SATS support with their teacher. The clubs will run from 3.20 to 4.00pm prompt until SATs in May.

Owing to lack of participants, Simon Carson School Sports club will no longer run after school on Wednesdays.

We have instead set up lunchtime activities at both schools. Children do not need any kit although they may want to wear their PE trainers if their school shoes have smooth soles.



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'Believe and Achieve'



**Alum Beck, Carlton**

**Class 2 – Carlton and Bilsdale**

Splash! The children have dived into their new topic 'Flow' all about rivers. After looking at maps to identify source of the Alum Beck and follow its course, the children carried out a stream study. They measured the depth of water at different parts across the stream, looked at water pollution and carried out the flow test observing and timing an apple as it flowed downstream. The children said the best part was paddling in the stream.

The children have already been overflowing with ideas for their river poems. Ask them if they can recite the original poem 'The River' by Valerie Bloom and then tell you about their own creative ideas.

Miss Jeffries & Mrs Grundmann

**East Barnby**

Day 1 -After lunch we went beck scrambling. Here the intrepid explorers surprised themselves with their willingness to have a go, their ability to fall in water of varying depths and most importantly they surprised the centre staff with their teamwork, especially with their approach to "help the aged". Everyone got covered in mud, ended up in water of surprising depths but a smile was always to be found along with words of encouragement for each other.

Day 2 -Today was rock climbing - we started with bouldering and then we climbed with ropes. Imagine the horror when we found we were being belayed by our friends. All the children overcame their fears, whether it was abseiling or climbing beyond where they felt would be a comfortable point. Most notable was Henry Barnfather who demonstrated the natural ability of a mountain goat. Addam Cook pushed himself so hard he was very emotional and then surprised himself when he wanted to go again. All the children were keen to try different routes and were very conscientious when belaying each other. We finished the day with a quick walk up to see the Old Man on the Moors!



**Reading Raffle**

In our schools it is an expectation that every child will read aloud and be read to, at home, from Reception onwards. We have a 'reading raffle' that children are entered into if they have read four times or more at home during the week. Reading raffle tickets will be issued every Friday and if your child receives 4 signatures to say they have read at home they will be given a raffle ticket and a chance to win a book voucher. The reading raffle will be drawn each half term.

**Little Owls Preschool**

We started our new topic, "Can we explore it," with a walk across the fields behind school. The children were intrepid explorers, following their maps to



find pigs, a forest path and lots of mud on a walk of nearly 1 mile. The children have been finding pairs of rhyming objects and hearing initial sounds. We have been celebrating Special Days and thinking about what makes each of us special. The children brought in photos of when they were babies and we had a special visit from baby brother.



Mrs Howe and Mrs Pearey

**Forest School**

Every Friday morning all of the Reception children go to Forest School activities. Please ensure that your child has a warm coat, extra layers, gloves, hat and extra socks EVERY WEEK. Thank you.

Mrs Hudson

**Parent Workshops: Mrs. Kilgallon will be holding a training session for parents on 20<sup>th</sup> April at 2:15. The topic will be: how to support your child/children with phonics and reading. We will give further information towards the end of term.**