

MOSSBROOK SCHOOL

Exceeding expectations

Edition one Newsletter Spring 2019



Message from Headteacher



Dear parents, carers and friends of Mossbrook school,

As I come to the end of my first term as headteacher, I would like to thank you all for the warm reception that you have extended to me. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, at meetings and as you bring your children into school and you have all been incredibly welcoming and friendly. There really is a strong sense of family and community at Mossbrook school and I am so happy to be a part of it. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the next few months. If you are ever in school for a meeting and just want to pop in to say hello; please do so – I would be really happy to see you. As you will all remember, Mossbrook was inspected in November 2018 and below is a list of some of the things the inspectors said about our school:

- There is a clear focus on pupils being at the heart of the school and staff have a strong understanding of their complex needs
- Pupils receive tailored support as they learn through a broad and balanced curriculum
- Parents are positive about the many ways in which their children have improved their social and communication skills
- Pupils behaviour is good and staff have high expectations of them
- The school has an effective safeguarding culture and have established a safe and secure environment for pupils
- Pupils say they enjoy school and that they feel safe and happy
- Attendance is good. Staff build positive relationships with pupils and parents to ensure that despite their complex needs, pupils' attendance remains high

We already knew all the above, but to have it confirmed makes me even more proud of our wonderful school and pupils. Of course we still aspire to be even better and look forward to the next exciting phase of our development. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Easter and look forward to seeing your children back at school on the 15th April. Don't forget that we are closed on Friday the 19th and Monday the 22nd of April as these days are bank holidays.



Jo Harrison
Headteacher

Spring and Summer Term Dates	Training days	Bank holidays
15.04.19 – 24.05.19	24.05.19	19.04.19 22.04.19 06.05.19
03.06.19 – 24.07.19	28.06.19	

Friends of Mossbrook School

It's been quite an exciting time for FOMS recently. We have rebranded and now have a new logo, as voted for by the Mossbrook community, which we hope you'll agree looks fantastic. We successfully refurbished the library that is used every single day, and created a new Sensory Room, which focuses on all the senses and is enjoyed by every child over the week. We are currently designing a Soft Play room, which we are hopeful will be completed in the near future and have a range of fundraising events planned for next term.

FOMS have also just paid for a large order of play sand to be used in the Rainbow Class outdoor sandpit. We are also keen to help the school council who asked if we can support them in creating a better maintained and more accessible planting garden. If anyone has any links or contacts with places that may donate seeds, bulbs, planters, soil etc. please let us know.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support with the Bags2School program and remind you that unwanted clothes, shoes, bedding and curtains can be sent into school in any bags at any time, and stored until the next scheduled collection. Please do not wait for the deadline.

Welcome to new staff, pupils and governors

In February, we welcomed back one of our former pupils Anas. He has settled in well with us and we are really pleased to have him back.

After Easter we have eight new pupils joining us, all of whom are in Reception or Year one. Lillian, Macauley, Salma, Oliver, Alfie, Asher, Michael and Lenny will form a new class which will be called Ladybirds. The Local Authority have refurbished an area of school to become their new classroom and we have appointed a new teacher, Jayne and a new level three Teaching Assistant Karen, so a big welcome to them too. We also appointed Shelby, Melissa, Hayley and Kelly as Level one Teaching Assistants to support across school.

We appointed three new dinnertime assistants; Debbie, Andrea and Marie, all of whom will be joining us shortly.

Welcome back to Laura and Anisah who have returned from maternity leave.



What's been happening in our Early Years Department?

Rainbow

It has been lovely to get out and about more with the children this term as we restarted our weekly trips out into the local community. The children have become familiar with the routine of getting ready for trips and they are a very successful element of the curriculum. In the classroom we have been learning about 'Plants and Growing' and are now looking forward to watching our fruits and vegetables grow. We also had great fun dressing up for World Book Day and enjoyed parading in the school fashion show!



Butterfly

Butterfly Class have enjoyed weekly walks to Graves Park where we feed the ducks and look at the farm animals. We like sitting together for snack times to try different foods and to practise using our snack mats and speech to ask for things. Some of us have been on Ethel Barge, a wonderful day out on a relaxing Narrow Boat on the canal in Sheffield. We have also visited Concord Sports Centre for a sensory dance session. In the Autumn we went to the 'Big Apple' play centre, we also had some exotic creatures come to visit us in class. Every day we take part in 'Attention Autism' where we learn to develop shared attention. On Fridays we take part in a music session with the other foundation classes.



What have our Key Stage One classes been up to?

Sunshine

Sunshine class have taken part in various sensory stories and songs, touching animal textures/puppets, listening to different sounds and participating in actions such as stomping, flying and crawling. We had a special visit from Zoo Lab who brought in some friendly animals including a snake, rat, and cockroach which we observed and bravely handled. In Attention Autism we practised our counting skills by splatting bun cases filled with shaving foam to represent 5 currant buns. In addition, we 'milked a cow' using plastic gloves filled with milk, made playdough hedgehogs and posted sea creatures down a pipe into a bowl of soapy water. Sunshine have loved creative based tasks such as making paper plate sheep, fingerprint caterpillars and cooking in the food technology room. This has enabled us to use our fine motor skills to cut with scissors, scrunch paper, paint and stick with various materials and mould dough using hands and tools. We are now much more familiar with outdoor learning routines and have enjoyed weekly walks to Graves Park to observe the animals and feed the ducks. We work incredibly hard on our communication skills during snack and continuous provision to request choices using Picture Exchange Communication Strategies (PECs). We have also tried really hard with our independence skills and are getting really good at collecting coats, shoes and bags when appropriate



What have our Key Stage One classes been up to?

Squirrel, Fox and Sparrow classes

Last half term, our whole school theme was Animals. The children really enjoyed the book *Possum Magic*. They learnt about Australian animals. They made recipes that were featured in the story, such as Anzac biscuits and Vegemite sandwiches.

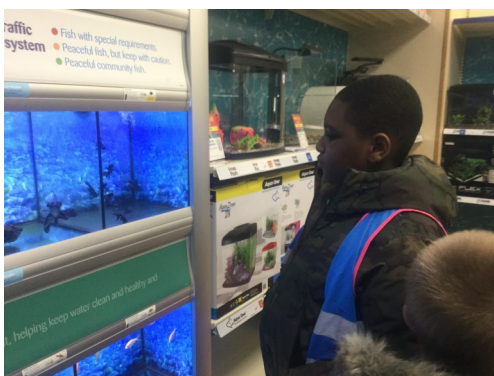
We also read *Dear Zoo*. We used this very well-known story as the basis of role-plays in class, which enabled the children to become more involved in the story. They explored the characteristics of the animals, and we used this as a link to our maths work, to talk about size.

Our third story in our Animals topic was *The Bad-tempered Ladybird*. The children produced some artwork to go alongside this, such as egg carton ladybirds and split pin ladybirds.

The children enjoyed a visit from Zoo Lab, where they met many different types of animals and got the opportunity to handle some of them. They even stroked a skunk!

We visited Graves Park to see the farm animals. Squirrel class enjoyed feeding the ducks. Fox class and Sparrow class walked to Pets at Home to look at rabbits, guinea pigs, fish, gerbils and hamsters.

This half term, we are learning about Plants and Flowers. The children have been very enthusiastic about planting their own seeds. Fox class did really well performing *Jack and the Beanstalk* to the whole school in their class assembly. We will be using our outdoor space to grow vegetables. The children will learn about what plants need to grow, and an understanding of how long the process can take from ground to plate. Sparrow class have enjoyed a trip to the Botanical Gardens to look at all of the different plants and flowers there.



Key Stage Two news

Heron Class

We have been growing plants in Heron Class! We had a fantastic trip to St James Retail Park where we bought cress seeds to make our own cress heads. At school we decorated our plant pots with funny faces and planted our seeds. Every week this term we have been checking on our plants to see their progress and observing how much our seeds have grown.

We are very excited for them to grow and can't wait to give them haircuts at the end of the term.



Woodpecker Class

It's been an exciting time in Woodpecker Class recently as we have begun to engage in outdoor learning opportunities more and more. Last half term we regularly visited the local Aldi store to help develop independence skills, including finding the product, queuing to pay and paying for it. In February we also went to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, and the children loved seeing a wide range of wild animals, especially the giraffes and lions, which were very impressive! More recently we have been to the school lake to focus on this half terms theme of Plants and Flowers, and last week we collected different parts of nature and made bookmarks. The children have also loved our class role-play area that has been transformed into their very own Garden Centre. Within the classroom the children have enjoyed a wide range of art activities that focused on paint, collage techniques and sticking skills to create both animals and flowers. We have also loved participating in creating and exploring a range of sensory resources including jungle slime, coloured rice (which they played with for weeks), frozen animals and fizzy dough.

Pheasant

For our topic 'Plants and flowers' we aim to give the children as much hands on experience of the subject which started with a springtime hunt around the school. We will then repeat this throughout the term in different environments including the sensory garden, lake and our own allotment as well as heading to Graves Park in the final two weeks to see as much as possible of nature coming to life after the winter season. We plan to spend time developing our allotment and the children's knowledge and skills in gardening from digging, raking as well as planting flowers and seeds.

For Maths we are continuing to develop their number recognition skills and the ability to add and subtract by playing bingo working towards numbers up to 100 for some.

The topic gives us plenty of opportunity to get creative by making finger print flowers, wax crayon rubbings of bark on trees trunks, making flowers out of playdough then drawing the results in pencil.

Our main stories to assist their learning include Jaspers Beanstalk, The Enormous Turnip as well as The Tiny Seed

Key Stage Two news

Badger

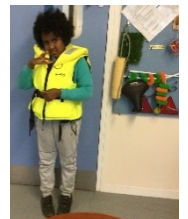
This half term Badger class children have been reading different books about plants and flowers. This week the children have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk. It was very good to see the majority of the children in class taking part to act out the story. There were some very able speakers in the class, and Bradley was amazing at playing the part of the Giant. Jacques was fabulous at making the sound of the hen, and Keith was a great wise man. There were some very memorable moments created from the performance. Badger class also love to sing and sign and it was special to include all the children in singing and signing the songs to Jack and the Beanstalk. Fardeen and Arnav were great at singing and signing "in my little garden" and both repeated all the actions. We have been building this week using 3D solids shapes. Jayden, Charlie and Ashley were amazing at counting faces, edges and vertices, of cones, cylinders, cubes and other solid shapes. Jack built several amazing towers and Courtney worked with a member of staff to roll and stack 3D shapes.

On Shrove Tuesday Badger class had a lovely time mixing and making pancakes. We had a look at pancakes from around the world and we discovered that many traditional pancake recipes were savoury in flavour. In Badger class however chocolate sauce and golden syrup topped the list of favourite toppings. A rousing well done to everyone.

Robin

The Robins have had a fantastic time in the Spring Term. We have been active in our learning inside and outside of the classroom. Inside the class, we have really enjoyed engaging with our senses to develop our understanding of topics, subjects and new ideas. In particular, one of our favourite sessions is our sensory stories. In these we focus on using our use of touch, sight, smell and hearing to understand the story we are reading and what is happening in the story itself. Our other favourite subject has been outdoor learning, where we enjoy two trips a week. On Mondays we have enjoyed developing our road safety walking to and through Graves Park before exploring the different wildlife we see in the park. On Wednesdays we have enjoyed developing our skills in other areas. In particular, visiting farms, near and far, to observe, stroke, handle and feed a wide range of farm yard animals. We can't wait for the summer term and continuing our learning experience in Robin Class.

Owl



One of our favourite trips last term was our journey on Ethel Barge along the Sheffield canal. We were all excited when we set off and put on our lifejackets so we could watch from the deck. From there we spotted other barges, trains and ducks. A favourite for some of the children was when the barge went under bridges.

As part of our animal theme last half term we have had weekly walks to Graves Park, stopping to feed the ducks and then walking on to the farm. We especially enjoyed watching the piglets; sometimes they were asleep but we liked it best when they were awake and running around. We always enjoy sensory play in our class and recently some favourite activities have been painting on animal shapes with a mixture of shaving foam and paint, playing with toy animals in straw, and playing with custard or jelly crystals. We often go home with clothes that need washing

Other news....

Maternity Leave

In February Emily started her maternity leave and has since had a baby girl called Sienna who has already been in to meet her Mossbrook family.

Nicky started her maternity leave in March and we eagerly await news of her new arrival.

Breakfast club



We are pleased to let you know that we have been accepted onto a national scheme called 'Magic Breakfast'. The scheme aims to ensure that no child starts the school day too hungry to learn and provide schools with free bagels, porridge and breakfast cereals. We will be using these to enhance our already wonderful snack time, offering our children even more choices of healthy foods.

Calpol, Ibuprofen and Piriton

From September, in line with all other special schools in Sheffield we will not be keeping a supply of any 'school' medication to administer to your children. If you would like to send in an appropriately labelled bottle of medicine and fill in the necessary paperwork, we will be happy to administer this when we need to. We will give you more information in our Summer newsletter.

Otters



In September our numbers will increase by another ten pupils and we will create a new class. After a school wide vote we decided to call the class Otters. The Local Authority are currently refurbishing a classroom for them and we will shortly be advertising for a new teacher to join our dedicated team.

Red Nose Day

On Friday the 15th March 2019, our children that wished to, came into school dressed in red. Most children and staff were able to join in and we thank you for your Support.

RED NOSE DAY

Poorly Children

Please remember to let us know if your child has an appointment or if they are away from school because they are ill. If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea please keep him or her away from school until they are 48 hours clear. This enables us to minimise the spread of bugs and keep other children and staff well.