



Skelton

PRIMARY SCHOOL

BELONG - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

Newsletter - Friday 17th January 2025

Welcome back!

Happy New Year to you all! Thank you so much for the warm welcome. I have really appreciated being based at Skelton for the last half term - it has allowed us to get straight back into the swing of things.

Pupils have returned refreshed and ready to learn, but I am not the person best placed to tell you all about school life over the last two weeks. Instead, I am thrilled to present our newsletter editors. They will be responsible for telling you all about what we have been getting up to at Skelton every two weeks and the exciting things that they are looking forward to this term. I have a small section on the end for some key messages, requests and reminders. Enough from me - I'll allow them to introduce themselves.



Ms El Oakley

Our new editors!

We have voted to call our newsletter "The Skelton Starling" because our classes are already named after different birds. This time, Ms. El Oakley interviewed us but in our next newsletters we will interview our classmates and even some teachers! We have started making some self portraits to introduce ourselves.

Woodpeckers

What have you been doing in class this week?

I: We have done some Show and Tells! We had pandas, koalas and leopards. That is because we are learning about Amazing Animals in science - that's this afternoon.

C: I'm excited!

I: A few days ago, we were doing some art. We were using charcoal and crayons - messy stuff! We have been making dotty dots and spirals!

What have you been doing in maths?

I: In Year 2, we are learning about money. Today we were looking at different ways to make a pound!

I: We've been learning about how to count up to 21 and 20.

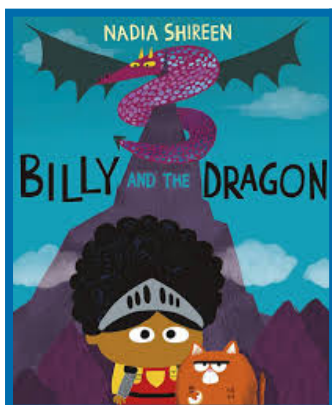
C: We have been learning up to 20, not 21!

Which is your favourite number up to 20?

I: 15 because I'm five!

What else have you been learning about this week?

L: We are learning about the four countries in the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



What was your favourite part of the week?

I: In Talk through Stories, we played Guess the Animal! We are reading Billy and the Dragon.

C: Maths is my favourite.

L: My favourite part of the week was art because I really liked making different shapes using charcoal.

I: My favourite part was also art because I liked that you could make different shades with charcoal. We all loved the Australian lunch!

Owls:

What have you been learning about this week?

In History we have been learning about the Romans like Julius Caesar.

Who was he?

He was a really famous Roman Emperor.

Why?

S: He was the first to attack and conquer Britain.

L: He fled the first time. The Romans were really strong : they conquered parts of Africa and Europe.

S: They couldn't go that far - they couldn't go on airplanes back



then so they had to use boats.

L: They thought the Celts were really evil!

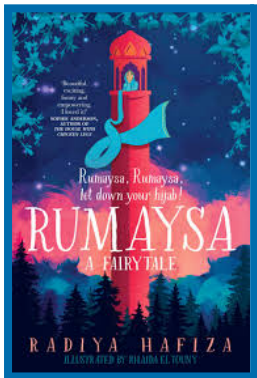
What else have you been learning about?

L: In science, we have learned about light and shadows.

S: They know about different light sources - natural and artificial.

S: Torches! Artificial means things that are human made

L: Fireflies are a natural light source!



What do you think of your class book?

L: It's really good actually! I would say 8.5/ 10.

S: It started off a bit boring and then it got more interesting. 8/10.

Tell me about it!

S: It is based on Rapunzel - actually three fairytales! Including Sleeping Beauty!

L: There was a man who tried to steal the witch's crops and the witch took away the baby - so now it's getting really dramatic!

What was your favourite part of the week?

L + S: In History, we went to Murton Park to the Roman invasion of Britain.

S: But my toes were freezing and I couldn't feel my fingers!

S: There was a lady saying "Oi, get off my land!" because we burnt down her village and we built a fort over it. And killed all her crops.

L: And killed all her cows - and sheep and basically all their animals.

S: We also got into tortuga formation!

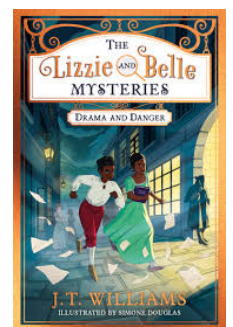
L: That is the Latin name as that's the Roman language. They also had these training dummies and we completed some Roman fighting exercises. Some people got to be the Emperor and scream at other people what to do - it was really fun!



Kingfishers

What have you been learning about this week?

We are reading the Lizzie and Belle Mysteries: Danger and Drama. We have also been doing some quizzes to see what we need to learn next.



T: We have also been learning about the Ancient Egyptians! We know that civilisations are more advanced than tribes.

A: They have architecture - like the pyramids - agriculture, lots of people, water supply, communication, inventions. The Ancient Egyptians had square systems for building.

What would you rate it?

A: 8.57 - it's not to my liking, but I do like it as a book.

T: 9.5 - I'm not that into mystery but this just appeals to me!

A : I would give it a 10! Ignatius Sancho nearly died!

T: 10! You don't know what's going to happen next - it makes it exciting!

What's your favourite part of the week?

A: We enjoyed the workshop with QT!

T: We learned about online skills, jobs and how to stay safe.

A (*loudly*): We loved the Australian lunch - it gave me a sugar high!

T: English and Maths!

A: PE because you get some fresh air and do physical stuff!

Requests

Gardening Club - loo rolls, small yoghurt pots, newspaper and compost!

As the weather warms up, we will begin seed sowing. Our first seeds to sow in January will be sweetpeas and they benefit from a long root run. Please could you collect and donate loo roll tubes and newspapers? These will help us make some eco-friendly and effective plant pots. Small yoghurt pots will also be useful for our other seeds. It would be lovely if every child at Skelton could sow a seed this term!

Reminders

Healthy snacks

Chocolate, crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks are not appropriate snacks for school. As a school, it is our responsibility to promote healthy eating as it features in our curriculum and expectations for personal development. We purchase enough fruit for the whole school to have a snack each break. From Monday 20th, any unhealthy snacks will be held until the end of the school day. Our School Council will undertake some work to ensure that all pupils understand the benefits of healthy eating and how to make healthy choices.

Toys

Many children are bringing significant numbers of toys into school. These are lovely toys but they are causing disagreements and distractions, especially when they are misplaced. If your child requires a specific item as a learning support, please discuss this with the class teacher before implementing this. There are tools in school that we use to support children that may be more

appropriate to meet your child's needs. From Monday 20th, any toys will be removed until the end of the day.

RWInc Books

Please return any RWInc books that you may have at home. Our collections are running short and this prevents our ability to send home the correct number of books for all Phonics groups. If it is more convenient, you are welcome to drop them off at the school office.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a pupil or member of our school community, please speak to a member of our safeguarding team. If you have a concern out of school hours, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. **If you have immediate concerns about the safety of a child, you should contact North Yorkshire Police on 999.**

Contact MASH Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm:

Telephone: 01904 551900

Email: mash@york.gov.uk

Contact MASH Early Help Team to make an early help referral or access advice:

Telephone: 01904 551900

Email: earlyhelp@york.gov.uk

Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays, contact the Emergency Duty Team:

Telephone: 0300 131 2131

Email: edt@northyorks.gov.uk

Our Safeguarding Team



Sara El Oakley
Interim Principal
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Dawn Chaplin
School Administrator and Finance
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Are you worried about something?
Are you worried about a friend or family member?
Need to talk?



Skelton
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Chat to an adult in school or call: Childline 0800 1111

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Important dates for Spring 1

These are all the dates currently fixed for Spring 1. Please note that there are further plans that have yet to be confirmed by providers. These will be shared as soon as we have the dates.

| Who? | When? | What? | Where? |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All pupils | Return to school | Tuesday 7th January | In school |
| Owls | Owls Trip to Murton Park | Monday 13th January | York St John's |
| Owls | Owls 3/4 Swimming begins | Every Thursday from 16th January | The Mount School |
| All pupils | World Religions Day | Monday 20th January | In school |
| All pupils | National Storytelling Week | w/c 27th January | In school |
| Kingfishers | PSCO visit - Hate Crime | Monday 27th January | In school |
| All pupils | Chinese New Year | Wednesday 29th January | In school |
| All pupils | Children's Mental Health Week | w/c 3rd February | In school |
| Woodpeckers | Pizza Express trip | Tuesday 4th February | York City Centre |
| Y1 parents | Phonics Workshop: Preparing for the Phonics Screening Check | Tuesday 4th February | Woodpeckers classroom 15:20 |
| Kingfishers | STEM: Virtual Reality Headsets and Robotics | Thursday 6th February | In school |
| All pupils | Safer Internet Day | Tuesday 11th February | In school |