



**Skelton**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**BELONG - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE**



**Newsletter - Friday 2nd May 2025**

### **A Message from Mrs Naylor:**

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Principal of Skelton Primary School. It is a privilege to join such a vibrant and caring community, and I am committed to building on the school's strong foundations to ensure every child thrives.

One of my key priorities is to promote positive behaviour across the school. A calm, respectful, and safe environment is essential for effective learning and the wellbeing of all pupils. Together with our dedicated staff, I will be reinforcing high expectations for conduct and kindness, so every child feels secure, valued, and ready to achieve their full potential.

I look forward to working closely with you to support your children in their educational journey and to continue making Skelton Primary a place where everyone feels proud to belong.

I cannot thank you enough for the warm welcome you have shown me and do not hesitate to contact me if you have anything you would like to discuss about your child.



## **Looking ahead: key messages and reminders**

### **Warmer Weather**

As we begin to have warmer weather, please apply sunscreen before your child comes to school. If you would like them to reapply it during the day, please ensure the bottle is labelled clearly with their name and class. They will have the opportunity to reapply it themselves at break time and lunch time. Younger pupils may need an opportunity to practise this at home first. It is also important that your child brings a water bottle into school and a sun hat with their name clearly labeled. Please **do not** send your child to school with a fan of any description as they will be asked to put this away in the classroom to minimise disruption. The temperature of the classrooms are carefully monitored and classroom fans will be provided if necessary.

### **Behaviour Chart**

This half term I will be reviewing the behaviour chart used in school. Pupils, staff and parents will be invited to share their views. We will continue to use the 'Going for Gold' behaviour chart and we will discuss what each colour behaviour looks like to ensure we have a clear set of expectations. We may adapt some of the current statements based on the feedback and we will create a clear and consistent language for everyone to use. Once the pupils have had their say, I will share the updated behaviour chart with you all. In the meantime, if you have any comments you would like to make on the current system please email: [hello@ske.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@ske.hlt.academy)

Each week in assemblies we will be focusing on behaviour and our school values: Kindness, Respect, Teamwork, Creativity and Success. Pupils will be set a challenge to practise over the week. So far we have seen a great response around showing Respect. We have been saying 'good morning,' 'good afternoon,' 'please,' and 'thank you!' We have even learnt how to say thank you and you're welcome in Makaton. Pupils have also been trying to think about valuing everyone's opinions and seeing things from someone else's point of view. Teachers had a difficult job selecting pupils for the celebration assembly this week as so many pupils have been respectful!

### **Heartwood Learning Trust**

Following the announcement regarding the Trust name change at the end of term, pupil email addresses have changed. Pupils will now log in with their student ID followed by @ske.hlt.academy. If you experience any difficulties, please contact [hello@ske.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@ske.hlt.academy)

### **Safety in the community**

A number of parents have raised concerns regarding the behaviour of pupils in the park, including pupils who do not attend our school. We have discussed our expectations of pupil conduct in our community in assemblies. Please support us by reminding your child to be kind, respectful and safe when playing outside of school. If you are concerned about any anti-social behaviour, please do not hesitate to contact the police.

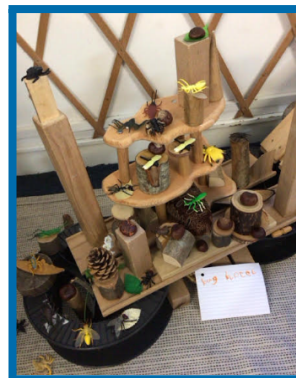
## Dispatches from Robins

### What are you enjoying learning about at the moment? Why? Any fun facts?

We are learning about minibeasts and the life cycle of a butterfly. JP We have sequenced pictures to show the life cycle of a butterfly. "A butterfly lays an egg, teeny caterpillars come out of the egg. The caterpillar gets bigger and fatter and then it turns into a butterfly." CC

We have been working hard to remember our manners. JB We are very good at saying please and thank you with both adults and our friends.

We have enjoyed reading the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have done lots of sequencing of the story and talking about days of the week. We have been really busy in our workshop using junk modelling to create a range of minibeasts. This week we have been busy making caterpillars using paper. We have made some very impressive models.



In maths, we have been learning about numbers 14-20.



Last week we did a big minibeast hunt outside. We found lots of incredible insects, including spiders, ants, woodlice, beetles and ladybirds.

Caterpillars! We are really looking forward to the arrival of our caterpillars and watching the life cycle of a butterfly in action.

## Dispatches from Woodpeckers

### What are you enjoying learning about at the moment? Why? Any fun facts?

In Science we are learning about seasons, we love learning about nature. We can name the four seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Have a go at asking us at home to see what we can remember! In Literacy we love our current book Ocean meets Sky. So far we know that Grandpa and Finn had amazing adventures together.

Before Easter we read the Bear and the Piano, the Bear had to be very resilient to learn to play the piano. Before Easter we did an Easter egg hunt - it was very egg-citing! In Woodpeckers we have a new teacher called Mrs Teasdale. We think she is very kind and helpful!



Something cool happened while Woodpeckers were playing on the playground - we found a dinosaur tooth! We also love chasing Miss El Oakley at lunchtime.

We are looking forward to finding out what we are learning next in Geography. We also have lots of children with birthdays in May!

In Science we want to find out lots of new things about the world. We are currently learning about the four seasons. We are looking forward to seeing lots of things grow and are excited because some of the things we have planted at home have sprung shoots!



## **Dispatches from Owls**

### **What are you enjoying learning about at the moment? Why? Any fun facts?**

We are enjoying learning about decimals in Maths - decimal numbers have a dot. We are also enjoying learning about unit fractions.

Mr Barker has been telling us all about the universe - it's 13.8 billion years old.

We have been working really hard in English. Mr Barker and Mr Pierce are proud of how well we have been describing how people look using expanded noun phrases. We have been producing more and more writing and building our stamina.

In Geography we have been learning about Earthquakes and tsunamis. To help us understand what it is like we simulated an earthquake alarm. We had to get under tables and hold onto something so the ceiling didn't injure us whilst Mr Barker shook the tables.

In science we have been putting celery in dyed water to see how water travels through a plant. We have also been using rhymes to help learn maths skills and we have been doing actions to help us remember key vocabulary like "physical geography".

During the morning wow, Mr Barker always makes us laugh because he uses a squeaky voice to help us learn helium. When we get something correct Mr Barker says "nice" in a funny accent.

We have been enjoying playing football on the field in the sunny weather. Some people have been trying to do bicycle kicks. We found out that Mr Pierce loves Sunderland. We really appreciated having a swimming lesson in this hot weather. Our friends always make me laugh as we travel on the coach to and from swimming.

We hope the bright, summery weather continues this term. We are enjoying being back at school because we love learning with Mr Barker and we get to see our friends. We are also looking forward to doing art this term.



## Dispatches from Kingfishers

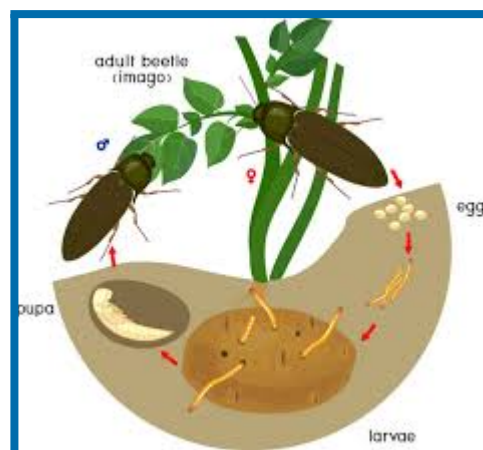
**What are you enjoying learning about at the moment? Why? Any fun facts?**

We are loving our DT topic at the moment because we are designing and sewing our own stuffed toys! In PE, we have started our new topic of Outdoor Activities - we loved using our knowledge of compass directions whilst also being in the sun. All of us are really enjoying learning about the Kingdom of Benin, even though some of the historical names are tricky to pronounce. We are especially loving the fact that we get to link our knowledge to the Tudor Dynasty - our favourite!

We have been practising all of our amazing skills in preparation for SATs. Both the Year 5 and Year 6s are making Miss Bryant very proud! In Science, we have started our new topic of Life Cycles. TYL told us some super interesting facts about the life cycle of bacteria and beetles.

Kingfishers got a new frisbee this week and have been practising their frisbee throwing skills at lunchtime - JT wowed us especially. We love challenging each other to see who can catch it without dropping it, especially when Miss El Oakley joins in.

Kingfishers are very much looking forward to their end of SATs treat! Year 6s are particularly looking forward to coming in for a SATs breakfast so that they are ready to wow us throughout the week.



## The Skelton Spotlight

This week, we have chosen to interview Mrs Naylor!

**How long have you worked at Skelton?**

I have been working with Skelton School in a variety of roles since 2021 but I have just started as Principal after Easter.

**Who was the first member of staff you met?**

I met Mrs Wilson on a training course and she was so kind and friendly.

**What was your favourite book when you were little?**

My mum used to read 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson every night before bed. When I was older I liked to read other books by the same author - she has one about a cat and an otter.

**What's your favourite movie?**

I like to watch films that are also books so I can compare them. I'm really looking forward to the new 'How to Train your Dragon' movie.

**What's your favourite food?**

I love to eat risotto. I find it hard to make because you have to stir it a lot so I always get it when I eat out.

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was younger I wanted to be an artist and draw all day but now I just do it for fun.





**What's your secret talent?**

I can drive a miniature train, I used to volunteer at the National Railway Museum and drive the little train there.

**Why did you want to work at Skelton?**

In my last job I was lucky enough to visit lots of schools but I always loved visiting Skelton. The teachers are amazing and the children are always kind and funny. Now I get to come here every day!

**Where's your favourite place?**

I went to Scotland for a holiday last year and I loved visiting Edinburgh. It is such a lovely city full of history!

**What do you like to do to relax?**

I like to take my dog for a walk or do some drawing or painting.

### Dates for your diary

Please see all important dates below. Further dates, such as sporting fixtures and trips, are in the process of being confirmed. We will inform parents via the newsletter when further dates are added.

### Summer Term

Date	Focus	Time and place
<b>Monday 5th May</b>	BANK HOLIDAY	Home!
<b>Thursday 8th May</b>	Last swimming lesson for Owls	The Mount
<b>w/c 12th May</b>	SATS Week	School - Y6 only
<b>Friday 16th May</b>	SATS Celebration	AM - Rainbows Ceramics & Pizza Hut, Y6 only PM - Foot Golf, Y5/6
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	Football Match at Hopgrove (rescheduled from 7th March)	KS2 Girls
<b>Friday 23rd May</b>	Last day of school Non-Uniform day - charity fundraising	Charity to be decided by school council
<b>w/c 26.05.25 May Half Term</b>		
<b>Monday 2nd June 2025</b>	Back to School	n/a