

News from Kettlewell Primary School

Hooray! The first signs of spring!

It's great to see the first signs of spring knocking at the door and a welcome change from the dark nights and cold mornings.

This term has once again been busy but very exciting and lots of fun, fun, fun!!! The children are still ongoing with their challenge of "Reading around the World," and it's been a real pleasure to see all the pupils taking such an interest in their literacy and sharing their successes with each other.

It was also such fun to witness them all taking part in "World Book Day" where they all shared their love of books whilst mixing together in tents and eating marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate. Yes, learning can be really exciting and great fun and it's such a privilege to work with professionals who go that extra mile to ensure the pupils are learning without even realising it! At the end of the day I enjoyed listening to the pupils present their own "Recommended Reads" and I was astonished at the growth in confidence and their detailed explanations of the reasons they were recommending their book. The wonderful thing for me as the Headteacher, is that I can see an amazing improvement in the progress of Reading and Literacy overall. More importantly, it's so good to see young people developing a love for reading, stories and writing.

As a follow up to this, Mrs Storey very kindly prepared an after school presentation for adults to learn how to help younger people expand their reading and comprehension skills and to help children learn to develop their questioning of text and learn how to "Read between the lines." I know many of you really appreciated this support and were keen to help your children widen their abilities. Mrs Storey felt much appreciated for her efforts, especially as many of you kindly wrote to thank her and expressed how much you had enjoyed being back at school!!

The staff have also been very busy this term following their own training in First Aid, both in First Aid at Work and in Paediatric First Aid Training. This is something we quite rightly have to keep up to date with every three years. Fortunately this time, what can sometimes be a quite laborious repeat course, was made very interesting by an ex-military medic who led the course. She was so good we have booked her to come and train the pupils in these so important life-saving skills at the end of term.

At the end of February, we had a lovely day of celebration, when we invited lots of special visitors to commemorate our much loved school staying open to serve the young people of our dale for many years to come. It was such a delight to bring together past pupils of the school from the 1930s and to hear the differences between what happened then and what we do now. Our own pupils really enjoyed looking through the log books and discovering that the school wall had been bombed, and evacuees had been brought to the area to live and to go to school safely. Some of the visitors made snacks with our smaller children and enjoyed making and drinking milk shakes made with ice cream by the pupils. The morning was completed with visitors and pupils enjoying one of Mrs Cherry's fabulous lunches before it was back to the normal run-of -the mill timetable and on with the not-so-different-to-bygone-times multiplication sums!!

Finally, we are heading towards our spring activities week when the usual egg decorating and egg rolling will take place. We do hope you are enjoying the warmer temperatures and as always, welcome you to visit our school and have a look around.

Best wishes to one and all,

Lesley Taylor

Headteacher