

# Highwoods

e  
r  
a  
i  
d



## School Newsletter Spring 2018 Issue

It doesn't seem a minute since Christmas, but already Easter has come and gone; and we are now in the last term of this school year! The Spring term was very short only 10 weeks - this means the summer term will be a long one - 14 weeks! But as usual, it will be busy with all the activities we have planned.

Our partnership with the 3 other schools in our Academy Trust (Bessacarr Primary, Southfield Primary and Tranmoor Primary) is working well and we have developed a very strong working relationship.



Our Academy Trust is named the **Empowering Minds Academy Trust** or **EMAT** for short! We have a new logo (shown left) and will soon be launching the Academy Trust website - which will complement our academy website but not replace it. The Trust website will give details of the overall working of the trust.

We continue to work closely with our Mexborough Pyramid of schools, who meet regularly. We are already planning Year 6 into Year 7 transition, a Pyramid Year 2 and Year 6 Biscuit Bake Off!! as well as our usual sporting competitions. Unfortunately, Mexborough Academy will not be holding the Dance Festival this year.

*G. R. Rhodes Head Teacher*

### Refurbishment Update

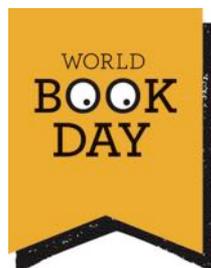
During the Easter break, the flooring in the shared area, Key Stage 2 cloakroom and toilets has been replaced as it was damaged in our flood before Christmas. We have a few areas of plastering and painting to do before all the repair / refurbishments are complete

### World Book Day - Fancy Dress Winners

Our (delayed) World Book Day was a great success - we have never had so many children dress up as a character from a book.

A winner was chosen from each class and we also had an overall winner.

The winners will receive a book of their own choosing.



### Easter Raffle

The children's Easter chocolate raffle raised over £100 for school funds. We had over 30 prizes - I wish to thank the staff who donated the prizes.

I need also to thank Max and Diesel from Year 6 who organised the selling and distribution of the raffle tickets on a daily basis - not an easy task but they made a good job of it!

Thank you also to Ms. Fraher, Office Manager, who organised the delivery of 211 Easter eggs by the Easter Bunny for every child in school. The eggs are paid through the school fund account - money raised by parents/carers from discos, raffles etc.



### Egg Decorating Competition



We had some eggs-cellent entries in our egg-decorating competition - some really original and creative ideas.

Winners were chosen by the teaching staff and chocolate prizes were given to the 4 lucky winners.

### Attendance & Punctuality

Current winners are **Sycamore Year 6** with 97%.

Holly (Nursery) 94%, Cherry (Reception) 92%, Willow (Y1) 94%, Rowan (Y2) 96%, Elm (Y3) 95%, Oak (Y4) 94% and Hazel (Y5) 94%

### Children in each class with at least 96% attendance

Holly (Nursery) 10, Cherry (Reception) 8, Willow (Y1) 10, Rowan (Y2) 19, Elm (Y3) 19, Oak (Y4) 13, Hazel (Y5) 10% and **Sycamore (Y6) 22**

### Children in each class with 100% attendance

Holly (Nursery) 3, Cherry (Rec) 0, Willow (Y1) 1, **Rowan (Y2) 5**, Elm (Y3) 3, Oak (Y4) 3, Hazel (Y5) 2 and Sycamore (Y6) 4

Any child whose attendance falls below 96% for any reason is monitored by the school and Education Welfare Officer.

## Articles from Year Groups.....

### Nursery

Over the last few weeks in Nursery we have been exploring colours through different painting methods. Early drawings and paintings (we tend to call them mark-making) are children's first forms of written communication before they learn to read and write.

We used brushes to paint observational paintings of spring daffodils – we had to look at them really closely and choose the correct colour for each part. We printed with forks to make beautiful bright pictures of tulips. We used our hands and fingers to print, to make pictures of flowers for our Mother's Day cards. This was our favourite method of painting because we enjoyed getting messy! We also loved dropping the marbles covered in paint into the paper tray and rolling it around to make a ball painting! We have used sponges to sponge-paint the scales on a dragon for our collaborative piece of art work for our class display.

You can see some of our art work in nursery on display in our corridor.

### Reception

This term the children in Cherry class have been learning about the local area through their learning challenge, 'Where do I live?' So on a sunny afternoon earlier in March, the class set off with clip boards in hand, ready to tick off as many features as they could between the school and the park. They found lamp posts, a bus stop, the Health Centre, a path, road signs, the Hairdresser's, lots of houses including some of their own and of course the park itself. They also enjoyed using the playground equipment before returning to school. Following the visit, they have been learning to write a recount of the walk, make maps of the route and compare their own local area with 'Happy Town', a place in one of key stories we have been reading this term, 'The Chimpanzees of Happy Town'.



### Year 2

A very busy term in Year 2!

Children have worked exceptionally hard, producing some fantastic work and making excellent progress. If you haven't already had chance to see the superb art work the class produced for our display, please have a look.

Alongside the brilliant work produced, Year 2 took part in an inter-pyramid multi-skills competition achieving 3rd place, well done to all. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and were a credit to the school. We also recently visited The Cast to take part in Ensemble 360, a fun filled and interactive morning that the children loved.

Remember KS1 SATS are to take place in May, keep working hard and reading as much as possible.

### Year 3

This term year three have enjoyed learning all about the functions of the skeleton and how muscles work. They have enjoyed making a model of the arm using cardboard and balloons to demonstrate how the muscles work in pairs. 'I enjoyed this activity as it showed me exactly what the muscles do inside the body' explained Harry.

Year three are excited about starting their new Learning Challenge this week, which is all about the Greeks.

### Year 6

*"In Year 6 we have been learning about the book Beowulf. This book is about a warrior (Beowulf) who wants to defeat the death-dealing beast of the night (Grendel). We read another story involving Beowulf where he then had to defeat Beowulf's mother. We wrote a first person narrative where we imagined we were a Geatish warrior awaiting the arrival of Grendel. After this, we then wrote our own narrative in the style of Beowulf. We created some lovely pieces of artwork of our creatures from our stories."*

By Imani

*"Everyone in Key Stage 2 created a very special piece of artwork called Matisse. An artist came into school and showed us how to create Matisse artwork. When we created our artwork, we could only use scissors, coloured paper and glue to make people, plants and many other colourful things. Year 4 have created a very large piece of artwork by joining their work together, covering the lines in black paper so that it looks like a stained glass window."*

By Lola

### Letter from the Minister of State for School Standards

**The school has received a letter congratulating us on our very high standard of achievement in mathematics in the Key Stage 2 assessments in 2017. 100% of our pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard-putting our school in the top 1% of primary schools in England for attainment in mathematics in 2017. Congratulations to the pupils and staff for their hard work and professionalism in producing such high standards.**

### Highwoods Herald – News

This is the last edition of the Herald to be printed and distributed via all pupils. In future, we will send you a link via our text service, so you read the Herald on our website. This enables us to cut photocopying costs and reduces the amount of paper we are using - as we aim to be an Eco-Friendly school!



Can we remind parents that payments for school dinners, after school clubs, breakfast clubs and visits should be paid for **in advance** to avoid any outstanding balances. Under academy financial regulations we are not allowed to give parents credit. If you cannot make payment or are having issues with ParentPay, please see the office for further support.