



## Newsletter 13 16.06.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please read on for the latest news and information from Havannah First...

### No Voice Too Small

A group of children in year 3 have taken part in a project called No Voice Too Small. This has been a collaboration with some other schools in our trust and was organised to support confidence and resilience of the children in Year 3. All children participated in sessions in school and then a smaller group attended an event at Newcastle Civic Centre where they presented their speeches in the Council Chamber.

We were very proud of their confidence and the care they took in making their points. We have had some very positive feedback from the event, including from Councillor Thom Champion, who was so impressed that he is arranging to come into school and meet the children to talk about the issues they raised.

I am sure the children will remember the experience for years to come, not many people get to make a speech in the Council Chambers!



### Quad Kids

Congratulations to the KS2 children who took part in the Quad Kids Competition at Cragside Primary School. It was an afternoon of athletics with other schools from across the city. As always, the children who took part, took the PE values with them and were superb competitors.

## Havannah Hikes and Shaun the Sheep

It has been lovely to hear the children talk about their walks at half term. We have collected about £150 so far. If you have sponsor money to pay in, please do so via ParentMail as soon as you can and before Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This allows us to fund Shaun and to support St Oswald's.

Miss Campbell has been working with a group of children in KS2 to rename Shaun and the name they have chosen is **Shavannah!** When you see him, you will understand why! We also know where he is going to be on the trail – but this is still a top secret!



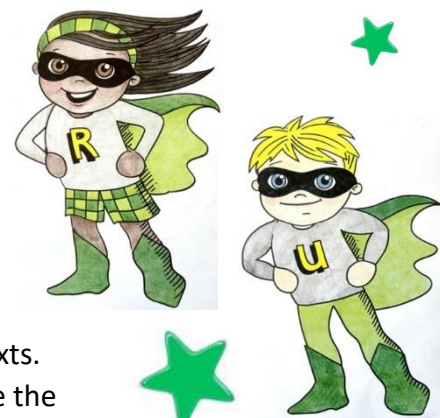
## ASDA Token Scheme

Thanks to everyone who has supported us by voting with their tokens in ASDA. Michelle from ASDA came to present us with a cheque for £500 which is hugely appreciated and will be well spent!

## The Havannah Heroes



A team of Y4 children have been working on designs to create the Havannah Heroes. Each hero represents one of four curriculum drivers at school and they help the children to understand and talk about their learning in different contexts. Rhonda has helped us to finalise the designs and we are delighted with the results! The four drivers are Knowledge and Understanding, Creativity, Resilience and Understanding Ourselves and Each



Other. In assembly on Monday, we voted on different ideas to names the heroes and the results have been passed onto the School Council for a final decision – I am sure the children will let you know when we have named them!

## Football Success!

We were delighted to be the winners of the First School Cup again this year. Our footballers were outstanding in the tournament and we were all incredibly proud of their sporting values and skills. Congratulations to all and thanks to parents and carers for your help with transport!



## Cross Country Superstars

Congratulations to the Cross Country runners who were competing at Grange First School earlier this week. We have some amazing runners who really shone at the event – well don't to Samuel and Rose who were first in their events and a special shout out to Sophia who went back to help a friend who had fallen and then got them safely over the finishing line. We could not be more proud!



## Book Swap



Our Book Swap trolley is outside of school most days (if it's not outside, you can ask at the office for it). Please remember that you can donate a book and take a book as often as you'd like to. Not only will this get books in the hands of our young readers and emerging readers, but also their grown-ups too (bottom shelf)!

We are always open to book donations if you are having a clear out at home or you have duplicates and books which just need to be shared and enjoyed.

## Outdoor Learning

We are delighted to see some shrubs and trees becoming established and leafy in the forest school area. Mrs Walker and Mrs Mingoia have been working hard with groups of children to get the area equipped for outdoor learning activities. This week some classes have had a whole afternoon outside to learn new knowledge and skills and to develop their resilience and creative thinking. We are feeling very lucky to have such a brilliant resource on our site for everyone to use.



## **Staffing News**

Following our recent teacher recruitment, we are delighted to welcome Miss Armstrong to our team as a teacher for September. Miss Armstrong has completed the school based element of her training with us this year and has excelled in all aspects. We are confident that she is a great fit for Havannah First School and will be teaching in KS2 from September. We also appointed Miss Henderson as a teacher. Miss Henderson has worked in the UK and abroad as a teacher in the past few years again, we know she will be a great addition to the KS2 team.

Miss Shevill left us this week after many years of being a midday supervisory assistant and previously a cleaner at Broadway East. She has been great fun to work with and has always been committed to looking after the school and the children. We wish her lots of luck for the future.

## **September 2023**

This September will be the first year that we will have two classes of 30 in each year group. We are really excited to see the end of mixed classes. We have made mixed classes work for a long time, but it has been, and is becoming more challenging to get the curriculum right when there are classes made up of different national Curriculum year groups. This also means that we are growing in year 4 from 45 up to 60. Please get the word out that we are admitting Year 4 children for September. It is good for school to have full classes as this is reflected in our budget. If anyone is interested in a Year 4 place, please contact us and we will direct you to the in-year admissions procedure. Thank you.

We know that lots of you will be eager to find out which class your child will be in and who their new teacher will be. Children will find out on our transition day and then you will be told in their annual report. Reception children, going into Year 1, will be reorganised into new classes but Miss Storey and Miss Elvin will work with us to make sure that all children are in the very best place for learning, play and friendships. Year 3, going into Year 4, will also be reorganised because we are creating two classes. Again, the KS2 team will work with us to make sure that children are well placed and happy with any changes.

## **The Field**

Unfortunately, the condition of the field has deteriorated significantly in the dry weather and the drainage channels have become a problem. Sadly, we have risk assessed the field and made the decision that it is unsafe. Until we can rectify the problem, the field is out of bounds for children and adults. Please help us to keep everyone safe by ensuring that children in your care at drop off and pick up times do not go onto the field. As you can imagine, we are working relentlessly with the contractor to find a solution.

## **Planted Areas in School**

We are also working with the contractor and with our new ground maintenance team to improve and maintain the planted areas in school. You might have noticed that some plants have not returned this spring and summer, and some areas have become damaged. Please could you help us by keeping children off these areas at drop off and pick up times. During the school day, the children are not allowed on these areas and we would be grateful if you could reinforce this, including with younger pre-school children. Thank you.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher



## Dates for Summer Term 2023

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>National Sports' Week (see letter from Mrs McMillan)</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Y1 Sports Day – Parents and Carers welcome 2.00pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Reception Sports Stay and Play 9.00am-10.30am
	<b>Non uniform sports' wear day (see letter from Mrs McMillan)</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Visit to the Discovery Museum
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>PTFA Non uniform for Tombola donations</b>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 Assembly for Parents and Carers 9.00am
	Y2 Sports Day – Parents and Carers welcome 2.00pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Adventure Challenge Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Governors' Meeting 5.00pm
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Assembly for Parents and Carers 9.00am
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day (Y4 @GEMS and GPA)*
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day (Y4 @GEMS and GPA)*
	PTFA Meeting 2.00pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day (Y4 @GEMS)*
	Annual Reports to Parents and Carers
	<b>PTFA Summer Fair 3.30pm – 5.00pm</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Open Afternoon (details to follow) from 2.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Sports Day – Parents and Carers welcome 2.00pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Leavers' Assembly 9.00am
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Break up for Summer Holiday</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Training Day – school closed to children
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Beginning of New School Year</b>