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A spring in our step

This half term has flown by – with lots of successes, lots of community links and lots of celebrations to enjoy across school.

We have invited several visitors into school, including people of different faiths, a hockey coach, Governors and colleagues from Open Minds CAMHS to increase our children's understanding of self-esteem. Our children also met the MP Paul Whittaker and councilor Paul Bellenger – and asked challenging questions to both!

Our Reception children have moved on to their next big question as part of their bespoke curriculum — What am I? They have been exploring the world through senses and thinking about what it means to be a human and/or an animal. That was in and amongst, of course, the exciting snowfall and a week dedicated to Chinese New Year! I have been blown away by some of the writing in Key Stage 1 this half term — it's always amazing to see the progress in spring term! In DT, our Year 1 children have been investigating the amount of sugar in drinks. Fanta was the biggest surprise — it might be orange but it's still an unhealthy drink! In their Science lessons, Year 2 have been learning about habitats and created their own microhabitat for an animal of their choice. Also in Science, Year 4 have combined their scientific skills with DT by designing, making and evaluating torches, and Year 5 have been experimenting with changing states of matter.

A visit to the newly opened, local allotment was a great trip for Year 3 – they planted cherry, apple and pear trees in the new orchard, and a Sikh visitor in Year 6 shared with the class all about his faith and how important kindness is in the religion of Sikhism.















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Sporting achievements



A huge thank you to Halifax Hockey Club for their sessions across key stage 2 this half term — many of our children were unfamiliar with the game but all enjoyed learning a new skill. We also sent some children to a School Games event for Handball, which was a new game to everyone across Calderdale schools. Our children picked up techniques quickly and won two out of three games - well done!

Sharing kindness

We had Blue Monday this half term - statistically, the saddest day of the year. Our Kindness Ambassadors were not taking that for a fact at Bowling Green! They went around school and 'flyposted' walls and classrooms with positive quotes to cheer everyone up. We know kindness is one of our KITE Values here in school and so it was brilliant to see so many faces cheered up on the day.

It was also Children's Mental Health Week this half term. Our children completed activity's linked to this year's theme – Let's Connect.







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Home learning

Miss Hollingworth set us a whole-school challenge this half term for children to complete some exciting Science experiments at home – some of which were very messy! We have all loved seeing photos and videos of our super scientists come in on SeeSaw. Our Year 4 children have blown us away with their optional project-based homework, which is shared with all classes on your half-termly curriculum map.



Meeting an MP

I took some of our children to West Vale to meet the MP Craig Whittaker, which linked well with our work on British Values and democracy in assemblies during January. The children made me unbelievably proud — asking challenging questions about Mr Whittaker's voting history, driving around school, how he was supporting families during tough financial times and the wellbeing (and stress-levels!) of being in government.



Inspirational figures

We had a brilliant afternoon across school with all children going into their Houses for a creative session linked to their wonderful House leader – David Attenbourgh, Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg or Stevie Wonder. From creating musical pieces to artistic showcases, it was a great chance for children to learn about someone inspiring.







A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA volunteers who have supported us with our interactive whiteboard fund. We now have six whiteboards... with just one more to go! Thank you, also, to every family who have supported a PTA event. Every penny goes towards resources for our brilliant children!



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Congratulations, Miss Bottomley!

Over half term, Miss Bottomley is getting married! As a surprise, we arranged for our Reception children to come into school on Friday in their smart wedding/party clothes for a fun day. We're all so pleased for you, Miss Bottomley. Have a wonderful time and we can't wait to hear all about your special day!



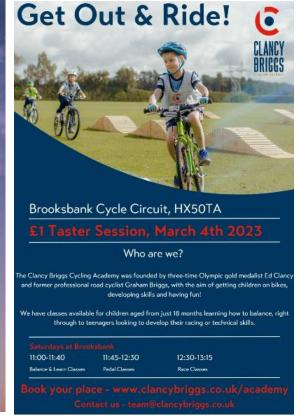
Well done, Year 5!

Our Year 5 children are learning about finance in PSHE. They had a challenge to make as much money from £20 as possible - with all profits going to a chosen charity. In total they made over £120, which has been sent to the Red Cross Turkey/Syria Earthquake Fund.









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