



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the summer term!

Showing new families around our school is always a special occasion. To have the opportunity to talk and show new children and prospective parents what we offer here at Hipsburn can take over an hour as there is so much to tell them! As we walk around the school there always seems to be a class "missing" - either at Beach School, swimming, on a trip or having a lesson in the school grounds, which is great! More recently, we have worked hard on the whole school project - The Dam - and much of the wonderful work remains on display in school. This was a fantastic learning opportunity for our children and it was equally lovely to welcome all our parents, grandparents and members of our local community back into school for this occasion. We certainly hope to repeat this event next year!

The last few weeks have seen Ukrainian families visiting our school too. Using interpreters and various translator apps we have managed to welcome children who have had a very challenging and difficult experience over the last few months. These children were warmly welcomed - I observed one of our children type "nod your head if you want to be my



friend" which was then swiftly translated into Russian (whilst the majority of Ukrainians speak Ukrainian there are some children that only speak Russian). The child after a pause nodded their head. In another class a Ukrainian child was offered a strawberry plant that the children had grown in the raised beds and a lovely book of pictures and messages. What a wonderful welcome. We may never fully understand what has happened to them but we can be as warm and welcoming as possible for these children and I hope they too can enjoy what we offer at Hipsburn.

As we hurtle towards the summer holidays, these last few weeks at school are always a busy time and especially for our year 6 pupils. They've just returned from a fantastic London experience and there are events lined up to ensure a smooth transition to high school. A day at DCHS; a beach school with other year 6s in the Alnwick Partnership; a leavers' assembly and a chance to party at The Plough - phew! Then onwards and upwards - we shall miss them.

Have a lovely summer.

**Kevin Moloney, Headteacher**

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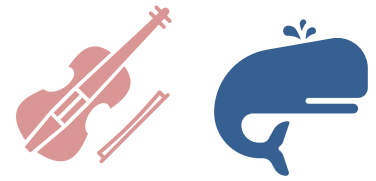
Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)

## Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Ford Class are swimming on Wednesdays
- ◆ Clubs this half term:  
Mondays, Cookery Etal  
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All  
Tuesdays, Coding Club, Years  
4-6  
Tues/Thurs Breakfast Club, All  
Tues/Weds Homework Club, All  
Wednesdays, Guitar, Ford/Etal  
Fridays, Lego, All
- ◆ Year 5 Dukeshouse Wood  
15th - 17th June
- ◆ Class Photos (inc preschool)  
Wednesday, 22nd June
- ◆ Queen's Jubilee  
Celebrations  
Friday, 24th June
- ◆ Etal Beach School  
Friday 1st July
- ◆ Etal STEMfest @ St  
James Park  
Monday 4th July
- ◆ Bamburgh Beach School  
Wednesday 6th July
- ◆ Year 6 Transition Day,  
DCHS, Wednesday 6th July
- ◆ Preschool Sports Day  
Thursday 7th July
- ◆ Ford Beach School  
Friday 8th July
- ◆ Sports Day  
Monday 11th July
- ◆ Alnwick Beach School  
Tuesday 12th July
- ◆ Year 6 Transition Beach  
Day, Wednesday 13th July
- ◆ Year 6 at The Plough!  
Wednesday 13th July
- ◆ Year 6 Leavers' Assembly  
Wednesday 20th July, 2-3pm
- ◆ Etal Beach Day  
Thursday 21st July
- ◆ Break up for the summer  
Friday 22nd July

# THE DAM

## A WHOLE SCHOOL COLLABORATION



Last half term we celebrated and worked together on an exciting whole school project, The Dam, which started at the beginning of the summer term. All children from preschool through to year 6 took part in the project, which covered all kinds of learning opportunities from writing, music, art, local history and outdoor learning days.

The book 'The Dam' by David Almond was central to the project and is based on a true story of how Kielder Water reservoir came into existence and the impact of it on the local environment. The construction of the dam meant farmland was flooded and nearby houses were demolished and the story follows a little girl and her father entering the empty houses and playing music.



**Sing, Daddy, sing.  
Dance, Daddy, dance**



The book is dedicated to Mike and Kathryn Tickell, both of whom are world famous folk musicians, who are the father and daughter in The Dam. Although the book tells of sadness when a valley is 'drowned', it also celebrates positive change.

**This will be gone**



The past two years have been very challenging and we have sorely missed being able to work as a whole school, sharing our successes and learning together. Moving forward after a difficult period, it was really wonderful to be able to invite parents back into school after such a long time, to share performances and hold an open event. Both events were a huge success.



After contacting David Almond's agent, (who forwarded information onto David Almond about our project); to our absolute delight David sent an email to thank the children and tell us more about his book. Pupils from Years 5 & 6 wrote letters to David to thank him for the inspiration and the book.

To complete our project and celebrate the love of reading, pupils and parents attended a pop-up book fair. Bronnie & Bob from Bookwagon talked to each class during the afternoon to share and read extracts from a range of books. It was fantastic to see pupils so enthusiastic and excited about selecting and choosing a book to buy. It was the perfect end to our Dam collaboration.

The dam was almost done



Working with the Northumberland County Music service and local artist **Katherine Renton**, pupils performed traditional Northumbrian music and dancing in a celebration assembly. They also presented their artwork and project work in a special open event. Katherine gave a short presentation on her work as an artist, sustainability, and talked about the work across the school. Our year 6 pupils were perfect hosts - chatting to our visitors and serving refreshments.



The lake is beautiful







## Beach schools are the best...

Great fun is always the order of the day on beach school days. We love beach school and recent trips provided a perfect opportunity to take our learning about Kielder and the dam project and put it into a real life context.

Ford class had a great time planting tree saplings at the top of Bracken Hill. They explored plants and insects using identification charts and wrote poetry and drew pictures in the wooded area, all whilst being closely watched by a friendly robin. We were lucky enough to watch a barn owl diving for prey to feed its young, a roe deer fawn hopping through the rushes and a moorhen too! What a fantastic way to finish school before the half term holiday!

Alnwick Class went off exploring into the 'wild woods' and used our different senses to appreciate listening in a wild space. This helped us to think about why wild places are important and what we can do to help protect them. We recapped all the species of trees that we planted on our last beach trip and what we know grows at Kielder. We completed a scavenger hunt of natural objects and then created our own forest with all the things that we had found.

In the afternoon, after listening to our wild stories, we set off for teamwork activities to build the old village of Kielder in the sand, trying to remember all the features. We then used our practical technology skills to create a giant dam and thought about the fun of the tide coming into flood it. There was so much fun and dam investigating.







## Congratulations and Jubilations...

A big well done to Erica and Martha who were joint winners of the poster competition for the recent jubilee fun day at Alnmouth & Lesbury Cricket Club. A great day was had by all and £267 was raised for The Duchess High School with the help of their fantastic band.

Hipsburn pupils will be celebrating the Queen's jubilee in school over the next couple of weeks. We delayed our celebrations until the year 5 and 6 residentials were over and everyone could join in.

A big thank you to Lesbury Parish Council and Alnmouth Parish Councils for their kind donations.

Watch this space...







Year 6 pupils  
rocking the capital





Sports round-up ...



Ford had lots of fun during the recent skipping challenge with other schools at Willowburn. They enjoyed learning individual, paired and team games as well as getting a skipping rope and a certificate for taking part!



We don't like cricket - we LOVE it!!

Every year, pupils all over the country enjoy a week of cricket-themed activity in the classroom, on the playground and in local communities. This year National Cricket Week will be 27th June to the 1st July. Children from Pre-school to Year 6 at Hipsburn Primary showcased how cricket has the power to give ALL young people a positive experience of sport with coaches from Alwick Cricket Club earlier this summer term. The children loved taking part in lessons and personal challenges. Well done everyone!



Congratulations to everyone who made our Gold Mark Award possible!



Hipsburn Primary School Wins Gold!



We are delighted to announce that we, Hipsburn Primary School, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements have included providing quality physical education lessons to all children and links for family activities during lockdown, the Santa Dash, the virtual Year 8 Hockey Challenge and the virtual Year 5 Football Challenge. We have provided additional swimming lessons to ensure all children have the opportunity to leave school with the ability to swim at least 25 metres, use a variety of strokes and self-rescue safety, despite the lockdown, through our catch-up programme. Each half term we have provided at least one afterschool sports club for our children, so that over the year all children have had the choice to further develop their skills. We have full use of our field now, owing to extensive field drain work, and now utilise the space to provide fun, physical activities which improve both health and wellbeing. Our fantastic Year 5 and 6 School Sport Organising Crew now run an afterschool club and offer lunchtime activities too.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

We look forward to applying once again in 2023!  
Miss Haswell, PE Leader



Please do not send cakes or sweets in to school when it is your child's birthday. We have a number of children in school with allergies - thank you for your understanding.



Bread Bags - we are no longer collecting bread bags to be recycled as the scheme is now closed. Most large supermarkets and local Co-op stores collect soft plastics to be recycled, so you can now drop them in when you shop.



Healthy snacks please!

If you send a playtime snack for your child, please only send in a piece of fruit or veg - no processed snacks. Thank you.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches