

MAY 2016

The summer term always holds promise of exciting times at a primary school, even though we cannot totally rely on the idea of long warm sunny days for sports days and trips out. Even so there is much to look forward. Class 3 are sharing a visit with the children at Warthill to the Buddhist World Peace Centre at Kilnwick Percy near Pocklington. This allows the children to learn about Buddhism as a major world faith so very close to home, a fascinating experience for children and adults.

In sharp contrast, this is to be followed by an opportunity to go surfing under the safe and watchful eye of the RNLI at Scarborough. The RNLI team have already been into school to talk about keeping safe near and around water so the children will be able to put what they have learned into action whilst having a day together at the seaside. Later in the term we are having a whole school visit to the Countryside day at the Ledston Estate near Garforth. This is a mini country show that demonstrates everything the countryside has to offer, with many opportunities for the children to see aspects of country life at close quarters e.g. sheep shearing, ferret racing, falconry, forestry. This is one occasion when we would appreciate fine weather.

As part of the Howardian Small Schools Alliance, Sand Hutton welcomed staff from Slingsby, Warthill, Terrington, Foston, Langton, Gillamoor and Leavening to a joint training day at the beginning of term. The day was led by a consultant teacher, Naomi Smales who engaged us all with the 'Talk for Writing' approach aimed to develop and inspire children as young writers and readers using high quality fiction and opportunities to retell stories and develop exciting, extensive vocabulary. As a teacher it is always a pleasure to 'be taught', also to spend time with a group of friendly colleagues openly sharing thoughts and ideas is a rare opportunity once a busy term gets underway.

The Year 6 children, like all other ten and eleven year olds across the country, will be taking their end of primary school tests at the beginning of May (SATS). Despite the many government changes that have taken place concerning the format of these tests this year, the children have continued to do their very best and have been a credit to school and their families. They will certainly deserve a summer in which to enjoy their last term at primary school, both in and out of school, once the tests are over.