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Headteacher: Mr. C. Gibson

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all managed to enjoy the half term break and I have heard many stories of people's exciting visits. It sounds as though the various Center Parcs sites have enjoyed seeing a number of Belmont families (including the one in Elveden, near my 'neck of the woods'). And to those who have suggested I am from Norfolk, I would like to put on the record this is absolutely NOT the case and is an accusation I refute most strongly! We are now back to the second Spring half term where, indeed, it is actually Spring! That seemed especially apparent yesterday as we looked out on the crocuses (croci?) as the sun shone down as the children enjoyed playing on the field. Marvellous. Today, however...

Reading Breakfast

I don't think there can be any argument about the top-billing this week. Many thanks to all who attended one of the two Reading Breakfasts, which we hosted this week. Judging from the comments we have received from a number of you, it was very much enjoyed. As you will know, these type of events do not just 'come together' and, behind the scenes, a lot of time was given over to the organising of such an undertaking. Many thanks to all of the staff for 'planning and manning' the activities and especially to Mr Harper who spearheaded the project. Also, to those who worked in the breakfast room, ensuring smooth running of the café! On that note, we are *so grateful* to Master Baker Ed at the Brickyard Bakery who kindly made and donated all of the breakfast items in what can only be described as one of the most fabulous examples of generosity. We really enjoyed the two sessions and there is no doubt something similar will be organised in the future. We'll keep you posted.

Careers Week

As I have mentioned in previous communications over the years, we believe that introducing children to future possibilities is something we strongly believe in, not least because we feel it helps provide context for the benefits of all we do in school (and life) on a day to day basis as well as promote aspiration. With that in mind, we discuss this in school a great deal and it therefore goes without saying that Careers Week is something we will always acknowledge and participate in.

As you would expect, different year groups across the school took part in activities designed to help them think about jobs and their futures. Miss Schumm led a careers assembly for Reception and KS1, where the children listened to a BBC story read by Welsh footballer Sophie Ingle titled "When I Grow Up, I'd Like to Be..." by Rob Biddulph. She explained what a career is and encouraged the children to share their ideas about what they might like to be when they grow up. In KS2, Years 3-6 joined a live assembly on Monday with the organisation 'Tech She Can', which explored how AI is used in a variety of careers and how it is helping the world.

Pupils learned about roles such as an AI chatbot developer, robotics engineer, research scientist, computer vision specialist and conservation technologist.

Year 3 pupils used the National Careers Week website to think about their relationship with the future.

Year 4 discussed the skills and personal qualities needed for the world of work during their PSHE lesson,

Year 6 completed a task titled "What do you want for your future?" where they considered where they might like to live, the job they would like to do and why, the hobbies and interests they hope to have, the personal qualities they would like others to see in them, and places they would like to travel to in the future. As alluded to, this is not something we simply discuss during a nationwide 'dedicated week', but that is interwoven into the very fabric of our day-to-day workings.

Food Waste Truck

As you will doubtless be aware, Redcar and Cleveland are now introducing 'food waste' collections and this week, pupils had the opportunity to learn about this initiative during a visit from the council's food waste truck. The visit helped children understand the importance of reducing waste and how separating food waste can help protect the environment. The initiative, which is being introduced across the borough, encourages households to place their food scraps into a separate food waste bin rather than their general rubbish. This waste is then collected weekly and taken to a specialist facility where it is processed to produce renewable energy and fertiliser for farming. During the visit, pupils were able to see the food waste truck up close and learn more about what happens to food waste after it is collected. It was a great opportunity for children to think about how small changes at home, such as recycling food waste, can make a big difference to our environment. I was not party to all of the discussions but, even from my office, I can confirm that there is no problem at all with the sound of the horn on the truck!

Science Week

Next week is National Science Week where the theme is 'Curiosity: What's Your Question?' This will feature greatly as part of our curriculum with a number of activities planned to support the themes of this year's focus. On Monday, Key Stage Two will be participating in a workshop about flood resilience. There is also the poster competition (information for which has already been shared) which we hope the children will choose to participate in.

Bridge2Youth Group

Following the information shared previously, we received a visit from our friends at The Bridge in Guisborough this week to speak with Years Five and Six about their new 'Bridge2Youth Group' who meet on Fridays from 5pm – 8pm at the Evangelical Church in Guisborough. If your child is in either of the two mentioned year groups and is interested in finding out more, you can contact Juanita on 07936 316217.

Parent / Teacher Consultations (or Parents' Evening!)

We are in the process of setting up the booking system for the upcoming dates on Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April (from 3.30pm – 6pm each day). Once this has been completed, we will provide you with details as to how to book your appointments. Keep the dates free.

Robinwood

Many thanks to those who attended the meeting earlier this week in relation to Year Five's upcoming visit to Robinwood. In discussion with colleagues also in attendance, I think we may have set a record for the number of attendees at such a meeting! Hopefully, this provided you with all you needed to know and, nearer the time, we will also fully brief the children and provide them the opportunity to ask any questions about it.

Whilst on the subject of Robinwood, I notice that there is a meeting set for our current Year Four children on 20th May for the 2027 visit!

Next Week

Just reminders about events happening next week (for which information has already been shared):

Tuesday 10th March: Nursery 'Mothers' Day' event

Tuesday 10th March: Discos

Wednesday 11th March: Key Stage One 'Mothers' Day' event

Thursday 12th March: Reception 'Mothers' Day' event.

And Finally....

Wishing you a pleasant weekend as always and the 'weekly weather watch' suggests it's not looking too bad! And I am aware it's rather a long newsletter this week so, if you've managed to make it to the end, congratulations!

Yours Sincerely
C. Gibson
Mr C Gibson