



Tuesday 10th March 2020

Newsletter Number 5 – spring term 2020

Dear families,

Giraffe!!

The British Ironworks giraffe has spent the week in Pensby and is now visiting the next Federation school. We will miss the Giraffe as he has looked magnificent in our school library!



Car bumper sticker competition

We had so many entries for the car bumper sticker competition and the standard was incredibly high. The judges have judged and the winners are being announced on Friday. It is very exciting!

Big Reading Week!

Big Reading week was amazing and the children really made the most of the activities on offer. Their selection of slippers on Friday was a sight to see! Most of all, it was lovely to see the children excited about books and stories and reading. Reading is the key to everything for the children and at Pensby they have a real enthusiasm for it. During the week, one of the activities was create a whole school story that every child could read, enjoy and feel proud of. Here it is:

The air was thin. She staggered down the cobblestone path. The eerie mist latched onto her body, her breath was heavy and her footsteps echoed throughout the cold streets. Sharp pains of hunger sliced through her aching

stomach, her heart racing, beating against her chest, sweat trickling down her spine soaking through her tattered, blood stained blouse.

Exhausted, she raced through a maze of thick black smog and ash weaving in and out of the narrow back allies, searching for a hiding place.

Trying to place one foot in front of the other her vision began to dim, her lungs burned and her eyelids flickered as an invisible force condemned her helpless body against the wall, sinking her into the darkness.

She was exhausted- not only from her journey but from the mundaneness of her life. A life shrouded in hunger and fear: a desperate existence for a desperate girl.

The workhouse had offered her shelter but she couldn't stay there any longer. Not after what had happened...

The day before, as the sun was setting she gingerly crept into the dark, dingy, damp kitchen. Fear gripped her stomach as tightly as the hunger that haunted her. Slowly opening the cupboard door she glanced over her shoulder to make sure she was alone. She grabbed a stale, mouldy morsel of bread and fought the temptation to take a nibble as flashing through her troubled mind was a vision of another who was more desperate than herself...

She shook her head to erase the images of yesterday from her mind. She couldn't think about it now, she needed to find a safe place to rest. The city was cold, unfamiliar and dangerous for her right now. She glanced around the gloomy, dank alleyway that provided her current hiding place and suddenly heard footsteps coming closer. The mist was heavy tonight and the figure coming towards her was just a shadow. A frightening image sparked into her mind and she felt inside her pocket, her fingertips touching the stale crust of bread and reminding her of why she had run away.

"It's ok – don't fear me," the voice said from out of the mist. As soon as she heard him, she knew she would be safe and she raced to his warm, familiar embrace. "Jack," she whispered, "I knew we would meet again. I am so relieved that you escaped too." They clung to each other tightly and thoughts of the challenges they would soon face, melted in the warm, happy tears of relief that trickled down her cheeks...

They could have held each other for hours, but they needed to act quickly. Her sister was still in danger and the more she handled the stale bread in her pocket, the more she was determined to get her safe before the day was out. The nights could be cruel, especially for a 6 year old alone, afraid and starving. "Can you help me?" she pleaded with Jack, "I must know that she is safe, have you seen her?"

Jack grabbed Rose by both hands and caressed them gently. "By the old apple tree, you know, the one on old Peabody's farm." Rose's knees gave way, she almost fell to the ground but Jack held her tight. "You mean, she's OK?" Rose stammered, as the relief of knowing her little sister was out of the city was the best news she could have had at this moment in time. Jack nodded and began to lead Rose away.

“Quickly we must leave as they will have noticed we have gone by now.” Jack led Rose down the alley, through the mist, out of the city to where safety awaited...

PTA

This week sees the start of our Spring Term PTA events, with the Spring Disco taking part on Thursday. The full programme of events is:

- A Spring term disco on Thursday 12th March – 3.30 to 4.15 for EYFS and KS1 and 4.30 to 5.30 for KS2.
- Wednesday 18th March will be Children’s Bingo Night. The children can stay in school and enjoy bingo games. The cost included food. The event runs straight after school and finishes at 6.00pm.
- Monday 30th March – Commando Joe/PTA Easter Egg hunt – an egg for all children, plus lots of fun! Cost to be confirmed.
- Friday 27th March – PTA Easter Colouring competition to be sent home. There will be a prize per class with winners announced on 3rd April.
- Friday 3rd April – final treat of the term, PTA doughnut/biscuit decorating. Cost to be confirmed.

This week, the PTA meeting is being held on Thursday 12th March at 9.00am in the staffroom. Unfortunately the 6.00pm meeting is cancelled so we can focus on the disco!

PTA Facebook page

You may not be aware that the PTA have a Facebook page. This is a very useful link to PTA and some school information. You can find the page through this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1765223487035076/?ref=share>

The page is regulated and as such there are conditions for its use:

Pensby Primary School Association (PTA) is a registered charity. The Facebook group is open to parents and carers of children at Pens by Primary School. It is to be used for discussing fundraising and social events arranged by the PTA. It is administered by members of the PTA and not school staff.

Please use the page in a positive and respectful manner. It is not the correct forum to discuss general school matters and any issues or concerns you have should be raised with the school directly.

No photographs of children should be posted under any circumstances.

We reserve the right to remove any posts deemed inappropriate.

Cake Sales

After a week of healthy lunches and lunchboxes, our class cake sales have been a small but nice end of week treat! Thank you for supporting the events, which have raised £544 for the children of the school. Thank you for making the end of the week sweet!

Team tokens Winners

So far this academic year, Ashlea and Kentmere won the half termly token prizes (in the autumn term). These winning teams have had a special lunch in the school hall organised by the Midday Team, and they wore non uniform for the day. At the end of the year, when the weather is better, they will also receive extra sessions of fun Commando Joe!

Last half term the winning was Penmon and they will receive their rewards in the coming week too. Which team will win this half term?

South Deeside Primary Federation (SDPSF) events

We are having a busy time with our joint SDPSF events, with the car bumper sticker competition, a recent writing competition and last week was the Spelling Bee competition, held at Thingwall Primary and won by Gayton Primary.



This week we had the first ever SDPSF quiz competition. 2 teams from each year class took part and rounds included: Geography, RE and World views, Sport, Harry Potter, Science, General knowledge and a Picture round. Congratulations to Gayton Primary who were the quiz winners. Our children represented the school impeccably, they were polite, friendly and perfectly behaved at all times. Thank you to those children.

Eco lunches

In school the kitchen staff are working hard to reduce the use of single use plastics and packaging. Below are some photos to show some of the things being done, as a "before and after" shot. Please work with us when preparing lunches at home for those children who bring a packed lunch.



Victory in Europe (VE) Day celebrations

As a whole school we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. All classes in the school will be learning about life during the Second World War and the celebrations that happened as it ended. We are planning a

number of activities during the week of the anniversary, more information will be given as plans are finalised. However, in order to give you advance notice, we are planning a whole school "street party" (Nursery - Year 6) on Thursday 7th May. The day will have a 1940s theme and everyone is invited to dress up in the style of the 1940s.

And finally,

Thank you for your understanding regarding the global Coronavirus situation. We have responded in school by introducing a handwashing timetable for all children and staff as a precaution that started today. At lunchtimes, we have always asked the children to hand sanitise in addition to hand washing and this will continue. If there are any further updates for schools I will inform you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs K. Brown, Headteacher