



# LING MOOR

## A PRIORY ACADEMY

### NEWSLETTER MAY 2019



May is always a special month at the Academy as we head towards the point of the academic year where the end of year assessment judgements and national assessments take place. It really is a focused time for the teaching staff as they reflect on the many positive achievements of the children and also highlight the areas that children or the class need to secure and understand key knowledge.

For our Y6 pupils, they enter a period of their end of primary school tests. We are immensely proud of them and they have all worked so hard to be in a position to show their best. We have a firm belief at the Academy that the tests should be a point of celebration, a point where the children have an opportunity to show everyone how successful they are academically. It is really important to remember that this is just one part of the brilliant people that they are growing into. For every calculation or reading question they are successful at answering, we know that they have been successful in being polite, caring, supportive and excelling in many other areas of their lives. We are so proud of them for all of those things that make them the wonderful people that they are. I am sure that you will join us in wishing them their best.

In order to ensure that we continue to give the children the richest possible experience at school, next year will see us develop a new curriculum at the Academy. This is something that many schools are being asked to do as changes to the Ofsted framework take place. We believe that the Academy is in a very positive place to develop and enhance what is already a positive curriculum.

Our new curriculum will continue to be rooted in giving the children fantastic experiences that they can use to inspire their learning. This term we have already seen the children in reception classes go on their first trip and both Y1 and Y2 spent time on visits out of school.

Reception classes visited Uncle Henry's farm and spent the day learning about life on the farm and how things that are grown are turned into the food we eat. The tractor ride seemed to be the favourite thing the children did and they were all very keen to talk about how pig poo is being used to generate electricity at the farm.

Y1 classes visited Woodside Wildlife Park for an exciting day of learning about exotic creatures. The children saw the tigers being fed and arctic wolves prowling their enclosures. They even had the opportunity to hold a snake and meet crocodiles and tarantulas.

Our Y2 classes spent a lovely morning at Harstholme Park hunting for mini-beasts, den building and learning about the environment. The afternoon was a little damp but it didn't stop the children having a really positive experience.

In the Academy, Y3 and Y4 had fabulous wow days with a Harry Potter inspired morning in Y4 and a chocolate Willy Wonka inspired morning in Y3. Lots of taste buds were tingled!



## New Chair of Local Governing Body

Our local governing body now has a new chair and we are really delighted that Mr Dixon has agreed to take on the role. He replaces Mr Defraime who did a fantastic job in leading our governors as the Academy moved to be part of the Priory Federation of Academies Trust. We really do appreciate the time and expertise that he has given the Academy and will continue to give as one of our governors.

## Email & Twitter

We are constantly revisiting how we best communicate with members of our Ling Moor family and we are really grateful for the feedback on our pupil surveys. Email is clearly the preferred form of communication for letters/information. We also want to make sure that we keep you up to date with the children's experiences so we have decided to use our twitter account @Ling Moor Academy as our key tool for this. We will no longer be utilising the blogs unless this is part of the children's specific IT learning.

## Holiday requests

We continue to receive requests for absence for family holiday and I feel it important to clarify the Academy position. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we are unable to authorise term time holidays. As stated in the letter to all parents in October, this can result in a fine being issued by the Local Authority.

## Election

We are happy to report that the recent arrangements for the local elections were positive. We have been asked to be used as a polling station on the 23rd May for the European elections. We are currently in discussions with NKDC about the Children's Centre being used but we will of course keep you posted of any changes to our usual arrangements. Being told that we must be used as a polling station puts us in an awkward position however we will always strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for our families.

## Staff changes

We will be communicating the class structure for the next academic year as soon as it is confirmed but there are some changes that can be communicated. We have been delighted to be able to appoint a new teacher to the Academy for next year – Miss Platt. She will be starting her teaching career at Ling Moor and continues the strong record we have for developing high quality teachers.

We are however very sad to announce that Miss Boole will be leaving the Academy at the end of the academic year. Miss Boole is leaving to return to university to begin a degree in horticulture. Miss Boole began her career here as a newly qualified teacher and has spent 13 years as part of the Ling Moor Family. We wish her the best for the next adventure in life.

## Eco-group

Our Eco-group are continuing to think about how the Academy can become increasingly environmentally aware. We continue to collect empty crisp packets and used batteries for recycling (please do keep sending them in). The next step is to begin composting any organic waste produced by the Academy. They have wonderful plans for enhancing the environment in and around the Academy, so if you can help in anyway it would be much appreciated. Water butts, wildflower meadows, forest areas, bee hives and more are on their agenda so if you can help in anyway, please do contact the Academy.



