**Message from the Headteacher**

It has been a short but incredibly busy term here in school. Thank you to everyone who has given time and energy to support children's learning across the school. In these pages you will find just some of the exciting learning activities that your children have benefitted from this term.

I am now also able to share more detail regarding how we will be organising classes for next year. As you will all know Mr Lindley will be leaving us in July as he is heading East for adventures teaching in Bangkok, Thailand with his family. Sadly we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Shell who has decided to take a break from teaching to spend time with her young family. We will really miss both of these super teachers and will make sure that they enjoy a fantastic last term here at Wooler First School.

Their departures from school have coincided with a smaller intake in the autumn into Oak Class which presented challenges in making the school budget balance while maintaining our 5 classes. However opportunity had been grasped from this situation and I am happy to be able to share that we will be maintaining our 5 year group classes in September. Miss Symons will continue to teach in Oak Class, Mrs Alexander will move to teach in Cherry Class working with Mrs Cockcroft who will take on the role of higher level teaching assistant (like Mrs Morton). Miss Bullen and Miss Matthews will continue to teach Cedar and Willow Classes and we have just this week found a super new teacher, Mr Tait, to join us teaching in Maple Class. This enables us to maintain an excellent teaching team and thanks are due to staff and governors for their work on making this happen.

During the interviews this week (we had 15 applications from teachers wanting to join Wooler First School!) it was clear that we enjoy something quite special. All of the candidates were blown away by the facilities and learning opportunities available to the children and all commented on how welcoming and friendly they felt the school was. It made us think how lucky we really are. How we may take for granted all that we have here in Wooler that other schools and other children just don't have. The responses from the children in the school council really drove that point home when our visitors asked them what was special about their school. It made us all think on how we must continue to work together to ensure that we keep all of these fantastic opportunities a part of our curriculum.

Mr Deane-Hall

p.s. keep an eye out for information from the PTA about our Forest Classroom next half term!

Flodden Battle—History comes to life!

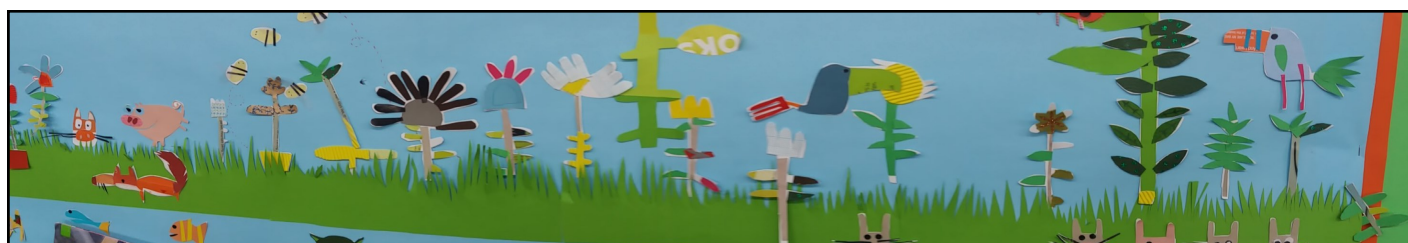
Jane from Berwick Museum visited Willow Class to tell us all about the Battle of Flodden.

We learnt a lot about the battle and then we did an archaeological dig. Some of us dressed up as Kings and Queens, we had a great day!!



Julia Patton—Wooler gets even more creative.

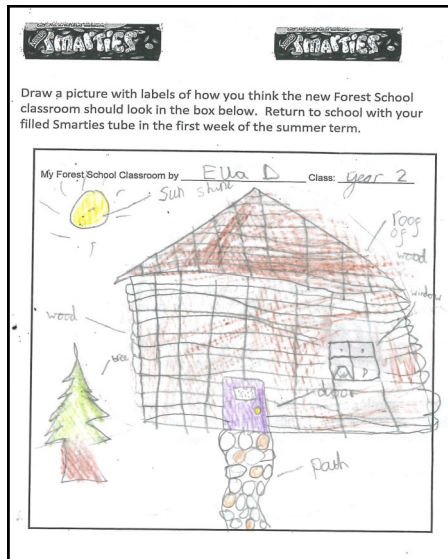
All children from Nursery to Year 4 had the chance to work alongside author and illustrator, Julia Patton. Julia worked with each year group for half a day, creating collages of animals, flowers and plants! Some of these artworks may appear at Glendale Show or the art exhibition in July. Julia and the children used recycled paper to help add more interest to their work. This was organised as part of our ARTSMARK work that has been ongoing throughout the school year. The funds to pay Julia were kindly donated by our school PTA! Thank you!



PTA Smarties Challenge

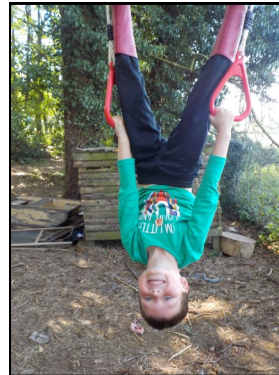
The children raised a fantastic **£662.80** by participating to the Smarties Challenge over the Easter Holiday.

The money will help build the new Outdoor Classroom in our Forest School. Many thanks to families for your support and to the children for their hard work.



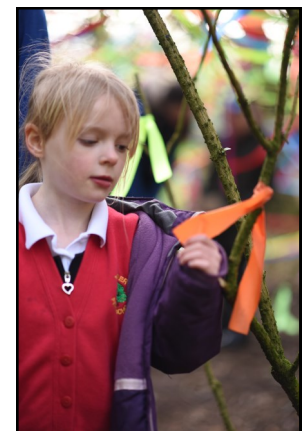
Cherry Class in Forest School

Cherry Class have been enjoying the recent sunny weather in Forest School! The picture with the two girls shows the necklaces that we made using leaves, wool and single-hand hole punches and then some intricate threading! Freddie is showing us some great upper body strength and is able to flip right over using these hoops.



Arstmark 2019

We are working hard to further improve the arts within our school. These pictures show a fantastic collaboration between our Year 1 & 2 children and Year 7 & 8 pupils from Glendale Middle School. This was in partnership with Woodhorn Museum and will continue for three years. The children worked alongside artists Amy Lorde and Judith Davies to create a live art installation piece within our woodland area.



Cricket—skills in the sunshine.

Cricket has been the focus for PE for Cherry and Cedar Classes this half term. The children have been excellent and have improved their catching and throwing skills. Please make sure your child has full PE kit for next half term, as along with more sports we will be practising for sports day.



A sun cap is essential.



Netball—fitness & fun.



Kate Thompson has been in this term teaching our Year 3 & 4s how to play netball. They had a great time and have developed their fitness while learning new skills. This will be particularly useful to our Year 4s who will soon be moving up to Glendale Middle and be able to be part of the netball squad representing the school in competition.

The Science Man

Professor Onesmith visited this term. He enthused the children in all things to do with Science! There was smoke, whizzes and clever tricks as well as each child making a pot of slime to take home (sorry!).



Sickness and Diarrhoea

Please can we remind parents that children are not allowed to come back to school until after 48 hours from the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea. This is necessary to stop the spread of contagious viruses. Many thanks.

THESE WILDCATS ARE JUST GETTING STARTED

sse wildcats
• THE FA GIRLS' FOOTBALL CENTRES •

Introduction to football - Girls aged 5-11
Have fun. Make friends. Play football.
Sign up now at TheFA.com/SSEWildcats
Fridays from 6pm - Lindisfarne Sports Centre
Starts April 26th

Sponsored Walk 2019

Yesterday the whole school was out enjoying the lovely weather and local countryside. Children in Oak Class, Cherry Class and Cedar Class headed through Wooler and out to Mrs Logan's Farm. They had a super walk, had fun playing in Mrs Logan's young woodland and enjoyed an ice-lolly—Thank you PTA! Willow and Maple Classes headed up the bank on a more challenging walk across Weetwood and Fowberry Moors. The weather was fantastic, the views magnificent and the children were brilliant. While we were out we found some wonderful prehistoric rock art and pondered who had created it so many years ago. Trying to comprehend that people had created this art some 5000 years ago made our heads spin. The children also enjoyed a picnic lunch on the hills and an ice-lolly treat when we got back to school.

Thank you to all of the parents and friends who were able to join us this year - without your help we would not be able to enjoy these wonderful walks. Special thanks also to the PTA for lollies, Mrs Logan for letting us use her woodland again and to Mr and Mrs Strother for '*mooooooving*' some of their livestock to ensure that we were not chased by curious cattle up on the moors! Sponsorship monies in to Mrs Beveridge by Friday 7th June—thank you.





The Thrive Approach

What does it take to develop healthy, happy, confident children who are ready and open to learning? Recent advances in neuroscience, attachment theory and child development have provided some of the answers to this question.

The Thrive Approach draws on insights from these fields to provide a powerful way of working with children and young people that supports optimal social and emotional development. Miss Symons has recently qualified as a THRIVE practitioner and will be leading further developments using this approach across our schools later this year. To learn more about this exciting work please look out for more information coming home from school in the coming months and have a look at the THRIVE website via the link below:

www.thriveapproach.com

Dates for your Diary:		
Half-Term Holiday	Friday 24 May	3:30 pm
Back to School	Monday 3 June	8:55 am
Countryside Day— Year 3 and Year 4	Thursday 6 June	TBA
Dry Water Arts Day—Nursery/Reception classes	Monday 10 June, Tuesday 11 June, Wednesday 12 June	AM
Reception New Starters Meeting for parents	Tuesday 11 June	18:00
Transition Days—Wooler First School only	Monday 17 June and Tuesday 18 June	TBA
Artsmark Day	Tuesday 18 June, Wednesday 19 June, Thursday 20 June	10:00—11:00
Woodhorn visit—Yr1 and Yr2	Tuesday 25 June	All day
Sean Simpson Tournament Year 3 and 4	Thursday 27 June	10:00
Year 4 Lifepath Trip	Friday 28 June	9:00 am —3:30 pm
Arstmark with Lyn Campbell—Rec to Yr 4	Thursday 4 July, Friday 5 July	All day
Summer Fair	Saturday 6 July	10:00—12:00
Transition Day across both schools	Tuesday 9th July	All day
ArtsMark Celebration— Both schools	Friday 12 July	All day
Year 4 Presentation	Friday 12 July	2:00 pm—Parents welcome
Sports Day	Monday 15 July	PM
Yr 2 Trip—TBC	Tuesday 16 July	TBA
Thank you Breakfast	Wednesday 17 July	9:15 am
Last Day of Term	Friday 19 July	3:30 pm
Teacher Training Day	Mon 2 Sept & Tues 3 Sept	All day
Back to School	Wednesday 4 September	8:55 am