



February 2019 Bulletin

Surely it can't be March already?!? I guess time flies when you're having fun, and there have certainly been plenty of smiles from all of us here, especially the children, since the beginning of the term. I feel like I have so much news from February, so I apologise in advance for the length of this bulletin.

I have been busily researching a famous Orcadian this week. John Rae was a fascinating individual and an extraordinary arctic explorer. He is most famous for finding the final stretch of the Northwest Passage and discovering Franklin's failed expedition, but his most impressive quality in my mind is the way he learned from local indigenous people and used their knowledge to survive the oppressive conditions. Our P3/4 pupils have been my greatest source of information on this so far, and I'm thrilled to announce some amazing news. Two of our children have designed a flag which will now be taken on a recreation of John Rae's Arctic expedition later this year. **Congratulations to Mathilde Pesci and Caitlin Murray who designed the winning entry.** What an amazing achievement. Only two flags were chosen by the expedition's leader, David Reid. More information about the recreation of John Rae's expedition can be found here <https://arcticreturn.com/>.

Speaking of impressive achievements, we have started awarding our certificates of achievement here in assemblies. **Last week Ben Thomson, William Scott, Charleigh Nicholson and Mae Garrett were our first recipients.** There will be more awarded today and the winners will be announced on the 'News' section of our website. Each certificate will also be displayed in the entrance of the school.

You may be aware of some concerning news in the media this week about the 'Momo Challenge' that has been infiltrating social media. Fortunately, it has now been confirmed as a hoax and all media reports of children coming to harm as a result have been found to be false. However, I think it serves as a useful prompt to begin conversations with the children about safe internet use. While I won't be mentioning this example specifically, I will be talking to all the children this morning about ways to stay safe online, and I'd encourage you to continue that conversation at home. I would also encourage you to discuss the notion of trust and responsibility when it comes to using technology. It seems this most recent example involves adults (particularly those in the media) jumping to premature conclusions and drawing potentially harmful attention to something that really had no basis. I think we sometimes need to have a little more faith in our children and trust the values that we instil in them as a community. If we're open, honest and supportive with the children, I am confident that they will be well equipped to make sensible decisions. Online safety is something that I am particularly interested in and have experience with, so if you do want to discuss anything, please get in touch.

World Book Day is coming up next week and I've been busy organising my costume... I'm thinking either 'Demon Headmaster' or 'Mr Twit'. Do feel free to suggest which one you think suits best! Please remember to send us any pictures you may have of the children reading in unusual places. It's a great opportunity for us to promote the benefits of reading for pleasure.

Lastly, can I please convey my huge thanks to the P6 parents and children for their fantastic Bake Sale on Tuesday. They managed to raise £175.15 towards the Hoy trip, which will make a huge

difference. Thank you to the bakers, the helpers and the shop assistants! Great community spirit on display.

Please have a terrific weekend, and don't forget to let us know if your children are doing anything worthy of a mention in assembly.

Cheers!

Steve Arnold

NOTE: Our school website is now updated regularly, particularly to 'News' section. It can be found at <http://www.vikingnewmedia.net/hope/>



The winning flag design set for an arctic adventure in the footsteps of John Rae!



P6/7 children made climate change books and read them to P1/2 children.



Enjoying the spoils of a successful bake sale on a bonny day!



Cake anyone? Our P6 pupils shortly before the masses arrived!

Dates for your diary

March 7th-

World Book Day

March 11th-

Liam McArthur Visit

March 15th-

Red Nose Day

April 5th-

Last Day of Term & Easter Egg Hunt