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Dear parents,

I hope that everyone is well and remains safe and happy at home. We thought we would share with you the fantastic memories of the Spring term.

In the meantime, staff are working to ensure children and families are supported as much as possible in this difficult time. At present, we still do not know when schools will return and encourage all families to keep the main priority of happiness and wellbeing.

Work has been created by your class teachers and is there to support families - please use this as and when you feel is necessary for your child. Staff have also contacted families over the last week to ensure we can help and support you as much as possible.

Take care and we promise to keep in touch and look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible..

Mrs Hair



Singing at **Durham Cathedral** was an amazing experience for the choir, especially for the new members and their families. The choir sang their own version of Amazing Grace and an Italian folk song, "Funiculi, Funicula."

Many audience members approached the choir and commented on their beautiful performance and also their fantastic behaviour. The children listened attentively to some of the best choirs in the North East and enjoyed performing in this amazing historic building. Other choir leaders emailed school, "an outstanding performance from such young children - well done to all."

The 5<sup>th</sup> of March was **World Book Day**. This year we decided on a bedtime story theme and everyone was invited to come into school in their cosiest pyjamas and snuggle down for a day inspired by books. Even our favourite cuddly friends were allowed to come to school for the day! We welcomed parents and carers for some precious family time and siblings in school got together with their grown ups to read their favourite books.

Reading plays such a valuable part of every school day so to be able to dedicate a whole day to reading for pleasure was fantastic. This was another very special day in the EHPA calendar.





Each year we take part in **British Science** week to celebrate science, engineering, technology and maths. The theme for science week this year was 'Our diverse planet'. Across the week, each year group had a visit from an expert scientist, researched a scientist that we could tell others about and took part in a range of science based activities.

Key stage 1 children had a visit from a silly professor who showed them all different kinds of science. They had so much fun whilst also learning lots of new scientific vocabulary! Key stage 2 children

became paleontologists for the day! They went on a hunt for fossils and then used lots of different clues to figure out which creature they had found. Some children found the claw from a Tyrannosaurus-rex while others found the head of an Ichthyosaurus!

On Friday 7th February all children took part in **Number Day**. This was a fantastic opportunity to raise money for the NSPCC whilst also having lots of fun with maths. The children enjoyed dressing up in number-themed outfits, with one person from each class getting a prize for the most creative outfit. They also took part in a flash mob dance to '9 to 5' by Dolly Parton. It was a great day full of exciting maths challenges, quizzes and dancing!



In total, we raised £330.85 for the NSPCC. "

**Year 3** had a fantastic day experiencing what it was like to survive in the **Stone Age**. Rob from Wilderness Outdoor Education, the Year 3 children and teachers, and even visiting governors, spent a day in the outdoor classroom learning what life was like first hand. Everyone had the opportunity to light a fire, handle artefacts, cook and eat stone age bread and build shelters. There was even the chance to sample mealworms and crickets (they were quite crunchy and had a rather unusual aftertaste!) It was a fantastic way of putting learning into context and a day the children will never forget.



**Year 4** went back in time and came to a Victorian school. It was a day packed full of Victorian activities. In the morning, they had to sing the National Anthem, say the Lord's Prayer, chant times tables, practice handwriting, and have their hands and shoes inspected. In the afternoon, the boys did physical activities which would make them big and strong whilst the girls worked on their posture by practicing walking with dictionaries on their heads. They finished the day playing Victorian games. It was very strict and if they didn't follow the rules, they were given the cane! Although they had fun, they all agreed that they preferred today's school as it is





As part of our **PSHE and Computing curriculum**, 'Barking up the Right Tree' theatre group came to deliver a fun-filled show to make us more aware of how to stay safe online. We learnt lots about keeping our identity private as well as the fact anything we do online leaves a 'digital footprint'. It was great that we could do this during Internet safety week.

### Ahoy me hearties!

On Friday 28th February Reception children and staff rounded their topic of pirates off with the most fabulous pirate day. We all dressed up as pirates and we even got out the big climbing frame in the hall and Mr Football

made us walk the plank, did lots of climbing as well as other pirate activities! We sang lots of pirates songs and read pirate stories. It was a brilliant day!



### The Royal Festival Hall

On March 9th, East Herrington Primary Choir were selected to be a finalist in Barnardo's National Choir Competition 2020 at The Royal Festival Hall. The competition's main judge is Douglas Coombes MBE, who is well known to music educators and choral practitioners in the UK and beyond. He is a prolific composer, choral clinician and conductor. Although the choir didn't gain first or second place out of the 18 choirs in the final, they did receive marks that were in the excellent category and just a few marks away from outstanding. A huge achievement for all and can't have been far off the first or second place.

Families travelled down to watch the spectacular performance and were wowed by their stunning performance of "Les Miserables medley" and the choir's own version of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Mr Brown also travelled to London to accompany the choir and the day was an amazing experience. We even managed to do a little bit of sightseeing whilst we were there!



## RNLI safety visit

Key Stage 2 children enjoyed an informative and important assembly this week from Luke and Nick of the RNLI. Our visitors discussed water safety and the dangers of swimming at sea or in open water. They told us about the best ways to keep safe at the beach and what to do if we ever find ourselves or someone else in danger. Many thanks to the RNLI for coming in.



For more information, visit <https://rnli.org/safety>

During the week of the 3rd-9th February, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme was "Find your Brave."

Bravery comes in all shapes and sizes and is different for everyone. Bravery can be about sharing worries and asking for help, trying something new or pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. Finding your Brave can build your confidence, self-esteem and make you feel good about yourself.

