



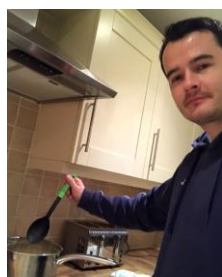
Dear Parents/Carers,

As you read this, I hope all forms of technology are being shut down and everyone is looking forward to a well-earned break away from 'the screen' over half-term. Despite not having the majority of our pupils in school, there has still been lots to celebrate, not only in terms of the quality and quantity of work completed by pupils, but their great, positive attitudes too! As a school, we feel that there are lots of 'positives' and, as a staff, we would like to share with you some of our highlights. We hope you enjoy reading them!

I hope you all have a lovely, restful week and enjoy spending time with loved ones. School will be open for our 'bubbles' on Monday 22nd February. Take care.

Lindsay Hamilton

Mr Ramshaw:



I have been greatly impressed by the efforts from pupils and the willingness to go the extra mile, especially when asked to carry out a digestion investigation, using mashed up ingredients and a pair of tights (apologies to Year 8 parents)! It has been a pleasure to read through Year 6's diary entries about Darwin's voyage to the Galapagos and Year 8's attempts to sell India, while studying the British Empire. A personal highlight, and memorable moment, was my second Computing lesson with Year 5, who judging by their facial expressions, clearly thought I'd been taken hostage due to an ill-advised attempt at growing a lockdown beard, allied to a light going out halfway through the lesson! Going forward, any tips on how to use lighting effectively on Zoom would be greatly appreciated to prevent me looking like Casper, the friendly ghost!



Miss Read:

Cooking with our 'bubbles' has been fantastic, and I was super impressed with KS2 who made some very tasty bruschetta. I also enjoyed making the video of pizza in my kitchen. What I didn't share with you was what happened next...

The leftover dough was double wrapped in cling film and placed in a plastic bag in the fridge overnight. When I opened the fridge the next morning, the dough had escaped, tried to eat a box of grapes and then tried to escape down the fridge drainage hole. I then escorted the triple-wrapped dough to my Mum's house where it tried to consume a block of cheese in her fridge until she finally wrestled it into submission and forced it into the freezer. Note to self (and us all): dough can continue to prove until the yeast is worn out!





Mrs Batey:

My highlights this half-term include mastering Zoom, with the added bonus of finding a 'soft focus filter', which takes at least 10 years off me! I've really loved getting to know the children in my KS3 bubble, children I wouldn't have ordinarily worked with. I know they're desperate for me to do Joe Wicks with them (to laugh at me, I'm sure) however I've resisted so far. I adored the friendship Zoom with Kelsey, Lewis, Maisie and Ethan. The pure joy at seeing them reunited was a sight to behold, and very emotional!



Miss Morgan:

My highlight this half term has been supporting year 7 and year 8 in their online lessons; it has been heart-warming to see everyone's smiling faces and has highlighted how much we miss them all being in school! Helping Skie to plan a tea party for Mrs Fletcher's birthday was pretty special; we had great fun making a cake!



Ms Wilson:

My highlight from this half term is that I have been able to master the 'Zoom' lesson and see so many pupils smiling back at me. I have given my classes lots of laughs along the way, particularly Y8, at my ineptitude to begin with! I am so grateful for all of the help and support received from pupils and staff who have made this possible.

I have received some incredible science work from Year 7. The kitchen chromatography pictures were amazing, and the effort put into work about addressing future problems to improve clean water supplies for everyone (most notably from Daniel, Philip and Katie) were highly commendable. Well done, everyone!



Mrs Parkinson:

I have been overwhelmed by the help and support from the wonderful children and parents I have been able to speak to since I started at BMS. I have also really enjoyed seeing Y5 every morning in our Zoom lessons - these have been the highlight of my day. Where else would I see cats and dogs joining in with maths, snow blizzards and, of course, amazing singing? I cannot wait until we get back to 'normal' so that we are altogether in the classroom.





Mrs Fletcher

I have thoroughly enjoyed my zoom lessons with all of the pupils and the discussions we have! I never know where they are going to go, especially with William. We once started with the chapter of our novel and finished with air pressure and how bodies decompose in different environments: it was fascinating! It has been lovely to hear the giggles from the "Friends Gang" zoom – a true highlight of the term!



Mrs Clay

I have loved being in school and supporting our 'bubbles' with their time away from their screens! My favourite tasks were the blindfold challenges, (this was hilarious) and, zooming around school finding an object to photo for every letter of the alphabet. Zoe was snapped quite a few times and I managed to find a quoit in the pe cupboard; a picture of a xylophone on the wall in the computer room saved the day.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Y8 and have been very impressed with their maturity and understanding of global development in Geography – Aidan's answers are the highlight of each week!



Mrs Ingledew

The highlight of this half term, for me, was the 'Friends Gang' zoom. The absolute delight of the 'gang of four' being able to see each other and chat and sing was utterly heart-warming. Lewis said it was the best thing to happen to him "ever" and then skipped all the way back to the ICT room.



Miss Taberham

I have really enjoyed reading the comments Y8 made in our class stream about the characters of Sephy and Callum and the author's use of dual narrative. It was great to see them sharing their ideas with the rest of the class in this way. Y7 have been working just as hard! Last week's 'PEE' paragraphs were a real highlight, especially Sam's, Dan's and Harry's! It was great to see them building on the skills we had already learned during the Autumn term and pushing themselves to develop their skills of analysis even further. Well done!





Madame Grey

The highlights for me in school have been Zoe's sunset painting with her rich use of reds and yellows, and discovering Chantelle's talent for drawing and writing cartoons and witnessing her joy and pride. I have also loved watching the children play rounders outdoors on a freezing Winter's day, so happy to be outdoors and off screen, and seeing their determined faces while they sprint round, especially Maisie who runs like a gazelle! Remote learning has been just as enjoyable and impressive: William in year five completing a worksheet on pets, and recording a video of himself speaking about his pets in French. I thought that grammar in Key Stage 3 would be very tricky, but they have really impressed me with using 'jouer' and 'faire' with the sports in year 7 and with their character descriptions in year 8. My favourite has to be Aidan's dating agency, where the heavy metal and punk fans, Maisie and Kevin, introduce themselves. I think they are going to make the perfect couple!

Let it snow!

This week saw the return of the 'beast from the East', and it's been lovely to see some 'snowy' adventures taking place with pupils (and staff) making the most of the weather.



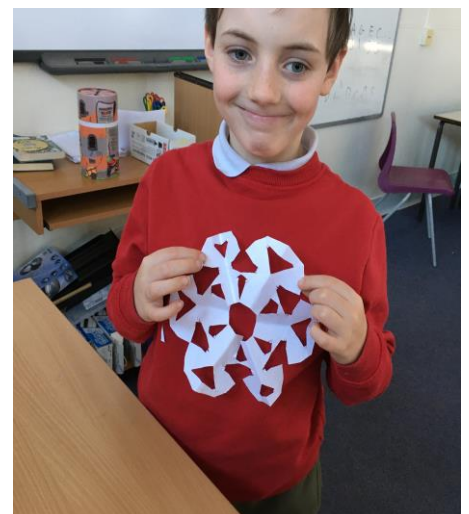
Fantastic snowman, Lewis!



What wonderful
snow sculptures,
Mrs Fletcher.
Very
pro-duck-tive!



KS2 caught snowflakes this week!
They studied their patterns carefully
and made their very own, larger
versions.





Miss Read's pizza challenge has proven to be a big hit, with lots of pupils following her online video about how to make the best pizzas!



Looks tricky, Hugh....

...but obviously worth it!



Well done, Lucy, Y6! Looks delicious!

Last week was Children's Mental Health week and pupils were given the option of many different tasks aimed at helping them to relax, unwind and express themselves. We've had a great range of examples shared from pupils, ranging from dance videos, poetry, photo montages, inspirational quotes...and lots more!



Ethan made a wonderful figure, showing how he likes to express himself, filled with quotes about the things which are special to him. It's incredible and reflects tremendous effort!



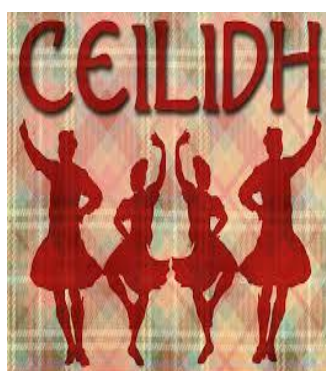
Well done to Carley who made a fantastic Powerpoint presentation of everything which is important to her and how she likes to express herself. Needless to say, her dog, Jaspar, is a great source of joy and relaxation.



Northumberland County Council and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group are consulting on how to strengthen support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This 2020-2023 Northumberland Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability sets out the local partnership's vision for developing and improving the support provided for children and young people with additional needs and their families.

You can view the Draft SEND Strategy [here](#), and share your views here [Have your say](#).

The consultation runs from 1st February until the 19th March.



Music Partnership North are very excited to be able to share news of their new, free, online music group Teatime Tunes, and they would like to hear from any of our pupils who are interested in 'going along'. The sessions are starting after half-term on Monday 8th March, from 6:00 - 6.45pm. Tutors Heather Ferrier and Emily Stephenson will be leading friendly, sociable sessions learning and playing folk and traditional tunes from across the British Isles. No folk music experience is needed. For more information or to sign up, contact: rachel.robbs@northumberland.gov.uk



The Dove Self-Esteem Project helps to support parents, mentors and teachers in sending out a positive message to ensure the next generation of women grow up to be happy and content and free from the burden of self-doubt that comes from appearance pressures. We have uploaded a great resource, called Uniquely Me, onto our website which has been written by experts for parents. It can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Although designed with girls in mind, the booklet is fun and will make a difference with boys, too.

Time for change...



With building work beginning next week on the construction of our new school office, we thought we'd share with you a final picture of our entrance before it is radically altered. We cannot believe the space created after the sale of our large, reception desk! The next picture we take should look very different. Exciting times!