



# Moorlands Primary Academy

# NEWSLETTER

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Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

## Message from Mr Lee

Welcome to the first newsletter in our new format, which you will hopefully find more informative and easy to read. As you know, we are working very hard on our communication with our families. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to download our new app. The feedback we have received on it has been universally positive. For details, see below.

## Developing Experts



This term we have adopted the new Developing Experts Resource which supports our whole school science curriculum. The platform is made up of a library of

resources which includes a range of presentations, interviews with experts, practical experiments, songs and quizzes.

We have been incredibly pleased with how enthusiastic our children have been. They have carried out a wide range of practical investigations including testing the strengths of materials, looking at the way circuits work and separating liquids and solids. They are really beginning to develop their scientific skills of fair testing and careful observations of the results of their investigations. We are very much looking forward to continuing this work next half term

## The New School App

One of the issues highlighted by the parental questionnaire was how we communicate with parents.

As a result of this we now have a school app, and have also developed this newsletter! The app will send out notifications and has links to the school calendar, our website, Facebook and Twitter pages and also to the Friends of Moorlands page. The app is now our primary form of communication and along with our website is the platform where upcoming events can be seen.

It can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store. Full instructions and guidance can be found on their website at [www.schoolzine.co.uk/szapp](http://www.schoolzine.co.uk/szapp).



## Visit by SF Said

On Friday 2nd February the children were treated to a visit from author SF Said, best known for



the books *Varjak Paw* and *Phoenix*. He gave two fascinating talks about his career as an author, as well as giving the children and staff a sneak preview into his next book, *Tyger*. Author visits are always very popular with the children and a great way to get them reading. SF Said was hugely impressed with the reading culture at Moorlands and was delighted with the thoughtful questions asked by our children. He wrote a wonderful blog about his visit which you can find at [www.sfsaid.com](http://www.sfsaid.com).



## SIAMS Report

We had our SIAMS inspection this half term. This is a statutory inspection of Church schools and we are delighted to say that Moorlands came out as 'Good' in all categories. This is a very significant moment in the rebirth of the school over the last three years, and we are as determined as ever to push on to make Moorlands the best school it can be and something that the whole village can be proud of. As well as the pupils, parents, staff and Governors, there are many people who have been instrumental in the journey so far. One of these is The Rev. Rosie and her team from All Saints Church. The report rightly recognises her contribution.

Some of the highlights of the report are quoted below;

*'Distinctive Christian values, such as compassion, honesty and respect, are being well used to create a nurturing environment, providing pupils with a firm foundation for life.'*

*'A focus on the virtue 'empathy' has had a positive impact upon learners, who are proactively involved in projects reaching out to the wider local community.'*

*'Attainment shows a much improved picture for most groups of learners, especially in reading'*

*SIAMS Report January 2018*



## Learning Cafes



We have had a great range of Learning Cafes this half term, including two very successful 'Stay and Play' sessions in the Nursery .

Our reception children had a science themed morning, where they put some of the things they had learned from the Developing Experts platform into practice. Otters completed some fantastic art inspired by SF Said's book Varjak Paw, while Owls did some mathematics activities based around a book on dinosaurs! Badgers are taking a slightly different approach and have invited the 'Young at Heart' group for afternoon tea on Friday 9th February. Finally, our Key Stage 1 classes hosted a brilliant art exhibition which was very well attended, photos on our Facebook page. Look out for Year 6 Cafes after half term!

A big thank you to all of our parents who have supported these events.

## Notices

- We are no longer able to dispense medicine which is not prescribed by a doctor. Parents are more than welcome to come into school at anytime to administer if they wish to do so.
- We follow a 'No Nuts Policy', please ensure your children have a nut free packed lunch and any snacks when at school
- We now require that all parents who come in through the front gate in order to access the rear of the school follow the footpath around the outside of the car park.



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