



Robert Ferguson Primary School

Representing Primary Education in *The Parliamentary Review*

Robert Ferguson Primary School has been selected to appear in the 2015/16 edition of *The Parliamentary Review*. The *Parliamentary Review*'s September release has become a key fixture in the political calendar.

Robert Ferguson Primary School features alongside The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond, and a small number of outstanding schools in the Primary Education North of England edition. The main aim of *The Review* is to showcase best practice as a learning tool to the public and private sector, with this edition aimed particularly at leading policymakers and executives within Primary Education.



The document is sent out to tens of thousands of leading policymakers. The articles in *The Review* act as both a blueprint for success and a template for reform.

Director of *The Parliamentary Review*, Daniel Yossman, said: "It's been an utter privilege to work with a range of schools from across the country in this year's *Review*. Without their input, our aims of spreading expert knowledge and raising standards simply would not be achievable. They'll be a hard act to follow and next year's schools will have to be on the top of their game to meet the challenge."

Editor of *The Parliamentary Review*, The Rt Hon David Curry, said: "Each of the representatives brings something very different to the table, while at the same time capitalising on the collective wisdom of their industry. There may be choppy waters ahead but organisations across the country would be well-advised to keep an eye on the representatives in this year's *Review* when deciding how to set their sails."



It is great to have achieved national recognition as a school. We will continue to ensure we base improvements in practice on sound research, and never sell ourselves or our pupils short by becoming just another exam factory!

Yours sincerely,
Graham Frost

A Spirit of Adventure

Year 5 have been out and about scaling rock faces, scrambling up waterfalls, building rafts, and taking the plunge - at Hawse End on residential, and as part of their Source to Sea rivers topic.

“Adventure” has also been a theme of this term’s assemblies. The children have been encouraged to be adventurous in their learning, whether trying a new sport, being prepared to risk “having a go” or tasting a new food.

Dreaming up Adventures



Year 4 have been adventurous with music, drama and art, writing their own song “Dreams Can Take You Anywhere” complete with music video, which was shown on the IMAX screen at Rheged, Penrith on 11th October. It is now available on our YouTube channel.

Amazing teamwork while Ghyll Scrambling



Canoe-rafting teamwork & fun

River science and geography



Fabulous Fundraising (As Usual)

The coffee morning was a great success again this year. Thank you to school council for organising and hosting the event. We are grateful to everyone who came along to support us. We raised an amazing £298 for Macmillan Cancer Care.



As part of **Global Goals Week**, Year 2 made homemade lemonade. Thank you to everyone who donated money. We raised **£83.00** which we have donated to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**)



We are making progress in our efforts to raise money for a new school minibus. Thank you to **Story Homes** for generously donating **£3000!**



We enjoyed our **harvest service** at St James Church. Thank you to everyone who generously donated food for the needy. The children sang well, accompanied by Mr Frost and our newest member of the teaching staff, Mr Johnston on drums!



New Staff

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff this term: Mr Johnston (Year 1) and Miss Clements (Reception).

School Meals

Please remember we require dinner money to be handed in, in a clearly marked envelope, to your child's class teacher, ideally on the first day of the school week. Please pay by cheque to Robert Ferguson Primary School, or if paying in cash, please provide the exact amount if at all possible. If you are owed change, this will be returned to you. Dinners are £2 per meal/£10 per week.

Packed Lunches

Please ensure that lunch bags and boxes are clearly labelled to avoid any confusion for children with identical ones. May I remind you that fizzy drinks are not allowed as part of a packed lunch.

Dress Code

Please remember that our dress code includes black shoes. Please do not send children to school wearing jewellery (with the exception of small ear-studs). Our dress code includes hair-styles which should be standard cuts (i.e. tram-line cuts, mohawks or dyed hair are not acceptable). If you have any queries about dress-code, please see a member of staff.

How to Contact You

Please ensure we are up-to-date with how you can be contacted (e.g. mobile numbers).

PE Kit Reminder

Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school. We recommend that these remain in school and are taken home periodically to be cleaned and returned to school. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Dressed for the Weather

A surprising number of children come to school ill-equipped for the weather conditions. Please ensure you send your child prepared with coats, hats, scarves, gloves as appropriate; children need these during the school day as well as for travel to and from school.

Musical Instrument Lessons

Please contact the school office if you would be interested in continuing or starting lessons for your child. Woodwind instrument (clarinet, flute, saxophone) lessons with Mrs Karen Tuffin are available for Years 5 and 6.

Punctuality

We would like to thank all of you who ensure your child always arrives on time for the start of the school day. Lessons begin at 09:00 prompt, so we expect all pupils to be in class ready by 09:00. A number of children have arrived late on several occasions so far this term, as a result of which they will have missed important information at the start of their first lesson. During the week beginning 31st October we will be encouraging everyone to make an effort to achieve 100% punctuality. Therefore, please be prepared to be questioned should you arrive late.