



Head of School Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 2014

Welcome - What a term this has been! We have learnt new skills, visited different places, challenged ourselves, performed to a range of audiences in different venues, considered others, raised money to support various charities, got dressed up and partied! All within seven weeks! Read on to find out more...

Assemblies - Please see the table below which outlines the themes we have discussed.

Date	Title	Aims	Religious and citizenship links	British Fundamental Values
Tuesday 4th November	Fireworks	To help celebrate and give meaning to Bonfire Night and to remind children about the dangers of fireworks.	Guy Fawkes	To promote fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. To help pupils to respect the law and the basis on which it is made and to provide clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong.
Monday 10 th November	Remembrance - Why Remember?	To understand the importance of remembering.	To think about and remember with thanks those who have given their lives in sacrifice so that we can live in a more secure world.	To provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need	To learn about the importance of charity and understand that they can make a positive difference to other people's lives through their own efforts.	To think about and care for others.	To engage pupils in activities to help their local community.
Monday 1 st December	The Christmas Story	To understand the true meaning of Christmas.	The Christmas story - To help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong.
Monday 8 th December	Save the Children - Make the world better by wearing a sweater	To learn about the importance of charity and understand that they can make a positive difference to other peoples' lives through their own efforts.	To think about and care for others.	To engage pupils in activities to help their local community.
Monday 15 th and Wednesday 17 th December	Carol Service	To come together as a school family in a place of worship to celebrate Christmas through stories, songs and prayer.	The Christmas story - To help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Parents Evenings - Thank you for all the positive comments we received following our parents' evenings. I am sorry I didn't get to speak to you all but I will always be present at parents' evening, therefore in the future, if you would like to book an appointment with me I am more than happy to meet with you.

New Staff -

Mrs Hodgson (a past parent of school) has kindly volunteered to work with our Later Phase children on a Friday. We are so lucky to have Mrs Hodgson back in school and I know she will be a great asset.

New families -

We are delighted to welcome Callum Kent who has joined Year 3. He has settled into school brilliantly and has experienced lots of exciting opportunities already.

Hurworth's Got Talent! - What an amazing night! Lights dimmed, candles lit and the stage prepared for a full evening of entertainment. We had children from Year 1 up to Year 5 performing magic, dance, singing, music recitals (one in Russian!) and karate. The evening kicked off with our four judges entering to the theme tune for X Factor. They were; Miss Temple - Foundation Stage teacher, Mrs Passman - Year 6 teacher, Mrs Angus - School Governor and Mr Reeve - school caretaker (aka Simon Cowell!). Each performer took to the stage and then were praised (or not!) by the judges. It was a night packed full of emotions as children sang acapella, turning even the hardest of hearts into jelly! The dance routines got everyone clapping as they watched in amazement at the tumbles and turns of the varying acts. There were tears of laughter for our magicians and cheers and boos for our judges. Thankfully, I didn't have to make the decision but a decision was made and the winners were:

3rd - Katie Curbeson who sang acapella - it was beautiful!

2nd - Gracie Dye who not only sang but played the piano and then sang in Russian - fabulous!

1st - Isobel Dryden for her rendition of 'Do you want to build a snowman' taken from Disney's film, Frozen. Isobel not only sang without music but added her own twist with some acting in the middle!



I just want to say all the children were winners as they conquered nerves by stepping onto the stage and performing to a large audience with such incredible ease it made the night a huge success and one I'll never forget! A special mention must be given to Mrs Coates, who had given up her lunchtimes to audition and work with the children to put the show together, thank you Mrs Coates. Finally, thank you for all who supported and we'll look forward to seeing you again in the future!



School Council - The school council have been exceptionally busy, so much so they've produced a newsletter for you, hope you enjoy! Just a taster, here are the children making the world better by wearing a sweater!



Whole School Trip to Darlington Civic Theatre - Our trip to see 'The Chuckles of Oz' was packed full of adventure, laughs, tears and surprises! The children had a wonderful time and I have to say represented our school brilliantly. They showed respect for the venue and other people, were polite and extremely happy joining in. I have to praise the Year 6 and 5 children as they were chaperones for our Early Phase children to and from the theatre. The children took their duties very seriously and looked after the children with care and confidence showing great maturity. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed as many commented on what a wonderful job they were doing, well done Later Phase and thank you! I am sorry we were later back than anticipated there were a number of reasons that caused our delay. We are already making changes in preparation for next year especially concerning handing the children over when we return to school.



Sporting achievements -Children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed judo taster sessions led by 'Judo Dan' who gave the children a fun taster session and talked to them about what skills and benefits are associated with judo which include: being disciplined, keeping fit and healthy, being safe and most importantly having fun.



On Wednesday 3rd December some of our children attended the Darlington Sports Awards at Carmel. We are delighted to announce we won 3 awards during the evening: 1st place - Best Primary team award for Tag Rugby, 2nd place the Best Primary Team award for Table Tennis (this is a huge achievement as the children only started playing table tennis this autumn) and Matthew Wilson came 3rd place for outstanding Primary individual. A huge well done to Matthew! Matthew is in Year 6 and has always been an excellent member of our school community. He is hard working, a great friend and conducts himself impeccably, well done Matthew!

Our success in Tag Rugby has continued when the team took part in a competition at Mowden Park Rugby Club winning 4 - 0. Mr Hollis and all the staff are so proud of all of the children's' sporting achievements this term. Well done, Hurworth sports stars!!! As part of the Rugby package that we have bought into, we were invited to Mowden Park Rugby Club for a grand tour, some professional coaching from the 1st team and also to help design a club mascot. The children and staff had a fantastic time exploring the stadium and taking part with the team. As we continue to work closely with the club, there will be some exciting news coming in 2015 regarding the visit of the world champions New Zealand All Blacks! Thank you again to all parents who have supported the children this term.

Special achievements Gregor Hutchison in Year 5 achieved his Grade 5 in piano. What an amazing achievement, well done Gregor!



As promised, here is Emma Hughes (Year 4) with her ballet certificate. Once again, well done Emma.



Luke Ebdon (Year 4), was awarded, 'Best Newcomer' at Thornaby's Ju-Jitsu club for his excellent attitude. Well done, Luke.



Rory Jones was awarded a trophy for 'The best bowler' in Darlington. Fantastic Rory!

Extra-curricular activities - Please see the table of after school activities that are currently on offer:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Meeting place	Pick -up (Teachers will hand over)
Zumba			3.20 - 4.15			Hall	Reception
Let's Get Cooking				3.20 - 4.30		Science and Technology Room	Reception
Choir	3.20 - 4.00					Hall	Reception
Tag Rugby	Postponed until the nights are lighter					Hall	Delivery gates
Street Dance		3.20 - 4.30				Hall	Reception
Film club				3.20 - 4.30		Hall	Reception
Gardening				3.20 - 4.30		Year 4	Reception
Music Theatre	3.20- 4.20					Hall	Reception

The clubs have been a huge success and we hope you are finding them useful. Let's Get cooking will commence the first week back and all the children who have a place have been notified. Music theatre is a new club we are offering for the New Year. We are still looking into other opportunities to offer the children and will look forward to announcing them in the near future.

Christmas dinner - The children enjoyed a festive traditional dinner of roast turkey complete with all the trimmings including brussel sprouts! They enjoyed a delicious novelty ice-cream or biscuit for desert which was followed by a chocolate treat. All the volunteers and governors were invited to join us as a thank you for their support and it was wonderful to see so many.



PTA -I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the PTA for the wonderful Christmas Fair that took place in November. We managed to raise over £1,000, this would not be possible without your support not only attending the event but also providing donations for the cake, chocolate and bottle stalls. I wanted to give a special mention to Mr. Wood (Joshua Woods' dad in Foundation), who played the part of Santa incredibly well. Every family that came away from seeing him were full of praise, thank you Mr Wood - lots of very happy customers!



Dates for your diary: School will reopen on Monday 5th January 2015

Foundation Maths Workshop	Foundation Parents	08.01.15	17.00 - 18.00
Swimming - Dolphin Centre	Year 6 children	07.01.15 For Half Term	12.30 - 14.30
PTA - Valentines Disco	Whole School	06.02.15	15.00 - 17.00
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY			
PD Day - School Closed	Whole school	23.02.15	9.00-16.00
SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY			
Swimming - Dolphin Centre	Year 4 children	25.02.15 For Half Term	12.30 - 14.30
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	03.03.15	15.30 - 18.00
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	04.03.15	15.30 - 18.00
Early Phase Performance	Early Phase Parents	16.03.15	14.00 - 15.00
Middle Phase Performance	Middle	23.03.15	14.00 -15.00
Easter Service	Whole School Parents	25.03.15	10.00 - 11.00
PTA - Non Uniform Day	Whole School	27.03.15	All Day

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

Please note there has been a change of date for the Early Phase performance. We will of course keep you informed of any additional dates.

Finally -We are incredibly lucky to be working in such a wonderful school with amazingly talented, hardworking and happy children who are supported to achieve their best by every member of our school team and their families. We are so proud and hope you are too.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your families and look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Happy Holidays!

