

Head of School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2019

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. This term has been another incredibly busy 15 weeks. The children have worked superbly across the curriculum and we are delighted to see how much progress they have made.

A huge thank you for your continued support with homework; it really does make a difference.

Please note, the end of year reports will be sent out on **Friday 10th January**.

A special welcome to our Foundation children and their families. The children have settled brilliantly...



Please see below this half term's assemblies:

HALF TERM				
Monday 4th November	Open The Book The unforgiving servant	To recognise that we can make the world a happier place by forgiving others.	Based on Matthew 18 Parable of the unforgiving servant	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance	To understand the importance of remembering the impact of past conflicts. Around the world	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.
11 th – 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week Change Starts With Us	To understand that by making small, simple changes, we can break the cycle of bullying and create a safe environment for everyone	To value each other and to make the right choices and show respect.	To encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour. To encourage respect for other people. To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, providing clear guidance on what is right and what is wrong.
Monday 18th November	Open The Book Everyone gets the same	To know the importance of appreciating those people who care for us and being thankful	Based on Matthew 20 Parable of the workers in the vineyard	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
Monday 25 th November	We've got to go through it! How to solve a problem	To explore how to deal with life's problems.	To encourage pupils to develop resilience and problem solving skills and to seek help when needed.	To help pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence and take responsibility for their behaviour.
Monday 2 nd December	Open The Book The widow's coins	To understand how we can be 'givers' and not just 'getters'	Based on Mark 12 The widow's offering	To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
Monday 9th December	Save the Children – Make the world better by wearing a sweater (13 th December)	To learn about the importance of charity and understand that we can make a positive difference to other people's lives through our own efforts.	To think about and care for others.	To engage pupils in activities to help their local community.
Wednesday 18 th December	Carol Service	To come together as a school family in a place of worship to celebrate Christmas through stories, songs and prayer.	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

Foundation - The First Christmas

The Foundation children performed brilliantly to a packed hall. We were so proud to see our youngest children adjust to a new experience after just 14 weeks into school. Thank you to all parents who supported with costumes, lines and practising the variety of songs. A special thank you must go to the Foundation team who worked their magic to create a very special story.



Key Stage 1 - Miracle in Town

Our Key Stage 1 children retold the story of the First Christmas through singing, narration and performing. All of the children performed brilliantly to an extremely packed hall; they overcame their nerves and entertained us all. A special thank you to all Key Stage 1 parents and guardians who provided costumes; the children looked amazing. Thank you to all our visitors for their support - we hope they enjoyed it as much as the children did.



Carol Service - After a frosty walk to All Saints church, the children sang a range of Christmas carols including Once in Royal David's City, In the Bleak Mid-Winter and the unforgettable (and personal favourites) Little Donkey and Away in a Manger. Some children from Key Stage 2 were very brave and volunteered to read passages from the Bible as well as some prayers; we were so proud. Mrs Coates worked with our school choir and upper Key Stage 2 to sing the French song, Il est né le divin enfant - which was stunning...



We also met Bobby (puppet monkey) for the first time along with Rev'd...who knows, we might get an unexpected visit next year too!

It was lovely to see so many of you in the church; thank you for your continued support. We will of course be repeating this lovely tradition, please note we intend to make it sooner (9.30 am) so you have less of a wait.

Sporting Achievements - Although it has been a wet and windy term, it has been great to see pupils participating in a variety of competitions. At the start of the term, two teams represented the school in the TAG rugby competitions. The teams came first and second in their cluster competitions and the Year 6 team placed first in Darlington - an amazing show of sportsmanship and teamwork! Pupils across Key Stage 2 also took part in the cross country competition, with 10 children qualifying for the Tess Valley competition to represent the Darlington team. A huge congratulations to the team! So far this season, both the boys and girls have played two tournaments within the Lingfield Trust football league. The girls and boys both currently sit second in the league. The boys played a friendly at the beginning of the season against Middleton St George and won. This half term, a team of boys also took part in a rugby kicking competition and will compete in the finals in January - good luck!

Attendance - Our attendance for this Autumn Term, (from 1.9.19 - 14.12.19) is 96.6%, which is lower than this time last year (97%). See below the year group attendance table:

Year Group	Attendance this term	Attendance last term	Attendance last autumn term (2018)
Foundation	97.1%	NA	NA
Year 1	96.6%	96.4%	97%
Year 2	95.4%	97.1%	96.7%
Year 3	95.8%	96.3%	96.8%
Year 4	97.1%	96.6%	97.2%
Year 5	95.5%	96.8%	97.6%
Year 6	97.5%	96.7%	96.7%

Congratulations to the children below who attended school every day since September. As a reward, they were presented with their bronze attendance certificate and received a sticker and pencil:

- Foundation: Lochlan, Oliver, Zach B, Max, Viola, Skyla, Xander, Finlay, Heidi, Sophia and Harry.
- Year 1: Isaac D, Orlagh, Hannah, Heidi, Matthew, Sofia, Jayden, Porche, Lottie, Charlotte, Charlie, Seth and Elsie.
- Year 2: Lily, Kieran, Kadi, Jessie, Toby, Owen, George C, Hanna, Harry, Doc, Lucas, Mia and Georgie.
- Year 3: Sam A, Madison, Amy, Alex, Jake, Sam G, Isaac, Samuel, Jasmine, Tinashe, Joshua, Thomas and George W.
- Year 4: Jay, Harry, Lexi, Daniel B, Daniel F, Xienna, Aiden, Henry, Demi and Emily.
- Year 5: Grace, David, Eleanor, Luke, Oliver, William L, Alexander, Lydia, William S and Olivia S.
- Year 6: Jensen, Isobel, Boston, Neve, Daniel, Hollie, Idin, Freddie, Austin, Joshua, Kirsty, Dylan, Alfie and Oliver.



Keeping your children safe - Following the pupil survey, all our children have said that **they feel safe**. In order to keep up to date with new changes and legislation, all staff members have received their annual Level 1 Safeguarding training. As **Designated Safeguarding Leads**, myself and Mrs Passman have received termly updates and training. First aid training continues to be ongoing. Children in our school are becoming more aware and confident to share their worries and concerns but we would like **ALL** children to be able to. Please could you continue to encourage your child to tell someone in school if they are worried about anything. The sooner teachers know about a worry, concern or issue the sooner they can deal with it and the happier your child will be. Thank you

Bullying - A huge amount of time is spent educating our children about bullying. The children know **it will not be tolerated**. When a concern has been raised it is often after a period of time. Please can we urge you to speak to the class teacher as soon as possible so we can investigate fully. Thank you

FoHP (Friends of Hurworth Primary) - Both the school disco and Christmas Fair were huge successes and funds raised were in excess of £2,000; thank you for your continued support. Following the AGM, Annie Hall was nominated and graciously accepted the position of Chair. There are planned events for the spring and summer term so watch this space...

Please see below some key dates for 2020. Please note, more dates will be sent out in the New Year:

SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON TUESDAY 7 TH JANUARY 2020			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 6 Children	08.01.20 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Autumn Term Reports	Year 1 – Year 6	10.01.20	15.15
Captain Chemistry	Foundation and Year 5	23.01.20	
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	03.02.20	15.30 – 18.00
Parents' Evening	Whole School Parents	04.02.20	15.30 – 18.00
Y2 Trip – Head of Steam	Year 2 Children	04.02.20	09.00 – 12.00
Image Musical Theatre	KS2 Children	06.02.20	09.00.-11.00
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 14 TH FEBRUARY			
SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 24 TH FEBRUARY			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 5 Children	26.02.20 – For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Mayors Eurovision Song Contest	Choir	28.02.20	TBC
Captain Chemistry	Year 1 children	04.03.20	
Scholastic Book Fair	Whole School Children	16.03.20 – 19.03.20	15.30 – 16.00
World Book Day	Whole School	05.03.20	All Day
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR EASTER ON FRIDAY 3 RD APRIL			
SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 20 TH APRIL			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 3 Children	22.04.20 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Y2 Trip – Durham Cathedral	Year 2 Children	21.04.20	08.55 – 15.00
Captain Chemistry	Year 3 and Year 4 Children	28.04.20	
PD Day	Whole School	07.05.20	All Day
SATS Week	Year 6 Children	11.05.20 – 14.05.20	4 days
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 22 ND MAY			
SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN ON MONDAY 1 ST JUNE			
Swimming – Dolphin Centre	Year 4 Children	03.06.20 For Half Term	12.30 – 14.30
Class and Team Photos	Whole School Children	09.06.20	All Day
Y2 Trip – Captain Cook Museum	Year 2 Children	09.06.20	All Day
Y6 London Trip	Year 6 Children	10.06.20 – 12.06.20	3 Days
Y6 Transition Days to Hurworth Comprehensive	Y6 Children	25.06.20 and 26.06.20	All Day
Induction mornings for 2020 Foundation children	2020 Foundation Children	25.06.20 and 26.06.20	Morning until after lunch
Transition days for whole school	Whole school Children	25.06.20 and 26.06.20	All Day
Sports day	Whole school Children	03.07.20	All Day
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 17 TH JULY			

Pantomime - We had an amazing time watching Jack and the Beanstalk at Darlington Hippodrome. The children embraced the panto spirit superbly and laughed, clapped and boed their way through the whole performance. We were extremely proud as the children represented our school with excellent manners and exemplary behaviour; so much so we got to meet Shirley Ballace (Mother Nature) and Daniel Taylor (Fleshcreep)!



Finally - On behalf of the staff, governors and Trust we hope you have a wonderful Christmas and wish you peace, happiness and good health for 2020.

Best wishes

