



Dear Parents,

And just like that it's December! It's hard to believe where the last term has gone, and as we plan to put our Christmas Tree up in the playground and dust off the Christmas post-box, the whole of 2023 seems to have gone by in a flash! We have a variety of different activities to enjoy over the coming weeks and I know everyone is very much looking forward to all of them.

This week, the children have worked very hard completing assessments which will reflect the rest of their learning over the term. This is part of our continued cycle of assessment and supports teacher judgements which are made day-in-day-out!

We also welcomed Sue Marshall, our Local Authority Advisor, into school on Monday. She spent the day talking to pupils and staff with a focus on safeguarding procedures. I am pleased that she was able to confirm what was found within our Ofsted inspection and that all of our safeguarding procedures are robust.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Mr. Donaldson

Nativity Trail

We have worked together as a whole school on some collaborative art work which is on display at St. Oswald's Church, Hauxwell. It is Christmas, our 6 churches are celebrating with a Nativity Trail.

The churches will have one nativity character theme each. Families will receive a stable scene on a leaflet and are encouraged to visit each church, at a time that suits them. In the church you will find a sticker of the character to add to your stable picture. For example, visit Crakehall church to see the Three Kings on display and take a king sticker! The aim is to create a full nativity scene... Jesus is available at the Christmas services happening in the parish.

Did You Know?

Each week we have a 'Music of the Week' which we listen to in assemblies and within class. These cover a range of genres and styles. Just last week we enjoyed the dance classic 'Moving on Up' by M-People from 1993 and this week we've immersed ourselves in musical theatre with 'Music of the Night' from Phantom of the Opera! Why not ask your children about this week's music?!

Class Hampers

We are still receiving donations for the 'class hampers' for the Christmas Raffle. Please do drop any donations in – if you require further details please contact a member of the PTFA or the School Office. Thank you.

Let's Celebrate!

See who has been awarded in Celebration Assembly this week!

	Woodpecker Class (Y5/6)	Partridge Class (Y3/4)	Kingfisher Class (Y2)	Robin Class (R/Y1)
Above & Beyond <i>(Care – Aspire – Excel)</i>	Pip	Noah	Bernard	James
	Woodpecker Class (Y5/6)	Partridge Class (Y3/4)	Kingfisher Class (Y2)	Robin Class (R/Y1)
Curriculum Award	Ronnie	Faye	Toby	Margot
Aims Award	Amelia	Theo	Max	Jack
Team Points	Richmond			
Tidy Classroom	Robins- Reception			
Golden Spoon	Jack Avison			

Christmas Post

The Christmas Post Box will be open from Monday. Please ensure cards have full names and classes on the front of each envelope. We will encourage children to use the post box to use their cards to ensure no cards get lost and to keep any disruption to learning to a minimum.

Diary Dates

When?	What?	Who?	How?
1 st December +	'Nativity Trail' at Parish Churches	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 13 th December	Reception / Key Stage 1 Nativity – 2pm and 6pm	All	Information to follow
Thursday 14 th December	Pantomime Visit @ Darlington Hippodrome	All	Information to follow
Monday 11 th December	Festive Film Night	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 20 th December	Christingle @ St Patrick's Church, 6pm	All	Information to follow
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas Holiday	All	See newsletter
Monday 8 th January	School Closed – CPD Day	All	See newsletter
Tuesday 9 th January	Start of Spring Term	All	See newsletter
Wednesday 10 th January	Science Visit – Life Centre	All	Information to follow
Monday 22 nd January	Y5/6 Residential Parents Information Session	Y5/6	Information to follow
Thursday 1 st Feb +	Art Exhibition at Richmond Station	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 7 th February	Parliament Visit	Y3/4	Information to follow
19 th Feb – 21 st Feb	Y5/6 Residential to Newby Wiske	Y5/6	Information sent

Around the Classes...

Robin Class (Reception): This week we have been delving into a non-fiction book, with our book of the week - 'Questions and answers about animals'. The children are hugely interested in non-fiction texts and we have been finding out lots of interesting factual information! We have been noticing changes in the weather and the world- finding ice and discussing how it is formed, how it feels and what happens when it melts... In PE we have been developing further our throwing and catching skills! We ended the week looking at the story of the nativity and the beginning of advent!

Robin Class (Year 1): We have had another super week this week. We have been investigating how to write information texts, inspired by our class text 'Question and Answers about Animals' in English and in Maths we have been busy continuing addition skills. We have continued to enjoy finding out more about great explorers in History – with us finding out lots of new knowledge about Neil Armstrong. We are thriving with excitement singing our new nativity songs. PE has seen us work hard dribbling with both our hands and feet. As always, the Robins have cared, aspired and excelled across each of their curriculum subjects.

Kingfisher Class: Kingfishers have been incredibly busy this week, still working hard despite the snow and the beginning of December getting everyone very excited. They worked very conscientiously as we completed our end of term assessments and have demonstrated how hard they have worked throughout the term. In writing, we have been working on continuing narratives, this week focussing on 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Christmas' which has helped them to produce some brilliant writing! Alongside all of the hard work, we have also been working towards one of our H&A21, trying to make our village smile by producing Christmas cards for each house in the village. A fantastic week for all of the Kingfishers - well done to all!

Partridge Class: It has been a very busy week in Partridge class as it has been assessment week. We are very proud of all the children who have worked very hard and showed off all they have learnt so far this term. Monday kicked off on a 'Happy and Healthy' note with our final Tri-Golf session, witnessing impressive skill improvement over the past weeks. We enjoyed our Science this week where we were creating a classification key for the different species of penguins. We had to think very carefully about what questions we could ask so that we could identify a penguin. In English, we continue to enjoy reading the 'Demon Headmaster.' We used the skills of speech that we learnt last week to write an exciting scene from the book.

Woodpecker Class: This week in Woodpeckers we have written our own story inspired by our class read 'Machine Gunners' by Robert Westall. The focus of our story has been using inverted commas correctly and the apostrophe for possession. The children made excellent propaganda posters informing parents in 1940 Britain of the reasons they should evacuate their children to safety. The children have also been incredibly driven when completing their assessments - it is fantastic to see the progress the children have made and I am very proud of them.

Safeguarding Reminders

Mr. Sam Donaldson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mr. Gavin Cope is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs. Louise Wyatt is the Safeguarding Link Governor.

If you have worries or concerns about a pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the people named above, in confidence.