



Dear Parents,

It's starting to feel very Christmassy in school this week, thanks to the arrival of the Christmas Post Box and our beautiful Christmas tree. The sound of all classes practising for 'Angel Express' or our Christingle Service only make it all the more festive...we're in for a very exciting couple of weeks and there's lots to remember. If you'd like more information, please do get in touch.

Once again it has been fantastic to spend so much time in classes this week – every time I visit I am bowled over by the children's behaviour and attitudes to learning and it is always a pleasure to have a look in their books at the progress they have made so far this year.

Many thanks for your support with last week's 'Donut Friday' – with school budgets always tight, fundraising is an important way of ensuring we can continue to offer exciting enrichment opportunities. We also say goodbye and good luck to Lucas in Year 5 today – we wish him lots of luck as he begins his new school and hope he keeps in touch.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Mr. Donaldson

Next Week...

Just a reminder of the key Christmas events next week; all of which were communicated on the earlier letter. If you require further information about any of the below, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Monday 11 th December	Festive Film Night	All Children	3.15-5.00pm
Wednesday 13 th December	'Angel Express' Nativity	Reception & KS1	2.00pm & 6.00pm
Thursday 14 th December	'Snow White' @ Darlington Hippodrome	All Children	Return at 5.00pm
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	All Children	N/A

PTFA Corner

Thank-you to everyone who has supported the PTFA raffle so far by buying tickets, donating fantastic prizes and with the brilliant hamper donations. There is still time to buy tickets, but they need to be returned to school or the countryman's Inn pub by the 19th December. Good luck and thanks again!

Outdoor PE Kits

As the weather continues to be chilly, we'd like to encourage children to bring in plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE lessons. Don't forget – school PE hoodies are also available from the School Office to help us keep warm in all weathers!

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>	Jay- Caring	Rosa- Excelling	Kirsty- Aspiring	Cora- Aspiring
	Woodpecker Class (Y5/6)	Partridge Class (Y3/4)	Kingfisher Class (Y2)	Robin Class (R/Y1)
Curriculum Award	Matilda	Holly	Rose	Emmy
Aims Award	Cate	Grace E	Leo	Aggie
Team Points	Middleham			
Tidy Classroom	Woodpecker			
Golden Spoon	Leo			

End of Term

Just a reminder that we close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Tuesday 9th January for the start of the spring term. There will be no after-school Wraparound Club on Friday 22nd December. School will close for all pupils at 3.15pm.

Diary Dates

<u>When?</u>	<u>What?</u>	<u>Who?</u>	<u>How?</u>
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
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
Tuesday 6 th February	Science Visit – Life Centre	R/KS1	Information to follow
Wednesday 7 th February	Parliament Visit	Y3/4	Information sent
19 th Feb – 21 st Feb	Y5/6 Residential to Newby Wiske	Y5/6	Information sent
Wednesday 28 th February	Y3/4 Visit to Jorvik Viking Centre	Y3/4	Information to follow

Around the Classes...

Robin Class (Reception): This week we have been enjoying designing, making and wrapping gifts in the workshop ready for Christmas. We have also been taking on the role of the post officer - creating letters, cards, postcards. We have made scented cinnamon playdoh and explored creating our own hanging ice ornaments - watching and waiting to see what would happen over time. In Drawing Club we have been focusing on the story 'The Jolly Christmas Postman' - designing our own vehicles to get all the characters to a party! The children have been perfecting their singing for our Nativity songs and working really hard! We can't wait to show you all next week!

Robin Class (Year 1): It has been another super busy week in Robin Class. The nativity practice is well underway. We cannot wait to share this with you all. You will be amazed as their performance skills are really improving and it is great to see their confidence growing. In our maths work we have continued to focus on addition and looked again at finding a part. We have started counting in 2s and 10s, please continue to do this at home. We also found out about James Cook in our History lesson this week; we look forward to sharing some of our learning with you all in our history museum soon. And we have been discussing our computing SMART rules, 'Be SMART with a heart!'

Kingfisher Class: As we edge closer towards the end of term, Kingfishers have been busy with rehearsals ready for next week's Nativity which is sure to be as brilliant as always. In English, we have been exploring and writing our own winter acrostic poems and the children have come up with some incredibly creative ideas! In science, the children are coming to the end of their 'animals including humans' topic and have been focussing on habitats and food chains. They have definitely lived up to our aim of being 'inquisitive with a thirst for knowledge' throughout the unit! The children are still working remarkably well despite all of the Christmas excitement so well done to them all!

Partridge Class: In English this week we have been looking at a type of poem called a kenning. We have enjoyed reading a range of kennings and identifying the key features. We are really looking forward to writing our own kenning next week. In maths, we have started our new topic 'multiplication and division.' We have created arrays for different multiplication facts and wrote the associated facts for that array. In computing, we have had a great discussion around the question 'can you use too much technology?' The children were fantastic at debating this question and were able to talk about the positive and negatives of technology.

Woodpecker Class: This week Woodpeckers have been learning about Anne Frank and read some extracts from her diary in English and Reading. In Woodpeckers, we have a real enthusiasm for History and this was further explored in our lesson learning about what life was like in 1940 Britain. The children got creative and produced fantastic double page spreads on topics such as The Blitz, rationing, education, evacuation and the black out.

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.