



Hunton & Arrathorne Community Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Parents,

Well, what a week! We were so impressed with our Reception and Key Stage 1 children, and their performances of 'A King is Born' on Wednesday. From our Reception children performing for the first time, to the older children who did a fantastically confident job of singing and acting – we are so proud of them all! Our Christingle rehearsals continue apace. The Christingle at St Patrick's Church is one of the most magical events of the school year – this year will be no exception. There are some stunning solo performances as part of the service from our Year 5 and 6 children. It is a privilege to watch their confidence grow to the extent where they are eager to bravely perform in front of what, we're sure, will be a packed church. Please do join us from 6pm.

Following on from our success in the athletics competition last week, we have received the results from the netball competition and are delighted to say that our team of Year 5 and 6 children finished in joint second place so a huge well done to each of them!

It has also been fantastic to see lots of hard work continue around the classrooms – this time of year can become incredibly hectic but the children are continuing to display their fantastic learning behaviours and are producing great work so well done to everyone.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mr. Donaldson & Mr. Cope

Christingle

Christingle on Wednesday at St Patrick's Church, Patrick Brompton. Please do park with consideration for the residents of the village. Children should wear full school uniform, and long hair should be safely tied back as children from Year 3 – 6 will have their Christingle oranges lit.

A big thank-you to a group of willing PTFA members who have volunteered to make the Christingles for us!

Christmas Party

The whole school Christmas Party takes place next Thursday during school hours. Children may wear their 'party clothes' or Christmas jumpers for the day!

Pantomime Visit

We're looking forward to our annual pantomime visit! Just a reminder that we will anticipate returning to school at the later time of 5pm next Tuesday after the pantomime at Darlington Hippodrome. Please give consent via ParentPay!

Let's Celebrate!

See who has been awarded in our final Celebration Assembly of 2025!

| | Mrs. Dozey | Mrs. Hollocks | Mr. Donaldson | Mrs. Tunmore | Miss Weeks | Mrs. Kawai-Calderhead | Mr. Cope | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Care – Aspire – Excel Awards | Heath | Indi | | Tilly | Lacie-mae | Joey | Douggie Chloe D | | | | | | |
| | Robin Class (Rec/Y1) | | Kingfisher Class (Y1 & Y2) | | Goldfinch Class (Y3) | | Partridge Class (Y4 & Y5) | | Woodpecker Class (Y6) | | | | |
| Curriculum Award | Grace | | Lucas | | Faye | | Betsy | | Harry | | | | |
| Aims Award | Letty | | William R | | Annie | | Henry S | | Bea | | | | |
| Team Points | Richmond | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentation Prize | Jaiden | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden Spoon | Ralph | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monarch | Amelia-Rose | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tidy Class | Robins | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Visit Payments

Please remember that next installments / final payments are due for the Year 5 and 6 residential to Carlton Lodge or the Year 3 / 4 day-trip to London over the coming weeks. Please make these via ParentPay, or speak to Mr. Cope or Mr. Donaldson if you are having difficulty in making the payments.

School Closed

A reminder that school is closed on Monday 5th January for a staff-training day. All staff will be working in school and the office will be open if you require anything. School reopens for pupils on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Diary Dates

Please keep checking the dates below as some may change at short notice!

| When? | What? | Who? | How? |
|--|---|---------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday 16 th December | Pantomime @ Darlington Hippodrome | All | Information sent |
| Wednesday 17 th December | Christingle @ St Patrick's Church – 6.00pm | All | Information sent |
| Thursday 18 th December | Christmas Party | All | Information sent |
| Friday 19 th December | School Closes for Christmas Holiday | All | See newsletter |
| Monday 5 th January | School Closed – CPD Day | All | See newsletter |
| Tuesday 6 th January | School Opens | All | See newsletter |
| Wednesday 7 th January | Y1/2 & Y4/5 Visit to Hindu Mandir, Catterick Garrison | KF, PRT | Information sent |
| Thursday 8 th January | Y3/4 Parliament Visit | Y3/4 | Information sent |
| Wednesday 28 th January | Y3 & Y6 Visit to Sikh Gurdwara, Darlington | GF, WPK | Information sent |
| Wednesday 4 th February | RE Parent Drop-ins @ 9am | All | Information to follow |
| Thursday 5 th February | Torchlight Treasure Hunt | All | Information to follow |
| Thursday 12 th February | Richmond Station Art Exhibition | All | Information to follow |
| Friday 13 th February | School Closes for Half Term | All | See newsletter |
| Monday 23 rd February | School Opens | All | See newsletter |
| Wednesday 25 th February | Spring Concert @ 9am | All | Information to follow |
| 26 th – 27 th February | Y5/6 Residential to Carlton Lodge | Y5/6 | Information sent |
| W/C Monday 2 nd March | Book Week | All | Information to follow |
| Friday 6 th March | 'Big Read' | All | Information to follow |
| Monday 9 th March | Y3 Visit to Peircebridge Roman Fort | Y3 | Information to follow |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Music Parent Drop-ins @ 2.45pm | All | Information to follow |
| Wednesday 25 th March | Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm | All | Information to follow |
| Thursday 26 th March | Easter Labyrinth | All | Information to follow |

Around the Classes...

Robin Class: What a wonderful festive week we have had performing our Nativity production 'A King is Born!' and I am sure you will agree they were brilliant! Within provision, we have been getting into different roles whilst playing in our workshop, making and wrapping toys for Santa to deliver. In Drawing Club, we have been doing the text 'The Gingerbread Man' focusing on writing speech from the character! The children have all tried really hard in their Phonics assessments. We have sent home sounds and words, which they are working on to help, embed at home too. Well done Robin Class - you really have excelled yourselves this week!

Kingfisher Class: We're so proud of everyone in Kingfisher Class for their performances in 'A King is Born' – what a bunch of stars! In the classroom, we have been continuing to explore subtraction – including the Year 2 children investigating column subtraction. We have enjoyed finding similarities and differences between childhood in the 1960s and childhood in 2025. We've also been very busy in Science thinking about the seasonal changes, which happen between autumn and winter. Great work everyone!

Goldfinch Class: Another super festive week! Our prayer for the Christingle is coming along lovely, and the songs are simply beautiful. Sedrick is ensuring we are following classroom expectations. We have continued to appreciate finding out more about important 'History Makers', this week learning about Margaret Thatcher. We are looking forward to becoming 'change makers' on Monday with our cake sale (any donations please bring Monday morning, also £1 for a treat for ourselves would be wonderful).

Partridge Class: We have had a brilliant week this week. The children have finished their final English book of the year, writing some lovely sequels for their final piece of work. In History, we learnt about Pok-a-Tok and created a poster to advertise a game set on the 31st January 600AD! We've also been working hard on our Christingle performance and can't wait to share it with you next week.

Woodpecker Class: Woodpeckers have continued to work hard this week. In Maths, we have been working on converting units of measurement including length, mass and capacity whilst in English we have developed our skills in punctuating speech using embedded reporting clauses. In History, we considered various pieces of evidence as we explored whether the story of the Trojan Horse really happened. We have also enjoyed rehearsing for our Christingle Service next week – hopefully you will be able to join us!

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.