



Dear Parents,

By the time the weekend comes around, the Christmas lights at the front of school should be installed in preparation for next week's Christmas Fair, which marks the start of the festive season in school. Although there are a few weeks until the 'big events' of the Christmas calendar such as the pantomime, Christingle and nativity, preparations are already underway. Our youngest children have begun rehearsals for 'A King is Born' (this year's nativity) and we're sure lots of you are helping learn lines and songs at home.

This week in school, we have thought about kindness and anti-bullying. This began with a special assembly on Monday where children were reminded of the 'STOP' acronym (several times on purpose) to help them recognise the difference between bullying and unkindness, followed by many activities taking place in classrooms all week. We are really proud of how kind and accepting our school community is.

Many thanks to those of you have completed the annual parent survey. This has now closed for responses and we will share the outcomes with you over the coming weeks as we continue to make H&A School the best it can be.

Wishing everyone a safe weekend,
Mr. Donaldson & Mr. Cope

Christmas Fair - Wednesday

We're really looking forward to our Christmas Fair on Wednesday from 3.30-4.45pm. Please do join us to raise vital funds for our school.

We would be very grateful of any donations of cakes, which we can use on our cake stall – please drop them off in school on the morning of the Fair. Thank you in advance!

Lateness to School

We have noticed an increasing number of children arriving at school late over the last few weeks. **Any children who arrive after 8.55am will receive a late mark in the register.** We will be monitoring attendance over the coming weeks and contacting families who regularly arrive at school late, we are also asked to report this to the Local Authority.

Governors' Corner

I visited school this week to talk to the 'Computing Subject Lead'. She told me how much the children enjoyed their computing sessions. The children are taught how to be safe online and as they learn more about computing, they will see the many ways it can be used in different areas of the curriculum and in their lives moving forwards.

Louise Wyatt – LEA Governor

Year 3/4 NERF Festival

Some of our Year 3 and 4 children had a fantastic morning on Tuesday, as they took part in the NERF Festival at Richmond School! There was great teamwork and sportsmanship on show as they competed in a variety of activities against other schools in the area before being crowned the overall winners – well done to all who took part!

What do Governors do?

Many of you may have wondered 'What exactly do our Governors do?' We are volunteers who work together as a team, the governing body, to oversee the strategic direction of the school. In essence, school governors are there to provide oversight, support, and constructive challenge, making sure the school is well-led and focused on giving all children the best possible education. Each governor has curriculum subject areas, which they monitor through visits to the school. This gives them an opportunity to speak with staff and pupils and see the school in action.

As a governing body, we have three core functions.

1. Setting the vision and strategy – working with school leaders to set the school's aims and values and long-term plans, which includes policies and targets for how the school will improve and develop.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account - as governors we support and challenge the Headteacher on the school's performance, pupil achievement and staff management. We ask questions and review performance data to ensure standards are met.
3. Overseeing financial performance- as governors, we are responsible for managing the school's budget and deciding how money is spent ensuring funds are used effectively and wisely to support the education of our pupils.

We act as a 'critical friend' to the headteacher, but we do not get involved with the day-to-day management of the school.

Andrea Peacock – Chair of Governors

Let's Celebrate!

There is no Celebration Assembly this week due to our Big Read.

Christmas Events

Please do remember to keep referring to the Christmas Events letter sent a couple of weeks ago for further information regarding the Christmas events below. We don't want anyone to miss out.

Diary Dates

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

When?	What?	Who?	How?
Wednesday 26 th November	Christmas Fair	All	Information sent
Tuesday 2 nd December	Y5/6 Netball @ Bedale School	Team	Information sent
Wednesday 3 rd December	Christmas Film Night	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 3 rd December	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics @ Richmond School	TBC	Information sent
Monday 8 th December	Christmas Postbox Opens	All	Information sent
Wednesday 10 th December	'A King is Born' Nativity @ 2.00 & 6.00pm	REC-Y2	Information sent
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch	All	Information sent
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
Thursday 8 th January	Y3/4 Parliament Visit	Y3/4	Information sent
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
26 th – 27 th February	Y5/6 Residential to Carlton Lodge	Y5/6	Information sent

Around the Classes...

Robin Class: This week, we have enjoyed practicing for our Nativity 'The King is Born'. Each child has been given a role, which has been sent home on a slip (please check their reading diaries). They have continued to impress us with their reading, showing a great attitude this week. In Forest School, we enjoyed going on a hunt for 'The Gruffalo', making a den and creating Gruffalo food. We thought about what we would pack if we were going on an adventure, and where we might go! We were introduced to David Attenborough, and our key text 'The Explorer' to enhance our 'Astonishing Animals' theme. To end the week, we welcomed parents and family into school to enjoy a whole school 'Big Read' - sharing our love of reading and books!

Kingfisher Class: We are so impressed with how hard Kingfisher Class have worked this week. Whilst Year 1 have continued to get to grips with adding numbers to 20 in Maths, Year 2 have really developed their understanding of column addition. See if they can show you at home! In English, they have developed multi-clause sentences based around our book, 'Billy the Beast' and have begun to think about advent in RE. A definite highlight has also been our daily nativity practises as they prepare 'A King is Born'. More information will follow next week.

Goldfinch Class: We started the week sharing a 'Kindness' assembly, wearing our odd socks to show we are all unique, sharing compliments and thinking of ways to share kindness. In Maths, we have been deepening our subtraction knowledge. In Science, we have been testing different materials to consider how friction affects movement. For English, we produced a prequel and we loved ending the week by having as many of you in as possible for our termly 'Big Read' event, sharing stories whether we were with family, friends, or teachers.

Partridge Class: Another brilliant week in Partridge Class. The children have worked extremely hard this week, perfecting their column addition in Maths and being creators in English! The children are exploring effective ways to use processors in Computing, experimenting with the different functions they have. Some Year 4 children had an excellent time at the nerf festival while the rest of us spent some time thinking about anti-bullying week and how we can be kind to each other.

Woodpecker Class: We kicked off the week with our 'Odd Socks' assembly, considering what bullying means and how we can be kind to one another in various ways such as giving compliments. In Maths, we have moved onto shape, exploring 3D shapes, nets and developing our protractor skills – this can be really tricky at first but the children showed great determination! In English, we have planned and written our own biographies based on our class text – this has been our first 'extended' piece of writing and the children have produced some great work. In History, we had fun acting out Athenian Democracy, using the 'yes/no jars' to come to a democratic decision based on an Ancient Greek scenario. Well done to all of the children for another great week.

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.