



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
17th December 2021



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Our overall attendance this week was

94.4 %

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE:

We have made it to the final week of term and I'm sure that you are all looking forward to breaking up for Christmas and spending some time with family and friends.

Although we haven't been able to host audiences, the Christmas performances have all gone really well. I hope that you will enjoy viewing them with your children and families. The confidence and performances of the children have been wonderful. The DVDs will be available to collect from school in January.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who have helped put the Christmas performances together for our children. There is always so much work that goes into these behind the scenes and I'm sure that the children really appreciate all you have done.

The recent rapid spread of COVID and the emergence of the Omicron variant has underlined that the decision not to host audiences for Christmas shows was the right thing to do. Our intention is to try and limit any spread of the virus to enable our children, staff and families to have a normal Christmas without the need to isolate with positive cases. We have also tried to schedule some of the events that we would normally have to maintain the magic of Christmas in school. I am pleased to report that cases in school are still very low when compared with the local community and other local schools. I am expecting a full return to school in January as the Government have made it very clear (and rightly so in my opinion) that schools should remain open. Headteachers do not have the jurisdiction

to make decisions about school closures and any decisions of this nature are taken on the recommendation of Public Health England. In some cases, it is staff absence that has forced these decisions and whilst this is a hugely challenging situation, we have managed this effectively to this point with minimal disruption to our pupils.

Despite the ongoing challenges this term, I have been proud of what we have achieved. We have managed to operate some of our school visits that broaden the educational experience for our children and have kept the content of their curriculum as rich as possible.

I would like to thank you all for your support during the course of the year and particularly this term. It has again been a year like none of us have experienced before and this doesn't look like changing soon. We will continue to adapt and adjust to the situation and make decisions based on the best interests of our children, staff and families.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a successful New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again on 5th January 2022!

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

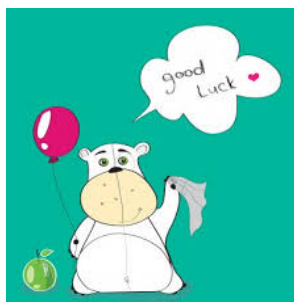
Class 1 - To all of class one for their effort and enthusiasm in the production and performance of 'Humph the Camel'

Class 2 - Emily Higgs for always being a super friend to others and a shining example to all :)

Class 3 - To all of Year 4 for their fantastic contribution to the Christingle Service today.



SCHOOL UPDATES



Goodbye and Good luck! We said a fond farewell to The Tillotson Family this week and wish them good luck with their move and new adventures. We will all miss you Austin, keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on.



We have two families to thank for their kind donations to school. Firstly to Mr Brennan for the donation of some saw horses for us to use in our forest school work and also to Mr Ridley who has made us some amazing new forest school benches. Our forest school sessions will be greatly enriched by these gifts - thank you so much!

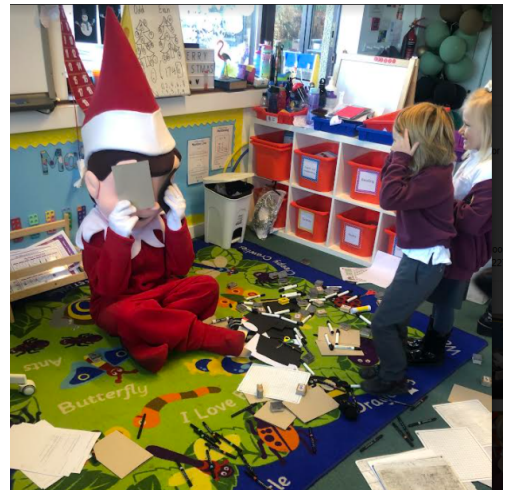


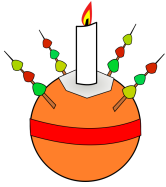
Music lessons: As we return to school after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5th January, the first music lessons of the new term will be the following Tuesday, 11th January 2022.

Christmas Parties: the children had amazing fun at their class Christmas parties today. Class one looked fabulous in their party clothes and enjoyed lots of fun games and a special party lunch made by Mrs Robinson. Classes 2 and 3 had a visit from Mr Disco and enjoyed their own parties in the hall, with dancing and games. I'm sure you'll agree it looks like they had a good time!



The Elf visits Whittonstall! We had a visit from a very cheeky elf this week, who caused mayhem and mess for the teachers! The children thoroughly enjoyed it, with squeals and giggles heard all through the school.





Christingle Service: the children visited Church this afternoon for our Christingle Service. Although we would have loved to have parents and carers with us, it was still very special for the children to join together in the Church and celebrate. Reverend Helen talked to us about the meaning of the Christingle and the Christmas message and we all sang Christmas songs together.

Christmas Appeal for The People's Kitchen: Feed a Friend for a Fiver: Our 'just giving' page is still open for anyone who would like to support this amazing charity who provide practical help and advice to the vulnerable and homeless in Newcastle. A donation of £5 will provide a hot 3 course meal for someone who really needs it this Christmas, as well as offering friendship and support at what can be a difficult time of year for many. You can make a donation of any amount on the page, it doesn't need to be a full £5, and together we can hopefully provide hot meals for lots of people this Christmas. Visit [Whittonstall Feed a friend for a Fiver](#) to donate. Thank you.

DIARY DATES

- Friday 17th December School closes for Christmas Holidays
- Tuesday 4th January Teacher Training Day
- Wednesday 5th January School Reopens for Spring Term

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher

