



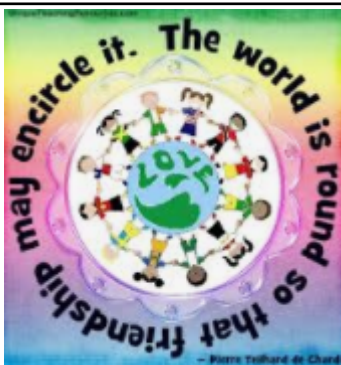
Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools

Weekly Newsletter
3rd December 2021



Tel: W: 01207560325 B: 01661842271

Website: www.broomley.northumberland.sch.uk/website



Our overall attendance this week was

96.1%

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE: It has been a fantastic week filled with Christmas preparations, the sounds of Christmas play songs are filling the schools this afternoon, it's wonderful to hear! On Monday we are looking forward to a visit from Debbie Young who will be taking a photo of all the children in their costumes, you will then receive a code linked to your child's image and will be able to purchase it if you wish. We are really looking forward to the Christmas performances being recorded on 13th and 14th December by an external film crew. We have been advised that due to the size of the file linked to the performance we will be unable to offer this as a google link or on the drive. We are planning to produce a DVD of the performance at a cost of £5 each. This will cover the cost of production but also help with further funding to our topic book project this year. Next week you will receive a google form link where you will be able to reserve copies of the DVD and we can get the company to work on producing them quickly after recording.

In the last week or so the weather has turned particularly cold. Please make sure that your child has a coat in school and that they have warm clothes, particularly on PE days when the children wear their PE kit.

We saw the launch of our new websites a couple of weeks ago. The new format and design will make the website much more user friendly for mobile devices and tablets. After all, this is how most of us access these things now and it is important that our website can reflect this. If there is anything missing that you would like to be added or changed please get in touch, as we appreciate the feedback.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

- **Nursery Bucket Filler of the Week:** Ellie Davie-Trigg - for marvellous letter and number writing with her friends.
- **Reception:** Fox Armstrong - for learning our songs so well for the school nativity and singing with such enthusiasm
- **Class 2:** Sonny Barker for his fantastic high five maths!
- **Class 3:** Dacey Faith Jenkins for her beautiful singing as Mrs Potts and her all round loveliness.



Mrs Robinson's lunchtime Awards:

- Lucas Hope and Rosie Robley for both eating up all of their lunches each day and making Mrs Robinson smile
- Zoe Brennan for being so pleasant and always making lovely comments about her lunch

SCHOOL UPDATES

CIF Bid letters of support: We have previously applied to a Government scheme called the 'Condition Improvement Fund' (CIF) which allows schools to apply for capital funding. The priority for the fund is to address significant building condition need, keeping education provider buildings safe and in good working order. Mrs Barker is planning on re-applying for the CIF Bid linked to extending classroom space and providing additional toilet facilities for our school. It would be much appreciated if any parents would like to email in a letter of support (admin@whittonstall.northumberland.sch.uk) for our bid, stating how you think these improvements would enhance our school environment and help with the children's learning. Thank you in advance for your support.



NUFC tickets: Congratulations to Louis Brenan and Sonny Barker who were lucky enough to win a pair of tickets each for the midweek NUFC match. The tickets were donated to school by the Newcastle United Foundation who supply our PE provision this year. Many thanks to them for the kind donation and we hope you enjoyed the game boys!



Christmas Play Costumes:

Our Christmas performances are getting closer and the children are working hard learning songs and words. Debbie Young Photography is coming into school this coming Monday, 6th December, to photograph the children in their costumes. Can you please ensure therefore that the children have their costumes in school by Monday at the latest. Please could you send the costume in a clearly named bag.



Log Store Donation: We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mr and Mrs Broadhurst who have donated a fantastic log store to school for our Forest School area. This will keep our wood dry and neatly stacked and really enhance our forest school experience. Thank you from us all!



School Christmas Party Lunch Wednesday 8th December: Mrs Robinson is planning a special festive Christmas party lunch on Wednesday 8th December. We won't be having our normal menu for the day and instead the children will enjoy party food with sandwiches, mini pizzas, sausage rolls, biscuits and cakes to name but a few of the treats on offer! If your child normally has a packed lunch and would like to have the school lunch on this day there is no need to let us know in advance, they will let their teacher know at morning registration.



Poppy sales for the Royal British Legion: We are pleased to let you know that we raised a total of £92.51 from the sale of Poppies and gifts for the Royal British legion. Thank you to everyone who supported this cause.



This week was Interfaith Week in school! This is an opportunity for us to learn about other faiths and to strengthen good interfaith relations at all levels. It helps the children to increase their awareness of faith communities in the UK and to celebrate the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. It helps us all to develop an understanding between people of religious and non-religious

beliefs. This week we had workshops with Tiny Tasters where the children had a go at making Jewish stew and boureka. The children had lots of fun and hopefully they produced some delicious food for you all to try at home. Class 1 also had a visit from the Islamic Diversity Centre, who brought lots of interesting resources in to help us learn about their faith. Hopefully this has all helped the children develop their understanding of the faiths in our community.





PTA 12 Days of Christmas 'Buy a Square' Prize draw: so far we have raised £500 from the prize draws - thank you so much to everyone who has supported them! The draws are happening daily and winners are announced by parentmail each day. Congratulations to the winners so far and good luck everyone!



Jack and the Beanstalk Panto - google form to complete: Just a reminder to please complete the google form [Jack and the Beanstalk permission](#) if you have a child in Reception, Class 2 or Class 3, to give permission for your child to take part in the panto trip on 15th December..

M&M productions will be visiting Broomley First School to perform the panto of Jack and the Beanstalk. There will be a separate performance for each school, with the hall and toilets being cleaned in between shows.

The children will be transported by bus from Whittonstall to Broomley and return in time for lunchtime. Reception class to Year 4 will attend the panto, while Nursery will enjoy their own Christmas party back at Whittonstall (Mrs Drysdale will send a separate note home to Nursery parents) We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £8.50 to cover the cost of bringing the production into school and an ice lolly for each child (all dietary requirements will be catered for) You may pay on parentmail PMX or send cash or cheque (payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust) in to school in a named envelope. We are very grateful that the cost of the bus is being funded from a grant made by the Parish Council, which helps us to keep the contribution from parents to a minimum.



Christmas Appeal for The People's Kitchen:

We have been thinking of how we can help others during the festive season. We have decided to support the 'Feed a Friend for a Fiver' appeal for the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. Each fiver donated makes it possible for someone in need to enjoy a warm 3 course meal this Christmas in a safe space, with friends who understand and care for each other. Receiving this friendship often gives people the strength needed to navigate tough times. We have set up a Just Giving page for donations, follow the link -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittonstall-first-school3> You can make a donation of any amount on the page and together we can hopefully provide lots of hot meals for people who really need them. If you

would like to know more about the work of The People's Kitchen, visit their website

Things to do:



Taking place on the following dates:

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th December

Friday 10th – Sunday 12th December

Saturday 18th – Monday 20th December

Illuminating Ushaw provides great value for all the family with prices from £8 for children and £10 for adults, join us on our **Illuminated Christmas Trail**, stroll through **Christmas Tree Avenue**, marvel at the **Illuminated Historic House**, visit the **Traditional Nativity Scene**, gaze up at the **Giant Gnome Trees**, explore our **Willow Tunnel**, indulge in **Seasonal Treats** and be blown away by the **Largest Festive Light Installation in the North of England** at over 150 metres long!

Within the Covid-safe, family friendly environment at Ushaw, All we want this Christmas is for you to... visit Ushaw! Limited capacity with timed entry.

- The Illuminated Trail is ticketed and time slots are at 30 minute intervals from 4.30pm – 7:30pm.
- The Illuminated Trail will last approx. 1 hour 30 mins
- Given the high demand for tickets, booking is required for this event. Admission to Ushaw (Grounds and Gardens only) is included within ticket price.
- Ticket includes parking.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 6th December Debbie Young Photography in school to take pictures of children in their Christmas play outfits
- Thursday 9th December Christmas Storytelling evening 5.00 - 6.30 pm,
- Friday 10th December Visit from 'Christmas Animals' - more information to follow
- Monday 13th December Christmas Performances - due to Covid restrictions, parents will not be able to attend but performances will be filmed and DVDs produced for sale
- Wednesday 8th December Christmas Lunch
- Friday 10th December Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
- Wednesday 15th December M and M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk at Broomley complete google form for permission(separate performances will be held for each school)
- Friday 17th December Class Christmas parties am - children invited to wear party clothes
- Friday 17th December Christingle Service pm
- 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 lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher