

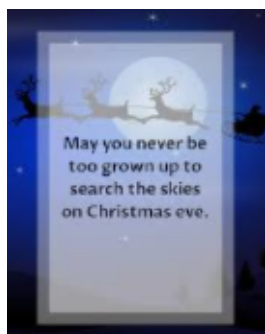


Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
10th December 2021



Tel: W: 01207560325 B: 01661842271

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



Our overall attendance this week was

95.6 %

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE:

A huge thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to give the children a magical Christmas Storytelling evening last night, and of course to all the families who supported the event. The children had such a wonderful time enjoying stories, games and festive treats. Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch too this week-it's been full of festive cheer!

We are having our final dress rehearsals before the film crew arrives on Tuesday to film our Christmas performances. As you will be aware, we have decided not to host audiences again this year for this and other Christmas events such as the Christingle service. We have received further correspondence from NCC this week, which reiterates that sadly parents and carers should not be in school for our Christmas events; a copy of the letter is attached. The swift rise in cases of the Omicron variant and further restrictions has underlined the need for this decision. Our Christmas play performances are being recorded and shared on a DVD so please do click on the link [Performance DVD orders](#) to order if you would like a copy.

COVID cases in school are currently relatively low (compared to Local Authority data) and although there has been an increase in isolated cases, we are doing all we can to give our children the best experience of Christmas possible. We are managing all of the things that we are currently doing to try and minimise risk and protect the Christmas break for our children, families and staff. I am sure that you all want to be able to spend some quality family time over Christmas and visit those near and dear.

Next week we look forward to Panto visit, Christmas Parties and the Christingle-we can't wait!

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

- **Nursery Bucket Filler of the Week** - Oliver Johnson for super singing!
- **Reception** - Malorie King for super effort and enthusiasm learning her part for the Christmas play.
- **Class 2** - Harry Smith super sentences in his Edgar the Dragon story
- **Class 3** - Austin Tillotson for great progress in reading
Agatha Smith for an all round fantastic week in school

Head Teacher Award

- Joey Ridley - for consistently being a wonderful friend to all in school.

Mrs Robinson's Lunchtime Awards:

- Arthur Whitelaw for eating all his dinner and having lovely manners
 - Matilda Amey for eating her lunches and always helping others
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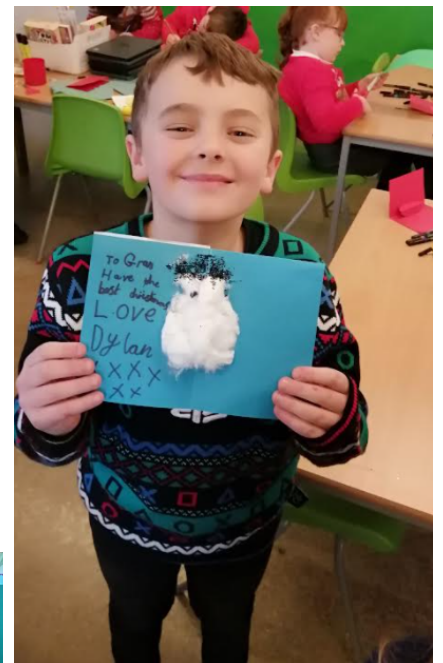
SCHOOL UPDATES



Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day

We loved seeing the children in all their Christmas finery today for Christmas Jumper Day. This is in aid of Save the Children.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated - so far we have raised
£38.00





Christmas Performance DVDs

As we are unable to welcome parents into school this year to watch our Christmas Performances, we have arranged for the performances to be filmed and put onto a DVD which parents will be able to purchase at a cost of £5. Both the EYFS and Class 2 & 3 performances will be on one DVD, so if you have a child in more than one play there is no need to buy more than one copy. If you would like to order a copy then please

complete the google form: [Performance DVD orders](#)

Payment may be made by Parentmail PMX, cash in a named envelope or cheque (made payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust) You may order multiple copies if you would like. If paying on parentmail please select the item and then add the quantity you would like to order before adding to the basket.

Please place your orders by the close of play on **Tuesday 14th December**. The Christmas Elves will then get working to get orders to us as soon as they possibly can!

School Christmas Lunch Wednesday 8th December:

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Robinson for preparing such an amazing Christmas lunch, this week. The children and staff all really enjoyed it and tucked into the fabulous feast with gusto. There were crackers, party hats and Christmas music to add to the festive feel too.





Virtual Christmas Music Concert: Miss Humble is preparing a virtual Christmas music concert for those children who have small group music tuition. The children will be filmed playing their pieces and this will be shared with parents. The children will know what piece they need to prepare so please encourage them to do lots of practice at home!



Jack and the Beanstalk Panto:

If you have a child in Reception, Class 2 or Class 3 please could you ensure you have completed the google form to give permission for your child to attend the panto at Broomley next Wednesday - [Jack and the Beanstalk Panto](#) . If you have already completed the form you will have received a confirmation email from google forms. Thank you to all the parents who have already paid a voluntary contribution of £8.50 for the pantomime. If anyone else would like to make a contribution, this can be done through parentmail or by sending cash into school. We appreciate your help with this - all contributions will be used to cover the cost of bringing the pantomime into school. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council as the cost of transport is being covered by a grant they made to school, helping to keep costs to a minimum.

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.

Covid Symptoms and PCR testing: Just a reminder that with the new variant of Covid circulating the rules around PCR testing has again tightened. The advice we now have from Northumberland County Council is that any children who have any symptoms of Covid should book a PCR test and remain out of school until a negative result has been confirmed. We are striving to protect all our children, families and staff so that we can hopefully all have a lovely Christmas so thank you for your continued support with the above.



Christmas Appeal for The People's Kitchen:

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our People's Kitchen Christmas Appeal - we have so far raised £60 to help those in need in our local community to enjoy a hot Christmas lunch in a safe and warm space this holiday. Receiving this friendship often gives people the strength needed to navigate tough times.

If you would still like to donate to the 'Feed a Friend for a Fiver' appeal, please follow the link to our Just Giving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittonstall-first-school3> 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 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 webpage <https://peopleskitchen.co.uk/>

DIARY DATES

- Tuesday 14th December Christmas Performances - due to Covid restrictions, parents will not be able to attend but performances will be filmed
- Wednesday 15th December M and M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk at Broomley First school
- Thursday 16th December Visit from 'Christmas Animals'
- Friday 17th December Christingle Service - children only due to covid restrictions
- Friday 17th December Class Christmas Parties and disco -children invited to wear party clothes
- 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 lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher