



Christmas Carol Service

Today sees our last school event of 2016, the Christmas Carol Concert. The children's singing and performance skills are improving every week and I was very pleased with the rehearsal earlier in the week and am sure you will have enjoyed today. Thank you to Miss Richardson and Dr Greenwell for arranging this.

Joshua and Seren

Two of our talented musicians went to play at The Hub this weekend. A drummer was so impressed with them he gave them his 'gig' fee. Joshua and Seren have kindly donated £10 of this money to The Butterwick Hospice which I think is wonderful. Well done to you both!

Christmas Parties

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas parties. They looked great fun and I hope your children enjoyed them.

Attendance Awards

This week we had the pleasure of presenting our Attendance awards. This half term 54 children managed 100% attendance, which is a very good achievement considering the time of year and they received their certificate in assembly.

There were 34 children who achieved 100% attendance who received a certificate and a **free pass for an activity at Teesdale Sports Centre**. Well done to you all.

The reward system will start afresh from January with another treat planned for 100% attenders at the end of the Spring Term.

Chickenpox

There have been several cases of chickenpox this week in Foundation Stage. I wish these children a speedy recovery and hope that others remain well during the Christmas break.

Clubs

Clubs will start on the second week back in January, week beginning 9th January. There will be several changes to clubs to offer different experiences for our children and a letter will be sent out during the first week back.

Gymnastics at Teesdale Leisure Centre

Due to some changes within the classes, Teesdale Sports Centre are pleased to announce that they have a limited number of spaces in some of their gymnastics classes. If you would like any further information please contact Teesdale Leisure Centre on 03000 260862

Bradley Lowery

You may have read about 5 year-old Bradley and his brave battle with cancer. Well-wishers from around the country have so far sent him more than 11,000 Christmas cards. He really enjoys receiving cards so Mrs Ridley arranged with Heart FM for each child in our school to make a card. A representative from the radio station has collected them today to deliver to Bradley.



Swimming After Christmas

After talking to the staff at Teesdale Sports Centre, we have been advised to take our Year 4 children swimming for the next 2 terms, plus those children in Year 5/6 who have not achieved the requirements set out in the PE National Curriculum.

The following year, the current Year 3 children, will swim for the whole year. This new arrangement should see all children achieve National Curriculum expectations before they leave primary school.

Lockerbie Manor Residential for Class 4

Last week we had a very informative presentation from a representative from Lockerbie Manor. I sent a separate letter out this week to parents of Class 4 children and a reminder that the deposit is due January 4th 2017.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

This term has been very enjoyable. I have been so impressed with the children in both their work and behaviour in and around school. They are a real credit to you all. I hope you and your families have a lovely, relaxing break and I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2017.

Attendance for w.b. 5.12.16

Class	Present
Reception	77.5%
Class 1	92.4%
Class 2	97%
Class 3	96.9%
Class 4	98.7%

Overall attendance this week was 94.2%

Punctuality

Please ensure that your child arrives at school no later than 8.55a.m. in order to make a prompt start for lessons.

Remember Wake Up, Shake Up usually starts at 8.45a.m.

1 hour 50 minutes learning time lost this week

Application for a School Place (Primary School) for September 2017

Cards have been handed out to Nursery parents detailing the procedure for applying for a Reception place for their child. All information is available online from www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2017.

Dates for your Diary

- January 4th School opens
- January 12th Swimming for Year 4 children
- February 8th Reception at Teesdale Leisure Centre for Multi-Skills Festival
- February 20th-24th Half Term

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher