



December 14th 2017 Issue 14

Early Newsletter

This week I have sent out the newsletter today as we are at church tomorrow and **we do not want the children to bring bags to school, apart from packed lunch bags.**

Y1-3 Christmas Performances

Last night the children in Miss Lauder's and Miss Blackburn's Classes performed a lovely Christmas Play called *It's Christmas*. It was amazing to see the children perform and they entertained the audience with super acting, singing and dancing. They looked wonderful in their costumes and I look forward to seeing their pictures in the newspaper as well as tonight's performance! Well done to all the children – you were fab!

Well done and thank you to the teaching staff who worked on this – Miss Blackburn, Miss Lauder, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Miller, Mrs Daniels and Mrs Wood. It is a lot of hard work but well worth it.

We were also very grateful to FOMS for their support again at the Christmas Play, providing refreshments and the super hampers to raffle. FOMS make a big difference to the life of the school and we really appreciate the support they give us.

Thank you also to Miss Richardson, Mrs Dupuy and their class for the wonderful Christmas Market. The atmosphere when the children are making the goodies, the skills they develop and buzz in the room last night made last night even more special. Well done to you all.

Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's

We are very grateful to Reverend Harding for the use of St Mary's Church tomorrow and Mrs Butters for her musical accompaniment to our Carol Service. I am so impressed with the improvement in our singing as a school over the last few years and thank Miss Richardson for inspiring the children in this.

I hope to see many of you in church tomorrow in your Christmas Jumpers! The service starts at 1.45pm and lasts about an hour. Afterwards, you will be able to collect your child from their teacher and take them home. Children whose parents are unable to make the service will be walked back to school. Thank you to the helpers who are assisting us on the walk down to church.

Christmas Choir Group

On Saturday I attended the carol singing at St Mary's by our Christmas Choir group. They sang beautifully and did so well even though several of the children were under the weather. Our tree looked spectacular and I hope you've hung your child's decoration on your tree! Thank you to Dr Greenwell for arranging this and the other lovely community singing at the Cricket Club and Beaconsfield Care Home.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to Mrs Slater and Mrs Dobinson for our fine Christmas Dinner on Tuesday. Over 130 lunches were served and we invited our regular visitors to join us as a thank you to them for giving us their time. Their contributions are really valued and we are lucky to have them.

Christmas Parties

Next week children will be having their parties in school (see Dates for Diary section for the correct day). Children should bring their party clothes in a named carrier bag and can get changed before the party. Food and drinks will be provided by school this year, so there is no need to send any. Thank you.

Hockey

On Monday, in bitterly cold temperatures, the children in Miss Blackburn's class played hockey against other local schools in the Alun Armstrong Centre. It was still cold inside but the children showed great skill and resilience to compete very well. They won several games, were 2-0 up in the final before eventually losing 3-2! Well done everyone!

Y4 and Reception Multiskills Festivals

This week Y4 and Reception attended Staindrop Academy separately for multiskills festivals. These are great ways for the children to develop confidence in different sporting activities and I know the children enjoyed them a great deal.

Aladdin

Yesterday we were visited by Beverley Artistes who performed the pantomime Aladdin. We all enjoyed the show although I think Mr Foster was a little embarrassed by Widow Twanky's advances! Thank you very much to Mr Briggs and Ms Barleycorn for paying for this event. We are very grateful.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will start again on Monday 8th January. Forms were sent out last week for children to choose the clubs they are interested. These can be downloaded from the 'School Office' page on the website if you have misplaced yours or you can call in to get a form. Please note Gymnastics club is already full.

Collecting Stamps

We will be collecting stamps to support the RSPB. With Christmas cards arriving through your door, perhaps you could cut them off the envelope and send them in to school. There will be a collection box near the children's entrance at the back of school.

Foms Fundraising Bags

Friends of Montalbo have arranged a bag collection in aid of the Fire Fighters Charity with a donation being made to FOMs. The bags have been sent home already and there are spare in the school office if you should need more. These should be brought into school on January 16th 2018. Please do not bring them in before that date.

Butterwick Hospice Flumpets!

The ever popular Flumpet Christmas Toys are on sale in the School Office. There are several different designs and cost £1.50 with all monies received going to the Butterwick Hospice.

Starting School

The application process for school places for children who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 is open now. Applications can be made via www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a guide containing essential information to help you with your application.

Dates for the diary

December 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day
December 15 th	Whole School Carol Service at St Marys 1.45-2.45pm (families welcome)
December 18 th	Rokeby Carol Service (Christmas Carol Choir only)
December 19 th	Recorders concert (Y4) and Clarinets at Teesdale School 5pm
December 20 th	Christmas Party Y1/2 and Y3/4
December 21 st	Christmas Party Y5/6 and EYFS
December 21 st	End of Autumn term
December 22 nd	Teacher Training Day
January 8 th	Spring Term begins

Mr Minikin