



December 8th 2023

Reception Nativity

On Tuesday we had a real Christmas treat, as our Reception class performed their play, *Wriggly Nativity*. The way the children sang, danced and said their lines with enthusiasm reminded us all what a special time of year this is and I hope that our audience took away some lovely memories. The children looked amazing in their costumes and played their parts wonderfully. I am very grateful to Miss Lauder, Miss Henderson, Miss Lee and Miss Banks for their help with the performance – it's not easy to produce something as polished as this with four and five year olds. Well done Reception!

Year 1/2 Christmas Plays

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, our Year 1 and 2 classes performed their Christmas play, *The Bethlehem Bake Off!* It was an entertaining take on the Christmas story and had so many songs, scene changes and lines for our Year 1 and 2 children to learn. They did a remarkable job and spoke with clarity, humour and confidence. Again, this is no easy feat and my thanks go to Mrs Newton, Mrs Lomax, Mrs Spence, Mrs Luna, Mrs Dupuy and Miss Banks for their work on this. Well done Year 1 and 2!

Light up Barney

Thank you to the Year 5 children, Miss Richardson and Mrs Leonard, who paraded from The Witham to the castle with me, carrying lanterns they made as part of the Light Up Barney event last Friday. The weather was bitterly cold but I am sure those of you who watched it were warmed by the display and lights in the castle afterwards. Well done Year 5!

Christmas Tree Festival

Last night I had pleasure of visiting St Mary's Church to hear some of our Key Stage 2 children sing carols as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. They sang beautiful and added to the lovely atmosphere of the church at this special time of year. Thank you to Miss Richardson for organising this.

Thank you to Mrs Patterson and Mrs Spence for decorating our tree which is based on *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have made decorations for our tree which looks great. If you would like to visit the Christmas Tree Festival, church is open this afternoon from 4-6pm, Saturday from 11am-6pm, and Sunday after the morning service. Further information can be found [here](#).

Nursery Christmas Singalong

Next Monday at 2pm our Nursery children take part in their Christmas Singalong. I look forward to seeing Nursery families at this event.

Key Stage 2 Carols at St Mary's

I always look forward to our annual carol service in St Mary's for our Key Stage 2 children. The carol service this year takes place on Friday 15th December and begins at 1.45pm. If any parent/carer or grandparent is able to help walk down to church please let the School Office know. We will set off from school at 1pm.

Christmas Jumper Day

We always try and match our Christmas Jumper Day to the Key Stage 2 Carol Service, however the whole school can come to school in their Christmas Jumpers on this day. Children should wear their usual trousers/skirt and school shoes. If you are coming to church, why not wear yours too?

Christmas Dinner

This year on Thursday 14th Mrs Slater will cook over 200 Christmas Dinners for children and staff!

Activity Clubs

After school Activity Clubs will start up again in the new year. Wraparound care provision is still available from 7.45-5.30pm.

FOMS Raffle Tickets

The FOMS Christmas Raffle Draw will be drawn on the afternoon of Thursday 14th December. Please return any stubs and raffle money to the School Office by then.

Mini Medics

I was really pleased with the response to the Mini Medics parent and child session on January 9th advertised last week. The places are full now but please look out for further dates in 2024.

Miss Neale

Next week is the final week of Miss Neale's teaching practice in Year 4. She has done tremendously well and is well-placed to secure her first teaching position in the York area where she lives. I know that the Year 4 children have really enjoyed their time with Miss Neale and have learnt a lot. Thank you, Miss Neale, and good luck for your future career.

Miss Gilmore

After Christmas, we welcome another trainee from Durham University, Miss Gilmore, to the school. She will be working in the Year 1 class alongside Mrs Newton and Miss Crampton.

Reception School Places

The window for applying for school places for Reception places in September 2024 is now open. To apply, please visit [here](#). Once on the site, you can apply online through the Parent Portal or if you prefer a paper application please contact Durham School Admissions on 03000265896. This process applies to children who attend our nursery already too.

Attendance

Below is a summary of attendance for this week.

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	91.9
Year 1	92.3
Year 2	93.3
Year 3	95.3
Year 4	95.3
Year 5	97.9
Year 6	90.8
Whole School %	93.9%

Dates for the Diary

December 11 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong (2pm)
December 14 th	Christmas Dinner
December 15 th	Christmas Carol Service in St Marys (Y3, 4, 5 and 6) @1.45pm
December 15 th	Our Christmas Jumper Day
December 18 th	Nursery/Reception Party (am) Year 1/2 Party (pm)

December 19th
December 20th – January 2nd
January 3rd
January 4th
January 9th

Year 3/4 Party (am) and Year 5/6 Party (pm)
Christmas Holidays
Teacher Training Day
Children return to school
Mini Medics parent/child session (fully booked)

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

