

# Christmas Newsletter

December 2023

## Merry Christmas

On behalf of all staff, I would like to wish you all the most wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

This term has been an unusually long one and the children and staff are all ready for a well-earned break and the opportunity to spend precious time with loved ones.



## Our year so far

We came into this academic year with a securely 'Good' Ofsted grading under our belt and raring to go. It certainly hasn't disappointed.

Not long into the new academic year, we had the pleasure of taking the whole school to Bradford Theatre to watch Shrek the Musical! The children were amazing and really did us proud.

This year, we changed our PE support to Sporting Influence and this has been a resounding success with all children already having the opportunity to access sporting events with other schools. Mrs Jackson has also been teaching PE across classes 1, 2 and 3.

This Year Mrs Watson has been teaching art to children from Year 1 – Year 6. It has been lovely to see how her passion for this area of the curriculum is really impacting the outcomes for children.





## Reception Class

We welcomed twelve new families into school in September – we are delighted with how well the children have settled into school life. It was lovely to see them confidently sing and perform alongside Class 1 in the Nativity this week.

The children had a visit to the farm. They told me that they have particularly enjoyed learning in the woodland, cooking and maths.

## Class 1

We have been very impressed by how well the Year 1 children have adapted to learning alongside older peers in class 1, and by how well the Year 2 children have stepped up to support their younger peers. Some of the highlights of this term have been the visit to Harlow Carr, the children's amazing versions of The Three Little Pigs and their beautiful artwork inspired by the work of Bauhaus. Their Nativity performance was such a lovely way to end the term.



## Class 2

In class 2, the children have enjoyed learning about the Antarctic in Geography. Science was all about states of matter and the children had a lot of fun carrying out their experiments, including melting chocolate! Class 2 have also produced amazing artwork this term, exploring expressionism. I was so impressed by how carefully they chose colours and used mark making to really develop their expressionism portraits. They had the opportunity to appreciate the value of art through their visit to Leeds Art Gallery.

## Class 3

Class 3 have been exploring space in science and had a great trip to a planetarium at the Great North Museum. It was a shame that the weather put a stop to their star gazing evening, but hopefully this can go ahead in the new year. Class 3 have also produced some amazing artwork this term. It has been great to see their masterpieces develop week on week. This ongoing development is a real skill for children to develop.





## Next Term

We have lots of exciting plans for the coming term. Class 1 will be visiting the Ilkley Toy Museum to support their history topic about toys from the past. Class 2 will be visiting Stump Cross Caverns and Class 3 will be going on their residential trip to London. We are still finalizing all details for this but have secured tickets to see The Lion King, and a tour of Parliament.

All classes have posted the areas of learning for the coming half term onto the class Facebook page. These will also be added to the school website under the curriculum area.

## Safeguarding

We understand that many children ask for electronic devices at Christmas and these can be valuable sources of entertainment and educational support. However, at a time when your child may be accessing these more we would like to once again direct you to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/parent-info/games-consoles-smart-devices-and-how-to-keep-your-children-safe/> You can also find advice on the school website.

## Wraparound Care

We are delighted to be able to offer wraparound care from January. We have appointed for one of the two positions and staff within school will support until the second position can be filled. External providers will continue to offer enrichment clubs for certain age groups but please note that these are subject to sufficient numbers attending.

## Thank you

We are all eternally grateful that you allow us the opportunity of shaping your child/ren's lives. We recognise what a privilege this is.

I personally would like to thank all the staff in school who work tirelessly to give the children amazing opportunities each and every day.

We are very fortunate to be supported by a strong and supportive Governing body and a dedicated PTA team, all of whom give their time freely to help us to make our school the best that it can be.

Once again, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts.

Miss Calvert