



Newsletter

December, 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

What an extraordinary year it has been but we did it! I would like to thank you from all the staff for the resilience and support shown through the original lockdown, subsequent bubbles popping and the changes to the school day.

It has been very difficult at times, but the staff have been amazing and continue to work with professionalism and passion to get the best for our children.

Who knows what next year will bring but we know that with your support and hard work, we will manage any obstacles put in our way.

So, I wish you all a very merry Christmas. Please stay safe and let's hope that the new year brings a much more positive outlook.

Mrs. Blackham



The Museum Zooms In

Y3 have been learning about the history of the railway and had Sarah Gouldsbrough, from the Head of Steam, do a live Zoom to talk about Darlington's part in the railways.

She showed the children artefacts from early railways and talked about the various roles on board a train.

The children were able to tell her facts about George Stephenson and his famous locomotive the Rocket and ask questions about anything train related.

They got so much out of this experience and although it was very unusual for all involved, everyone enjoyed it. Hopefully, next year the children will be able to visit the museum in person.

Did you know that George Stephenson couldn't read or write till he was 18 years old!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 23rd October 2020: End of Autumn Term 1
Monday 2nd November 2020: Autumn Term 2 Commences
Friday 4th December 2020: Teacher Training Day (School Closed)
Friday 18th December 2020: End of Autumn Term 2
Monday 4th January 2021: Spring Term 1 Commences
Friday 12th February 2021: End of Spring Term 1
Monday 22nd February 2021: Spring Term 2 Commences
Friday 26th March 2021: End of Spring Term 2
Monday 12th April 2021: Summer Term 1 Commences
Monday 3rd May 2021: Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Friday 28th May 2021: End of Summer Term 1

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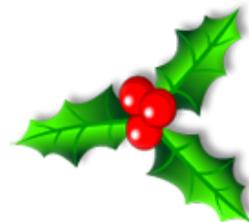
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Festive Fun



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday, 11th December was National Christmas jumper day, an annual event which raises money for Save The Children. This year was no exception. In Mount Pleasant. We raised £179.10 and looked fabulous. Many thanks for your wonderful generosity.



Santa Run Fun

In addition, all of the school took part in a Santa Run organised by the Darlington School Sports Partnership. Everyone had great fun taking part wearing their Christmas jumpers. Cady said, " It was very fun because you got to set yourself a challenge. I ran five laps. It made me feel proud."



All classes have finished the year with a party. Good fun for all!



IT'S A BABY!

Despite parents not being allowed to come in to school, it did not deter the reception children from presenting It's a Baby! The telling of the Christmas story was supported with beautiful singing. You can see the production on Class Dojo. Well done to all involved.



Festive Fun



Christmas Dinner

Many thanks to our wonderful kitchen staff who provided a fabulous Christmas lunch for staff and children. Unfortunately, Y6 parents were unable to join us but we should be back to normal by next year. If you would like any information about free school meals or changing lunch arrangements, please contact the office.



Spreading Christmas Joy in the Community

We are very lucky that, as a school, we are well thought of by our friends and neighbours. Once again, Councillor Gerald Lee from Heighington and Coniscliffe delivered a huge pile of gifts as did the Xcel Church in Newton Aycliffe and the Beyond Limits Charity in Butterknowle.

We thank you so much for thinking about our community at this time.



Super Christmas Singing Competition

This year, we have been unable to have our usual Christmas celebrations so Mrs Lees prepared a competition to sing a Christmas song in bubbles.

Each class chose and performed their tune and it was shared so that children could vote on their winner.

They were all excellent but the most outstanding, voted by staff and children, were **LITTLE LEARNERS**. Well done to them. They received the silver cup full of chocolate goodies.

The songs will be uploaded on to the class dojo platforms.





Other News



Since coming back to school in September, teachers have planned work carefully to ensure that all children make up for time lost. All children have played their part by working so hard and having excellent attitudes to school and learning. It has been a pleasure to look at the range of books to see how well all classes are doing.



6T have really been developing their blending and colour skills in art. They applied these skills from topic work of World War Two and the Blitz to make a simple but effective Christmas picture.

Year 2 have spent the term finding out about pirates



and explorers. As well as learning about Captain Cook and Blackbeard, they have looked at maps of the world to see where explorers would have sailed. They have also learnt about what life would have been like on board a ship and discovered what food the crew would have eaten from Salmagundi to rats and boiled rope



soup. Best of all they have learnt some valuable skills in survival and now know how to use a flint and steel to light a fire as well as build a shelter to protect themselves from the elements. Captain Chemistry came to show them how to construct a shelter using either the tee-pee, lean to or pitched roof method. They made their shelters waterproof by covering them with leaves and added luxuries such as lanterns and cooking spits. They worked really well together and showed what an effective crew they are. Now the prospect of being marooned on a treasure island is not so daunting and they are ready to tackle anything.



Well done, for a whole range of brilliant work!



Have a very Happy Christmas from all at Mount Pleasant

