



Your Weekly Head Teacher Newsletter
Friday 8th December 2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Friends of West Jesmond,

Musings about the significance of Nativity

Final touches are now being made to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity performances. The children and staff are working incredibly hard to bring you spectacular and memorable performances.

As this time of year approaches, many in the press or on social media question the relevance of Nativity performances, particularly in culturally diverse settings where beliefs and views differ widely. Cultural diversity is one of our strengths as a school; learning alongside those whose lives and beliefs are very different to our own brings a richness and variety to our children's lives as well as fostering understanding and appreciation. So with Nativity performances beginning next Friday, I was left thinking about the significance and relevance of those events, on that special evening in Bethlehem.

In the first instance, the Nativity provides our children with many examples of the importance of community; the gathering in the stable at the time of Jesus' birth is one such example. In turn, time spent recalling such events, is an opportunity for our children to experience their own sense of community as they learn, rehearse and then perform together. There is so much to be gained from simply coming together and celebrating in this way; all vitally important to our integrity as a community.

Secondly, whatever our beliefs, religious or otherwise, the Nativity delivers a powerful message of hope to our children, that individuals really can change the world; can challenge the injustices they see around them and try to make the world a better place.

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Finally for me, the setting of the Nativity, in such simple surroundings, is an opportunity to remind our children about the value of humility; to remember how fortunate they are to live in a place without war and poverty; with comforts like food and shelter a plenty; to live in families where they are loved and cared for. I do hope you can join us for the Nativity performances; they are such a memorable part of any child's time at primary school.

St Hilda's Christmas Tree Competition

St Hilda's church glittered with the sights of Christmas this week, as the venue hosted its annual decorated tree competition.

Our environmentally friendly recycled egg box tree entitled 'Hosanna in egg-shellsis' won first prize against stiff competition from other entries decorated in a variety of imaginative themes, put forward by individuals, families, community groups, schools and local businesses.



Many congratulations to Miss Jordan, Miss Otsa and our Eco Reps.

Stars in our School Result!

We are very pleased to announce that our very own Mr Stuart has received the regional 'Stars in Our Schools Award'.

He received this wonderful nomination from one of our parents thanking him for the time and effort he has given to school over the years.

"Derek is always so happy to help. He has been so incredibly positive about the PTA at the school and always says 'thank you' to us. He makes awesome funny videos of the staff that make us love them even more. He jointly ran the school talent show for years and was its biggest fan. He now welcomes pupils and parents to school at the main entrance in the place of his best friend at school, Deborah Hainsworth, who tragically died in September. We love him and all he gives to the school family."



Well done to Mr Stuart and thank you to Helen Ingham for the nomination!

Christmas Performances & Celebration Dates

In case you missed them, here are the dates again for our Christmas Performances and celebrations.

Event	Date
Christmas Fair	10 th December 2pm – 4pm
Reception Christmas Nativity	15 th December 9.30am
KS2 Christmas outdoor carol extravaganza	18 th December 6pm onwards
Year 1 Christmas Performance	19 th December 9.30am onwards
Year 2 Christmas Performance	20 th December 9.30am onwards
Reception and Year 1 Christmas Parties	20 th December 1pm onwards
Christmas Parties Years 2-6	21 st December throughout the day

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas Fair this coming Sunday Afternoon from 2pm – 4pm. This year will see the exciting addition of a Christmas shopping area, featuring 22 local businesses that will bring us a range of festive gift ideas and handmade crafts:

Artwork by the talented Nicola Booth, Faulkner Photography and Photo Noir

Crafts and stationery from Wangatang

Child illustrator Philippa Betterton

Twit 2 Woo selling their wonderfully popular stocking fillers

Wish Upon A Print - <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WishUponAPrintStore>

Crafts, frames, bookends, and many more from Tracy Bell

Junior Accessories X - a range of children's accessories

LC Woods - beautiful wood turning crafts from locally sourced trees

Block & Bottle - <http://www.blocknbottle.co.uk>

Home crafted beads and jewellery by Evelyn Bacon

African Tulip - insta: @africantulip_jewellery

FB: African Tulip @africantulipluxury

Riverford Vegfund - hampers and food packages

Geo Journey - fun and educational gifts for children aged 4-10 www.geojourney.co.uk

Heads Up - children's hair accessories

Madhu - selection of beautiful Indian tea towels

Personalize_ur_gift - for that perfect personal Christmas present!

Happiness Maker - fantastic handcrafted toys and gifts

Pebble Art - range of beautiful crafted items

Fleur Bath Bombs - homemade bath bombs

And our very own Layla's Kitchen selling delicious food throughout the event.

To whet your appetite for the Christmas Fair, below are some of the fantastic prizes you could win on our raffle. Many thanks to all the local businesses who kindly donated prizes and Carolyn Wood who kindly gave up her time to contact everyone and collect all of the prizes.

RAFFLE PRIZES**Main Prize**

Bike (up to the value of £150)

Health & Beauty

One month family pass
 Spa Day for two at Hilton NewcastleGateshead
 One hour sports massage
 5 x swim passes
 2 x 5 day passes
 Various beauty sets
 Various beauty sets
 Cut & Blow Dry
 Haircut & Shave
 Blow dry & mini manicure

Food & Drink

£25 voucher
 Platter of brownies
 Magnum of Brut
 Bottle of Cava
 Coffee for two
 3 x free lunches
 Hot drink & cake/scone for two
 £50 voucher
 Voucher for coffee and cake for two
 Selection and chocolate gift boxes

KINDLY DONATED BY

The Cycle Hub and The Cycle Centre

Northumberland Tennis Club
 Retties & Co.
 Ellie's Sports Massage
 Jesmond Pool
 David Lloyds Leisure
 Boots
 Medicentre
 Panelles
 Carrs Barbers
 Jo Bullerwell

Arlo
 Emilys Brownies
 Richard Grainger Wines
 Robson Laidler
 Willis Café
 Dene's Deli
 Cake Stories
 Sohe
 Café 1901
 Tesco

Children's Activities

6 x free classes
 5 week ballet or tap
 2 x giant colouring tubes
 1 x group riding lesson

Little Kickers
 Chimney Sweep
 Loopy Kooper
 Stepney Bank Riding School

Misc.

Jewellery
 £50 travel voucher
 Lunch and family bike hire for upto six people
 £25 worth of books
 £30 voucher for Vue Cinema
 £50 voucher
 Family Ticket
 Christmas Wreath

Kellie Daniels
 Hays Travel
 Cycle Hub
 Scholastic books
 Roberts Environmental Ltd
 LD Mountain Centre
 Alnwick Castle
 Holy Trinity Flower Arranging Team
 Rook Matthew Sayers
 Bailey & Co.



Young Achievers



Aysha Y4F	Achieving her Pen Licence
Edward Y4F	Achieving his Pen Licence
Sofie Y4F	Green Belt Martial Arts
Sophie Y4F	Green Belt Martial Arts
Daisy Y5B	Grade 4 Singing

Freddie Y2J	Yellow Stripe North East Martial Arts
Conor Y2J	Yellow Stripe North East Martial Arts
Ethan Y2J	Red Stripe North East Martial Arts
Nicholas Y2J	Orange Stripe North East Martial Arts
Rohan Y2J	Red Stripe North East Martial Arts
Elisa Y1YR	Prep Test for Piano Certificate
Narissa Y6T	Blue Stripe North East Martial Arts
Takien Y2S	Orange Belt Karate
Tanida Y2S	Yellow Belt Karate
Levi Y4M	Fantastic Writing
Jack Y2H	Green Stripe Taekwondo
Iestyn Y2H	Part of the County Climbing Competition 2017
Annabelle Y2H	Rainbow 50m Swimming Award
Emma Y2J	ASA Stage 6 Swimming Award
Harry Y5G	Grade 1 Theory for Piano
Rona Y3L	Level B1 of Kumon English Programme
Tom Y2J	Football Certificate
Maiya Y2S	Orange Stripe Taekwondo
Gabriel Y2S	Northern Rugby Trophy
Will Y2S	200m Swimming Award
Finn Y5G	Santa Lapland Certificate
Anouk Y1O	Excellent Art Work
Niamh Y4S	Mrs Cooks Runner of the Week
Surit Y2S	Orange Stripe Taekwondo
Tillie Y4M	Excellent Writing

With best wishes for the week ahead,



Dominic Martin
Head of School