



Headteacher Newsletter Friday 7th December 2018

Today was our first Nativity performance of the year. **Reception took their audience back in time, retelling the events surrounding the birth of Jesus on that first Christmas in Bethlehem.**

Cultural diversity is most certainly 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 school; fostering understanding, appreciation and harmony.



Whatever our beliefs, the Nativity provides our children with an important opportunity to reflect on many important themes, more relevant than ever to their young lives.

The theme of community runs throughout the Nativity: the birth of a child into a family; a celebratory gathering; the Innkeeper providing refuge and shelter in a time of need etc. etc. Time spent recalling such events is also an opportunity for our children to experience their own sense of community as they learn, rehearse and then perform together. As they perform, we all come together to watch. This coming together in celebration is vitally important to our integrity as a school community.

Whatever our beliefs, religious or otherwise, the Nativity also 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.

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 Year 1 and 2 Nativity performances next week; they are such a memorable part of any child's time at primary school.

Thank you to everyone who came along to Sunday's School Christmas fair. School was packed with families and staff (and their families).

There are so many people to thank! Looking around there were parents painting faces and nails; staff and parents serving food and drinks; parents and staff selling raffle tickets and drawing prizes; staff selling books; parents selling toys and sweets; children singing in the choir and helping on stalls; Tombolas, games, crafts, snowball stocks, and of course Santa and his merry elves!!

The fair could not have happened without the meticulous planning, organisation and dedication of **Rebecca and Rachel** (mums to children in years 1 and 5). Thank you so much to you both. **Many thanks too to Susan**, who counted all the money **and Carolyn** who sourced the amazing raffle prizes for us.



I'd also like to thank 'Santa' for popping into West Jesmond at such a busy time of year, **as well as Miss Glenn and Mrs Faulder** who spent many, many hours creating Santa's Grotto.



Our **Rainbow creators group were busy at nearby florists the Flowerfolk** last week making some wonderful things to sell at the Christmas fair. Thanks again to Pip for helping us create such beautiful festive arrangements and pots.



It was **lovely to share in Reverend Hurst's first Christingle at St Hilda's**. We look forward to many more celebrations together throughout the course of next year.




In response to feedback, following our recent open afternoon, I'm pleased to announce there will be **two further parents' evenings this academic year** to be held in the main hall. The dates are **Wednesday 16th January from 2pm – 7pm and Wednesday 1st May again from 2pm – 7pm**. Slots will be available to book from the New Year via Eventbrite. Ipads can be made available in school for anyone who doesn't have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone.



This week Miss Ward and Mrs McVittie joined colleagues from the North of Tyne region at the first training event for our **ICCAMS Maths Project**. Our Year 6 children are all going to be participating in the project aimed at improving children's understanding in mathematics - whatever their current level of confidence. **To help us with this project, please could any parents with a child in Year 6 please complete the online survey below by Friday 21st December.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GBSNFTG>

Date	Event	Time
17/12/18	KS2 Christmas Sing-a-long	6.00pm
18/12/18	Year 1 Christmas Performance	9.00am
19/12/18	Year 2 Christmas Performance	9.00am

<div> Young Achievers  </div>	
Kade, Y3F	Level 3 Swimming
Anouk, Y2H	Level 3 Swimming
Chloe, Y2S	Level 6 Gymnastics Certificate
Amelie, Y2H	Medal for Dance Performance
James, Y3L	Level 7 Swimming
Aaliyah, Y1O	Swimming Award
Audrey, R2	Stage 2 Swimming
Amelia, Y2S	Swimming Award
Oriana, Y1O	Fantastic handwriting and storytelling
Jessica, Y2H	4 th Award of Newcastle Gymnastics Academy Badge scheme
Maisie, Y3L	Selected to play for NUFC under 9's team
Ellie, Y4C	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Martha, Y4J	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Imogen, Y4S	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Sam, Y4S	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Hadiya, Y5G	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Aisha, Y5G	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Maya, Y5M	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Suleiman, Y5M	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Aysha, Y5R	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Evie, Y5R	Excellence in Curriculum Spanish
Ariana, Y1B	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Benjamin, Y1B	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Esme, Y1B	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Halle, Y1W	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Charlotte, Y1W	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Meg, Y1B	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Evie, Y2S	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Sudabeh, Y2S	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Ioanna, Y2S	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Elisa, Y2S	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Rebecca, Y2H	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde

Oria, Y2H	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Joshua, Y2H	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Grace, Y2TJ	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Olivia, Y2TJ	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Leo , Y3F	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Ella, Y3F	Completion of 1 st Spanish Programme with La Jolie Ronde
Emily, Y10	Gymnastics levels 7 and 8
Betty, Y10	Gymnastics Level 8
Evie, Y2S	Swim NE Stage 7 Certificate

As this is the last newsletter of this calendar year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Dominic Martin Head of School