



Friendship, Community, Faith

As we look forward to Christmas and the joy that it can bring for children and parents alike, we at the School thought we should reflect on the events of the term as well as celebrate the future.

Firstly, however we would like to give our warm wishes to Mrs North who remains ill and away from work. We all hope she will be feeling better soon.

Meanwhile we are very grateful to Mrs Clark and Mrs Joscelyne for joining in with the staff and delivering such excellent teaching to the children.

Highlights

Here are some of the highlights of the many more activities that the children have enjoyed this term so far:

- The (famous) Hexhamshire Leek Club Leek Show
- A Year 4 class assembly
- The delicious Harvest Lunch
- A very moving Remembrance Service in our St. Helen's Church



- A colourful Children in Need breakfast
- Festive Forest School sessions for Class 1, Class 2 and EYFS with Christmas tree decorations and wood whittling and an appreciation of frosty mornings added to the mix of the open fire, hot chocolate and singing. Feel free to look at the pictures on the website!
- An Open the book collective worship with some lovely visual story telling on the theme of Creation.
- Wreath making.
- Planetarium and star gazing in a visit to School from the Kielder Observatory.



- A farewell ceremony for Ms Harrison.
- The School Christmas Fair which raised just over £300!
- We are also excited about our mosaic art design project being led by a visiting artist with the help of the children. It is hoped this will produce some wall hanging panels for display just inside the school gates.
- 11 Dec Cinema Trip for Class 1 and Class2 to see Arthur Christmas.

Activities coming Up

The term is by no means over – here are some dates to note:

- 13 Dec EYFS Christmas Party
- 15 Dec Open the Book collective worship
- 19 Dec School Christmas Production in the Parish Hall
- 20 Dec Class 2 singing at Close House

- 21 Dec Christingle/Carol Service at St Helen's Church, Christmas lunch and Class 1 and Class 2 parties
- 22 Dec End of term (School Closes 1.00pm)



Update from the Governors

This academic year has started with more challenges than usual. Not only has the Head been absent through sickness but the School is also likely to be inspected by Ofsted. Our last full inspection was in 2014 and we had a short inspection in 2018. Inspections are normally every 4 years and ours is now overdue. The governors are very grateful for the support of the staff and the parents.

Recruitment Plan

Until the end of the term the full strength of the teaching staff will be maintained with Miss Tweddell in Early Years, Mrs Clark in Class 1 and Mrs Hilton in Class 2. We also have the services of Mrs Joscelyne as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant to replace Ms Harrison as least until the end of term.

The governors are also very pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Carly Robinson as

Robinson comes to us from Richard Coates Primary school in Ponteland where she has worked for the past five years, and is Maths lead and an IT lead for that school.

Going forward we have also engaged Nicola Ord as our school cleaner and Claire Parker as the new school cook.

We still have vacancies to fill for the Higher-Level Teaching Assistant and the Breakfast Club Supervisor role. Advertisements are currently online on the North East Jobs website.

We hope that Mrs North will be able to return to work soon but the governors are in close contact with our School Improvement Plan partner and other officers at the Local Education Authority to be able to manage the School's staffing needs on an ongoing basis.

Ofsted Inspection

Meanwhile with an Ofsted inspection likely to be called at short notice, the governors continue to review and update the plethora of policies relevant to the School and set and have oversight of the School's financial budget. It is also part of the governor's function to monitor the delivery of the School's mission and ethos and to be able to demonstrate that to the inspectors.



Farewells

This is not a communication in which the governors intend to convey their enormous gratitude or farewells to those of the staff who have left or are leaving. However, the governors do not wish to miss any opportunity to thank Christine Hilton, Amy Harrison and Linda Harrison for their years of dedicated and unwavering Christian love and care for the children of the School and their fellowship with the staff, the governors and the parents, all of which has greatly helped our School to be the wondrous place that it is.

If any parent would like to contact the governors about any issues arising from the School please contact us by emailing the admin address on the website and making the subject – FAO The Governors or by contacting Revd. Andrew Patterson on the telephone number given on the website.



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM WHITLEY CHAPEL CHURCH OF
ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL!**