



Northburn News

Dear Parents

I would like to thank you for your good wishes and thanks to us all. I am very grateful for the support you give to us, and your children in their schooling. I would also like to thank the staff, as they have worked incredibly hard to devise inspiring lessons and learning opportunities. Thank you to the P.T.A for their dedication in supporting the school. The Christmas fair was a huge success and raised an incredible £916.95. The obstacle course raised a huge £1,470.33. They also provided refreshments at the church, our assemblies, Nativity and parties and Christmas activities for the children. The money raised also paid for the pantomime performance, Robinson Crusoe, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Yet another term has flown by and as usual, there has been plenty going on at Northburn.

A personal highlight is the Reception Nativity and the Nursery Sing Along. I am always amazed at how confident our children are and the number of lines and song lyrics they can remember. They were simply fantastic!

It was lovely to see our school community come together for a carol service at St Nicholas Church. The children read and sang beautifully. Mike and Tish have asked me to remind you that they are holding a service at St Peters, in the school hall at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. All are welcome. I hope you have all been able to see the Christmas trees in our entrance, which were originally displayed in the church during their Christmas tree festival.



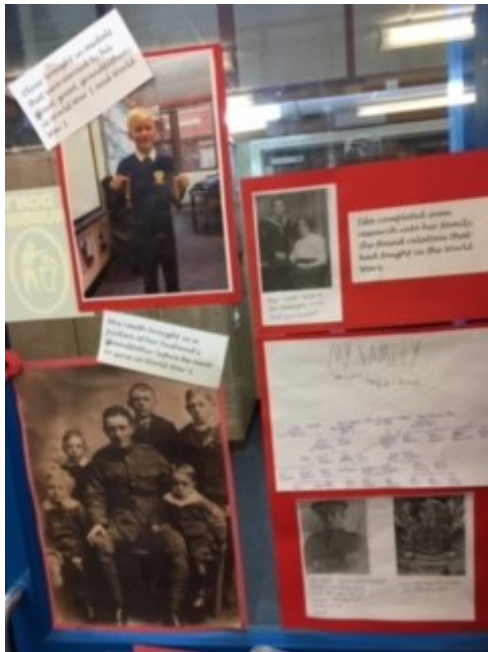
Remembrance

The school came together to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. All the children have been thinking about why the nation was remembering the centenary of the end of World War One.



Children in Key Stage Two have been studying poems by Wilfred Owen and John McCrae. In KS1 children looked at *War Game* by Michael Foreman and produced some fantastic pieces of writing and drama. The children created poppies, which are displayed in the library area.

Many parents were able to have a look at our remembrance displays.



Sporting Success



In October, our Year 6 basketball teams played in a competition at Newcastle Sports Central, the home of Newcastle Eagles. They competed against other schools in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley area for the prestigious Thunder in the Valley Cup. Amazingly, both Northburn teams qualified for the semi-finals and one team from Northburn made the final, which was played in front of 2000 Newcastle Eagles fans. Unfortunately, we were beaten 1-0 by Whytrig Middle School after a very close

game. Both Northburn teams showed great skills and sportsmanship and had an unforgettable experience.

In November, pupils and teachers attended the Cramlington and Seaton Valley PE and Sport Awards Evening at Astley High School. During the evening, Northburn achieved two awards for our delivery of PE and extra-curricular sport. In the Sainsbury's School Games category we achieved a gold award for the fourth year running. Northburn were also awarded a special trophy for Innovation in PE. This acknowledges the increase in creative, physical activity at playtimes, that pupils now enjoy since Northburn started the OPAL play scheme.



Our school football teams have been successful again so far this year. The year 5 and 6 girls played a competition at Astley High School, and despite being new to the game managed to advance through to the final after beating four teams. Unfortunately, we were beaten on penalties but the girls had a great day and some have since joined local football teams. The year 4 boys team also



played a competition at Astley High School and again managed to advance to the final after comprehensively beating the other schools. In a very tough final against St Agnes School, Gateshead, Northburn emerged victorious with a 1-0 win. The skills and sportsmanship shown by all of our footballers were a credit to the school.

P.T.A

Thank you to the P.T.A for the amazing work you do. Our school budget is incredibly tight and funds raised through events are critical, if we are to continue to provide an exciting and inspiring primary school experience.

Governors

Thank you very much to our Governors who have had a busy term of meetings and school visits. Your time and support is much appreciated.

100% Attendance

Well done to all who have managed to attend every day since the beginning of the autumn term.

Those children who attend every day are entered into a termly draw. The winner receives a Vue voucher. Jack Fryatt is our winner this term.

At the end of the year all children who have 100% attendance for the year will receive a £5 voucher.



Yellow have won the cup for the term. Well done!



Early Years Foundation Stage

EYFS have enjoyed a busy half term we enjoyed sharing our school and some of the activities we do with our family and friends at the Autumn Open Day.

Don't forget to log into Tapestry so you can see what else we have been doing.



Reception were amazing performing on the stage for the first time in 'Away in a Manger'. The children were fantastic and thank you parents for the super costumes and helping the children learn lines and songs. What a team!



Nursery performed for the very first time this term at their Christmas Concert. All the children were extremely brave and sang beautifully. Well done Nursery.



Key Stage One

Key Stage One has had a busy and exciting autumn term. We started with an early visit to Kirkley Hall to support our topic of "Animal Kingdom". Later on in the term we learned hula-hoop skills with Hoop Starz; had a fire safety talk from East Hartford Fire Service; helped Sports Leaders in their training and had a talk from the NSPCC – "Speak Out, Stay Safe".

Pupils have continued to complete their *Challenge Award* at school and at home (designing and making an animal using natural materials) and many pictures are featured on our *Challenge Award* display. We look forward to seeing what the children produce over the next term.





We have continued to develop learning through Thumbs-Up Thursday. Pupils have built habitats for a range of animals, made animals using natural materials, as well as building bridges using pallets and tyres.

In October we were astounded by the creative and unique ideas the Key Stage One children created for the shoebox habitat homework. These are displayed in the library area and have been highly praised by staff and visitors to Key Stage One.



One of the highlights of the term was a live telephone conversation from Bird Island, Antarctica, with Derren Fox – a seabird biologist studying four species of albatross.

Pupils learned about pollution from homes, transport and fossil fuels and how these all have an impact on Antarctica (rising sea levels) and its wildlife (food chain and habitats).

We will be continuing to learn about pollution and global warming and how we can reduce our carbon footprint.



Christmas festivities in Key Stage One this year have included: a wintery visit to Beamish, where children met Santa and looked at how Christmas was celebrated in the past; the 'Mince Pie' afternoons where children worked with parents and grandparents making Christmas decorations and sang Christmas carols. We also toasted marshmallows around the fire pit, watched the talented Reception pupils perform their nativity, "Away in a Manager"; decorated a



bauble with the PTA and celebrated Christmas together at our Key Stage One party. We hope the children have a well-deserved rest and enjoy the Christmas holidays ready to come back refreshed for the start of a new term.



Lower Key Stage Two

Year 4 have been enjoying cookery lessons with our school cook, Mrs Clattenburg. During the sessions they have learnt chopping skills, decoration with icing and how to make bread, cup cakes, shortbread and pastry. Pupils have really enjoyed these lessons and many have already used these skills at home with parents and grandparents.



In PE LKS2 have used sport premium funding to introduce new activities to the PE curriculum. Pupils have increased flexibility and strength whilst doing Pilates for 45 minutes each week. They have learnt some challenging exercises such as the bicycle, the crab and the dreaded hundreds.

LKS2 have been learning about the Stone Age this term. On our Stone Age day we had a fantastic time learning about the skills people needed to survive. We took part in shelter building, fire lighting, cookery and pottery making activities and discovered that life was very tough in the Stone Age.



Upper Key Stage Two

Year 6 had a fantastic residential trip to Hawkhirst. They visited the Bird Of Prey Centre nearby and have raised enough money from our recent Hawkhirst assembly to adopt a tawny owl called Tyrone.



In October, as part of the PTA's fundraising for the school, the children took part in an obstacle course race. They had plenty of opportunities to get wet and muddy and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Science, Technology, Maths, Science (S.T.E.M) week

Next term, we are embarking on a new STEM project based on 'Plastics' and the impact they have on the environment.

The 'Plastics Challenge' is an exciting opportunity to engage with:

Practical Science investigations- including the chemistry of plastics

Scientific Enquiry-enabling exploration on the impact and efficacy of reuse and recycling plastic

Enterprise- encouraging the designing and making of products from waste plastics

The work on this project will be across the course of the next term and will end with a STEM/Enterprise week. Each phase will be given a product to design and make out of plastic which they will sell at the school Easter Fair.

Dates for your Diary

Teacher Training Day	Monday 7th January 2019
Children return to school	Tuesday 8th January 2019
Parent consultations	Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th February 2019
Mary Poppins performances	Tuesday 12th –Thursday 14th February
P.T.A Valentine Disco	Wednesday 6th February 2019
Easter Fair	Wednesday 3rd April 2019
Drop ins	Wednesday 9th January and Wednesday the 24th April 2019



Many thanks for your continued support. Have a magical Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Clare Scott

Northburn Primary School
Horton Drive
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 3QS
01670 73911

admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

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