

Parish Magazine - December '21

After a brief rest and recharge over October half term, the pupils are back and bubbling with festive anticipation. It's such a lovely term in school and a delight to share the excitement and joy of the Christmas period.

Back in October, we had the pleasure of welcoming Peter Freyan and Fay Sweet into school to perform a variety of musical pieces for the pupils. It was a wonderful mix of classical works and the pupils were mesmerised by the 'live' cello and viola performances. Our peripatetic teachers, Ric French and Nicola Rich, continue to provide music lessons to pupils throughout the school and we look forward to hearing their concerts later in December.

Our infant classes have been exploring the wonderful grounds of Leighton Hall in a series of outdoor adventure days aimed at getting the pupils 'back to nature'. Learning outside the classroom is a fundamental part of our curriculum and the pupils love any opportunity to get dirty! Our older pupils will soon be attending the Kendal Mountain Festival to watch and listen to a number of lectures aimed at inspiring youngsters to adventure, explore, create and embrace the wonders of the outdoor world. In addition to this, pupils from Years 5 & 6 have the opportunity to attend the South Lakes Pupil Parliament, where a number of local schools gather together to learn about the ins and outs of debating and exercising 'pupil voice' on a formal platform. Opportunities such as these can certainly ignite a passion for a public role and leading change for the future.

Anti-Bullying week starts on Mon 15th Nov and is a fantastic opportunity to tackle all aspects of anti-social behaviour. The underlying theme for the week is a celebration of individuality and the week starts with a wonderful 'Odd Socks' day. It's fundamentally important for pupils to be proud of who they are and what makes them different – the melting pot of personalities helps bring a sparkle to our world. The School Council are busy planning a pyjama day for Children-in-Need and our newly formed Eco Team are carrying out a series of environmental audits to see where we could improve our carbon footprint. Pupil voice and pupil responsibility is the key to change. We were extremely impressed with the pupils' conduct during Remembrance Week and their understanding and compassion for others. School Church was a lovely time to reflect and Father Andrew's message of Hope, Honour and Help struck a chord with staff and pupils.

Our Festive activities kick start with a creative craft week in early December when the pupils make decorations and cards to adorn the school. Christmas Jumper Day is always a highlight and the range of woolly knits is sight to behold! All money raised is donated to Save the Children. Fingers crossed, our PTA Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 3rd December at 4pm. Given the current situation, we will be looking at a more creative format and potentially holding a scaled down version outside – the safety of our pupils, parents, staff and community are of paramount concern. Our infants are currently mid-rehearsal for their nativity and we look forward to a heartwarming performance on Wed 8th Dec, 2.15pm in St James' Church (tissues at the ready...). The end of term will be finished with a wonderful carol service in St James' on Wed 15th Dec, 6.00pm – a mixture of carols, readings, and festive cheer, the perfect start to the Christmas holidays. From all at Arnside School, we wish you health, happiness, peace and prosperity. Spread a bit of sparkle this Christmas and enjoy your family time together; you deserve it.

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling." Edna Ferber

Take care, Mr Sharp