

November '24

Pupils always bring a sparkle to the school atmosphere and as we head towards December, a distinctive air of anticipation starts to build and the period of Advent infuses an infectious joy that brings warmth, love and excitement. You couldn't wish to be in a better place before Christmas.

Remembrance is a poignant time in school and pupils were encouraged to pause, reflect and consider the significance of the events that take place at this special time. Mrs Brough helped raise vital funds for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and merchandise, and the pupils enjoyed wearing their items with pride. All the classes made unique poppies for a communal wreath and Elis from the lower juniors had the important role of presenting it at the village memorial service on Remembrance Sunday. Elis did an amazing job and on behalf of all at school, thank you and well done. On the Monday, pupils joined together for a two-minute silence, and Reverend Hannah brought us all together to explore the message of peace and unity at School Church.

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." Albert Einstein.

Odd Socks Day provided a fantastic platform to celebrate being different and unique, and the pupils are fired up for their annual Pudsey celebration of Children in Need. Sam Reynolds is once again championing the cause and stirring bakers from far and wide to provide tasty treats to go on sale. Over the years, Arnie's after school club has raised a fantastic amount for the charity and they should be very proud of their efforts. Well done team Sam! Our Ethos Team are busy collecting advent calendars for the food bank and gathering toys for the Salvation Army. The gift of giving is an important part of our school vision and the pupils are always extremely keen to help wherever possible. It'll soon be time to rummage through the wardrobe and pull out those winter knits, ready for Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 12th December. All money raised on the day goes to 'Save the Children' and our jumper swap ensures no garment is ever wasted or thrown away. Year 6 will soon be warming their festive vocal chords and carol singing at Holly Bank Residential Home and we have recently enrolled in a Community Come Dancing project organised by the 'Dignity in Dementia' charity. I knew those hours of watching Strictly wouldn't be wasted!

The FOANS group are extremely busy preparing for the forthcoming wreath making sessions and Mrs Sharp has produced several wonderful 'here are some I prepared earlier' examples to inspire everyone to get creative. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Deborah Lancaster for her expert floristry advice and Jamie Smith his hard work and donations of greenery. A fantastic team effort from all involved. Excitement is already building for our Christmas Social on Friday 6th December, 5.00pm – 7.00pm. The Year 6 are currently designing their festive games for everyone to enjoy and our craft week will help to decorate the school. The Social is a wonderful mixture of games, raffles, festive refreshments, crafts and a great chance to meet up with friends, family, members of the local community and maybe Santa if you're lucky.

Our Carol Service will take place on Thursday 19th December, 6.00pm at St James' Church and it is always a lovely time to join together for a selection of carols, readings and festive fun. As with every event, all are welcome to attend – we'd love to see you there. To end the term, staff will be taking all the pupils to watch Mother Goose at Lancaster Grand theatre; a wonderful occasion to laugh, smile and enjoy a special moment before the holidays begin.

On behalf of all at Arnside National School, may your family time be sprinkled with festive magic and your new year be full of new adventures. It's time to shine...

Take care, Mr Sharp.