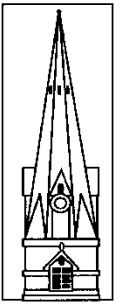


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'



Friendship ● Forgiveness ● Creativity ● Courage ● Respect ● Responsibility ● Trust ● Tenacity

Headteacher: Mrs V Clarke Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Noblet

Thursday 19th December 2024

Head Teacher's Message

Merry Christmas! That's it for the autumn term this year and what a fantastic one it's been! We've had a very busy run up to the Christmas break and we have fully embraced the Christmas spirit this week. Thank you to everyone for supporting the various different events both staff and families – we have certainly finished the term on a high! I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas time with loved ones and I hope that you all take some time to rest and think about what the true message of Christmas really is.

Have a wonderful new year and I look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Have a lovely Christmas, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: Explorers class has had an action-packed few weeks leading up to Christmas, full of memorable experiences and festive cheer. Our adventure began with an exciting trip to the ice show in Blackburn, where the children enjoyed watching the performance and seeing Santa and the Grinch! Explorers also brought the magic of Christmas to life with Discoverers class by performing three Nativity plays for an eager audience, showcasing their enthusiasm for singing. To add to the festive spirit, we enjoyed a fun-filled Santa Dash, followed by a lively Christmas party and a visit to church for the annual Christingle service. Throughout all these activities, Explorers class truly shone, demonstrating excellent behaviour and making the school proud.

Let's talk: What was your favourite festive activity and why?

Discoverers: Discoverers have had a fantastic end to the autumn term. We have recapped on lots of learning in maths and have really focused on dividing and fractions in Year 2, making sure we split them into equal groups. In Year 1 we have worked hard on our subtracting skills even when the equals sign is in a different place. We finished off learning about good news in RE by performing our nativity with Explorers class. We thought about each different scene in the Nativity story, especially the role of the angels in delivering good news.

Let's Talk: If Santa shares 15 presents between 3 children how many will they get each?

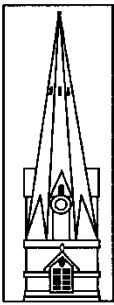
Adventurers: Adventurers have finished the Autumn term having a tea party. Thank you to everyone who supported this and made it a great celebration of our class book 'Cloud Tea Monkey'. The children have also been reading about Mr Penguin and his adventurers finding lost treasure in the Museum. We have also been busy making and building our pull back cars. What a great end to a very long term. Well done everyone.

Let's Talk: How did Mr Penguin and Colin find the mark to show where the treasure was?

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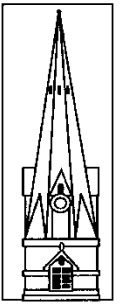
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Navigators: This week in Navigators, children have been completing their suitcase 'boxes' that were based on our English book. They have enjoyed writing poems, recipes for a happy life as well as circles of similarities. They will be bringing these boxes home to share with you. In our computing unit this half term, we have been learning about computers of the past and this week we explored the computers of the future. They designed their own computer and learnt how to record their voices to create an advert for it.

Let's talk: What is your favourite memory from your childhood?

Pathfinders: In Pathfinders, we have enjoyed reading the book *'The Polar Express'* and the poem *'T'was The Night before Christmas'*. We have been working with negative numbers and solving problems using place value in maths. We made some lovely bauble Christmas cards which we hope you love and had a fun Christmas party on Wednesday. We've also had a lot of fun singing Christmas songs.

Let's talk: Why not ask your child if they can remember their favourite part of the poem?

Space Day in Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5/6 recently had an exciting STEM day with a live workshop led by the Royal Air Force. The session explored the forces behind rocket launches and examined various rocket designs. The children worked enthusiastically to design, build and launch their own rockets, showcasing creativity and teamwork throughout the day.

New member of staff

We are pleased to announce that we are going to be welcoming Mrs Watson to join our school team from after Christmas. As you know, Mrs. Devlin is going on maternity leave and Mrs Watson will be her replacement whilst Mrs. Devlin is looking after her new bundle of joy! Our previous appointment for this post has taken up an employment opportunity elsewhere and so we are really looking forward to working with Mrs. Watson in the New Year.

Car park safety

We have had some concerns raised regarding children not being supervised as they leave the school car park. An accident was narrowly avoided when a car almost collided with a child just outside the car park entrance. The child had just run out without looking and their parent was not watching them. As the nights are drawing in along with the wet and wintry weather please can we ask that you supervise your children as you leave. Please can drivers also take care and drive slowly through the car park – we have noticed some excessive speeds recently. Thank you.

Christingle Service

Our Ethos group led school in a festive Christingle service and thank you to Mrs. Noblet, Reverend Hannah and Reverend Danny in their support for organising the event. It is always a special time to be able to take everyone from school to All Saint's church and thank you to all of the parents who helped with walking and attended the service to show their support too.

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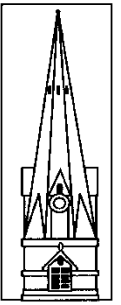
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Christmas Ice Show

We had an amazing time at Planet Ice last Wednesday, enjoying the story of Aladdin on ice. The children were brilliant and it's great that we can all go out as a school family to be able to not only celebrate Christmas, but have a well-deserved treat for the hard work this term. Thank you to everyone who contributed to fund the trip – it wouldn't have been possible without it.

Christmas Nativity

Thank you so much to all our of Early Years and KS1 staff who helped to put on the wonderful 'Higher Walton Nativity!'. The children were so confident up on the stage and it was lovely to see everyone in their fantastic Christmas costumes.

Santa Dash

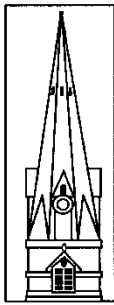
Luckily the rain stayed away and we were all able to get outside for our very first Higher Walton Santa Dash! Thank you to Coach Nathan for being our 'Rudolf' and Miss Havery for being our 'Santa' and running around with the children and to the PTFA for arranging the hats, medals and treats. The school staff did a great job in organising the event which we hope will now become a regular feature on our school Christmas calendar.

PTFA

Our PTFA would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for their support this year. In the New Year they will be busy planning more fun events.

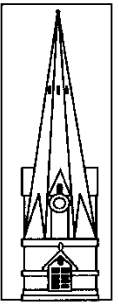
If anyone would like to join the PTFA, or help out at events, please get in touch by Facebook or email - higherwaltonptfa@gmail.com. The committee are currently in need of a new treasurer. If you think you can support them with this role, please attend the next meeting on Tuesday 14th January at 2.15pm when elections will be taking place or get in touch.

The PTFA also pass on their thanks to all the staff for their support this year - the events wouldn't go ahead if we didn't all work together!



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Weekly awards

Week ending: 29 th November 2024			Week ending: 6 th December 2024			Week ending: 13 th December 2024		
	Star of the Week	VIP		Star of the Week	VIP		Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Bobby-Jo	Hallie & Bobbie F (Discoverers)	Explorers	Noah	Eligh, Louie & Jack	Explorers	Nathaniel	Whole class
Discoverers	Jorgie	Vanessa	Discoverers	Jamie	Autumn & Amelia	Discoverers	Whole class	Raine
Adventurers	Charlie	Cooper	Adventurers	Luna	Freya	Adventurers	Olivia	Skylar
Navigators	Arthur	Millie	Navigators	Eddie	Willow	Navigators	Ella-Mae	Sofia
Pathfinders	Ethan	Emily-Sue	Pathfinders	Mia	Nicole	Pathfinders	Coby	Max & Ethan
Girls Football	Nicole, Karis, Heidi, Poppy, Sofia, Millie, Chloe and Ella-Mae							

Attendance

Week ending 29 th November 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	96%	82%	96%	93%	94%
Lates	1.92%	1.43%	1.15%	2%	0.59%
Well done Explorers and Adventurers classes with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 6 th December 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	95%	96%	95%	92%	97%
Lates	4%	1%	3%	1.50%	0.59%
Well done Pathfinders class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

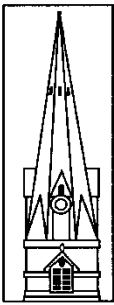
Week ending 13 th December 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	96%	90%	96%	95%	88%
Lates	0.95%	1.43%	2.69%	1%	0.59%
Well done Explorers and Adventurers classes with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 19 th December 2024	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 21 on roll	Adventurers 26 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	91%	94%	90%	96%	95%
Lates	5%	3%	3.37%	0.63%	0.74%
Well done Navigators class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

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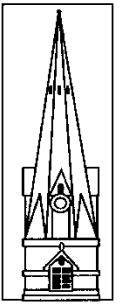
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This week's reminder

On each newsletter we will now focus on a specific reminder which is having an impact on school or our children, and would ask for your support in helping with the smooth running of our school.

Payments: Please ensure that you use the correct item in the shop for your payments as using other items causes errors on our finance system.

ParentMail app: Our ParentMail account statistics show that only 89% of parents are using the mobile app. We would like to get this to 100% to ensure you do not miss important messages and emails. The app is free to download and we would encourage you set up notifications so you never miss a message from school!

Diary dates

You can now find all the diary dates and holiday lists on our website. Reminders and updates are as follows:-

Thursday 19 th December	School closes for the Christmas break
Monday 6 th January 2025	School re-opens – spring term 1
Wednesday 8 th January 2025	Year 3/4 continue swimming until February half term
Tuesday 14 th January 2025	PTFA meeting – all welcome – 2.15pm
Friday 17 th January 2025	Y5/6 Crucial Crew event (morning)
Tuesday 21 st January 2025	AIM High writing day 4 x Y3/4 children - invites to follow
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Valentine's Disco – details to follow
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Year 5 and Year 6 class worship – 9am - parents welcome
Friday 14 th February 2025	School closes for half term break
Monday 24 th February 2025	School re-opens – spring term 2

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