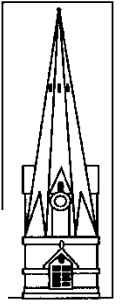




# Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

**'Life in all its fullness'**



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

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon and I hope that you have all enjoyed a good start to the new month of December and the season of Advent. I feel like we can officially mention the word 'Christmas' without it feeling too soon! We have begun our journey through the Christmas story and shared the value of 'joy' this week. We read the story about how the angels made an appearance to the shepherds first, to share the news of a new 'messiah' that had been born in Bethlehem and how this was a most 'joyous' event. The children talked about all the 'joyous' things that we look forward to at Christmas and we all agreed that most importantly it was a time to share with family and loved ones. I'm sure that your children would love to ask you the question, 'What does Christmas mean to you?' All of our children have been to All Saint's Church this week to visit their interactive Nativity experience 'Journey to Bethlehem'.

As Christmas approaches, we have a number of events going on in school. Please make sure that you have the dates in your diaries and we look forward to welcoming you into school, for the run up to one of the most exciting times of the school year.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. Clarke ☺

## Class News

**Explorers:** This week, the children in Explorers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the church where they had the opportunity to explore the beautiful Nativity scene set up by Reverend Hannah and Reverend Dan. In Art, the children have been focusing on creating and decorating salt dough Christmas decorations as part of the ongoing festive theme. Soon they will be dry and ready to take home and hang on their tree. The children have also been busy practicing songs in preparation for their upcoming Nativity performance next week!

Let's Talk: What was your favourite part of your visit to church?

**Discoverers:** Discoverers have had a very busy week rehearsing for the nativity play. We can't wait to show you all our hard work! We have been working on being able to tell the time in maths and have loved knowing what time lunchtime is on the clock. In science we have been learning a song all about materials and their properties.

Let's Talk: What is your favourite fact about Mary Anning?

**Adventurers:** This week Adventurers have been busy completing their Autumn term assessment. They have all worked very hard and have impressed Mrs Clayton with their efforts. In History we have been finishing off our adventure with Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica. In English the class have been collecting information about tea;

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including who produces the most tea in the world, what different types of tea there are and what conditions are best for tea to grow. Year 4s have been learning about properties of 3D shapes and have learned about the strongest shape in the world.

Let's Talk: What is the name of the strongest 3D shape?

**Navigators:** This week in English we have been writing diary entries as if we are the main character of our class novel '*Some places more than others*'. We have been working hard at including emotions and time adverbials to make our writing more interesting. In maths, we have been learning how to order fractions when the denominators are different and in History we are focusing on balanced arguments about the Vikings. We have ended the week by taking part in a STEM day where we designed, made, and tested our own rockets.

Let's talk: Is it fair to call Vikings 'Brutal Invaders'?

**Pathfinders:** This week we have been writing some fantastic group poems about our family roots and what they mean to us. In maths, we have been reading and solving problems with charts and graphs and we had lots of fun in our maths workshop. We have been writing a balanced viewpoint about the Vikings in history and went to church to explore the Journey to Bethlehem. It was amazing!

Let's talk: Can your child remember the difference between continuous data and discrete data.

### Christmas fair

A huge thank you to the PTFA for the fantastic Christmas fair last Saturday, a total of over £500 was raised! Thank you also, to all of our staff who helped decorate school on Friday and then attended the fair on the Saturday to help out too. Great fun was had by all and it was lovely to see so many of our families in attendance.

### Girl's football

Our girl's football team have played tremendously well over the last few weeks and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the overall South Ribble competition! This is an incredible achievement for a small school and we are very proud of the great sportsmanship and tenacity that the girls showed each week. A huge thank you also to Mrs. Proctor for supporting the girls each week and to Mrs. Rourke and the parents for helping out with transport when needed!

### Christmas Ice Show

We are all very excited to be going to be going to 'Planet Ice' for the Christmas show next Wednesday. The children will be having an early lunch and then returning to school for home time at 3.30pm. This is a well-deserved treat for everyone in our school who has worked so hard this term to learn new things!

### Christmas nativity

Our school nativity is being held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and 5.00pm and our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 families will be allocated two tickets per family for each performance. The children are busy rehearsing and can't wait to be up on the stage in their special costumes. We are asking the children to be back in school 4.30pm to be ready for a prompt start of 5.00pm for the evening show. We look forward to seeing you all then!

### Christmas dinner day and Christingle

Christmas dinner day is Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is invited to wear their Christmas jumpers and non-uniform to school. We look forward to sharing a 'school family' Christmas dinner with music and fun for everyone. We will also be going to All Saint's Church at 1.30pm (walkers much appreciated – please meet at school at 1.10pm) for our annual Christingle service. All welcome!

## Weekly awards

Due to IT issues, we were unable to gather the attendance data from our management system. We will send these out on Monday along with details of our award winners.

## 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.

## Diary dates to the end of the year

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

NEW Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Website photography day – smart uniforms please. PE uniforms if your child has PE on this day.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school visit to Aladdin on Ice
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 2pm and 5pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash – details to follow
NEW Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service at All Saints Church 1.30pm – details to follow
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady concert 2.45pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for the Christmas break
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	School re-opens – spring term
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 3/4 continue swimming until February half term