



Autumn Term Newsletter

20th December 2024



Dear Parents / Carers,

A warm welcome to our autumn term newsletter. As ever, the autumn term has been a busy one. All pupils have been on a school trip and many classes have welcomed in specialist visitors to enhance their learning experiences. This term, we have offered a wide range of after school clubs for pupils to participate in, ranging from cooking to gardening, as well as sports including badminton and rugby. Pupils have participated in lots of different sporting events and festivals, and our talented musicians and singers have performed at a variety of events, including the wonderful series of Coffee and Carols sessions that have taken place over the last two weeks. Thank you for all your support this term.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Mrs Devine

Music

This has been another packed term for Music at Bill Quay! As well as our regular weekly music lessons, each class has performed over the past week for parents and carers, either at Coffee and Carols events for KS1 and KS2, or 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' for Reception Class. Our school choir now has almost half of KS2 in it, and has sung beautifully both at the Coffee and Carols events and also out in the community: at the Christingle on Sunday at Bill Quay Church and for older local residents at McErlane Square. They also recorded a special song for Remembrance Day, which showcased their lovely singing. Our recorder players and pianists have all performed beautifully too, and some of our Y6 pupils have sung very well indeed in pairs and small groups. Our guitarists all had the opportunity to play in our Music Assembly this half-term as well. We have enjoyed three live performances in school since half-term. We had a guitarist and singer from The International Guitar Federation who played and sang for us, and then Fellside Brass, a local brass quintet, came into school and gave us a fantastic concert and showed us what their brass instruments could really do. We're very excited that twelve of our pupils will be beginning to learn how to play brass instruments in January! Finally, this week we had the band from Gateshead Music Service to give us our annual Christmas Roadshow and get us all ready for our Christmas holidays. We've sung our carols and jingled our bells and are ready for a rest before we come back raring to go in January.



Sporting Successes



Our Y5/6 Girls Team performed brilliantly - well done, girls!

It has been a busy term for our various sports teams. Both our Y5/6 girls and boys football teams have taken part in various competitions throughout the term. Each team played very well and were great ambassadors for our school. Pupils in KS1 had a great time competing in a range of different athletics events and at a recent multi-skills festival, they participated in a carousel of different activities.

Christmas Celebrations

Pupils have enjoyed a busy schedule of events in the lead up to Christmas and everyone is very much ready for the big day now. We made a wonderful start to the festive season with the spectacular display created in the foyer by Mrs McArdle, and it has been wonderful to see the hall packed for the Reception nativity and the various 'Coffee and Carol' services. At our annual Christmas Fayre, it was great to see the children enjoying all of the various activities and this valuable fundraising event raised a grand total of £1,900! A huge thank you to everyone who generously gave up their time to help with running the stalls. We are extremely grateful to a parent who has worked with us to provide matched funding from Barclays bank.



Reception



Reception enjoyed a fantastically festive trip to Hall Hill Farm recently. They had a super time visiting Santa, feeding the animals and having a chilly tractor ride.

Year 1



Year 1 had a great time watching 'Wolf' at the Northern Stage. In fact, they said it was the best thing they had ever watched! High praise indeed.

Year 2



Year 2 pupils were very excited to receive a letter from the North Pole! Unfortunately, Santa was feeling poorly and so he asked if the children could be his elves for the day. They had great fun helping Santa to complete all his jobs and Santa had a good rest, meaning that he is well and ready for the big day now.

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Year 3



Children made their own sweet mince pies as part of their D&T topic this term. They really enjoyed designing their own topping for their mince pie and let their creativity shine.

Year 4



Year 4 were posed the question 'Who changed Britain the most - the Romans, Anglo-Saxons or Vikings?' and spent this term on an exciting quest to learn about the impact of the various invaders and settlers on our isles. They have enjoyed lots of enrichment opportunities to help them come to their decision, including a trip to Arbeia, a Roman fort, and the low down on Vikings from 'That History Bloke'.

Year 5

Year 5 had a wonderful visit to the Centre for Life in Newcastle. Some of the pupils ice skated for the first time and they had



lots of fun investigating the different areas of the museum. They also enjoyed a fantastic Planetarium experience that showed them the different constellations in the night sky. It was a brilliant experience for everyone - including staff members.

Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic trip to Discovery Museum.

They enjoyed three workshops where they learned about rationing, life on the home front and major bombing disasters during the Second World War.



The **Bill Quay Bulletin** is a great way to find out what has been happening in and around school each month. Find it [here](#) on our website.