



Autumn Term Newsletter

21st December 2023



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our autumn term newsletter, and as ever, it's been a busy term with lots happening in and around school. We know how important it is for each child to access the curriculum in different ways, and in order to support this, each class has been on a school trip and many classes have welcomed in visitors to enhance their learning experiences. We 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 carols and coffee mornings that have taken place over the last two weeks. Thank you for all your support this term.

We wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Mrs Devine

Music

We've done lots of music right across the school this half-term, with much singing and many instruments being played! Year 5 and Year 6 have been learning to play the ukulele in class, and Year 4 had their first taste of playing the recorder. Year 3 composed some amazing tunes using rhythms and sounds inspired by the Aborigines, and Years 1 and 2 presented a brilliant Harvest Festival at Bill Quay Church, which included a very enthusiastic retelling of 'The Little Red Hen'! Reception class performed some of their songs for grown-ups before the half-term holiday, and have worked very hard on their lovely Nativity play this half-term, which they performed last week. All of KS1 and KS2 have practised singing their Christmas songs and have performed for audiences over the past ten days. Our school choir is



now the biggest it's ever been, with over one-third of KS2 pupils coming to rehearse each Friday evening, and they have done a super job performing at our Coffee and Carols events as well as going to sing out and about in the community. Our guitarists and pianists continue to work hard too - we're very proud of all of our music-making at Bill Quay!

Sporting Successes

Our sports teams have been amazing so far this term. Both our girls and boys have taken part in various football competitions, with our Y5/6 boys football team making it to the final of the Autumn Cup. This match was postponed because of the weather, and we hope it will take place early in the New Year. Children in EYFS took part in a multi-skills festival, and we look forward to more sporting success next term!



Our children looked very smart in their new tag rugby kit recently.

Christmas Celebrations

School has been bustling with activity in the run up to Christmas and we are all very much ready for the big day now! It has been wonderful to see the hall packed for the Reception nativity and the various carol and coffee services. It was our annual Christmas Fayre last week and it was great to see the children enjoying all of the various activities with their grown ups. School fayres are valuable fundraising events and we are delighted to say that this year's fayre raised a grand total of £2,126! A huge thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and PTA members who generously gave up their time to help with running the stalls and serving refreshments at our Christmas events.



Reception



Reception enjoyed a fantastically festive trip to Hall Hill Farm recently. They saw some dancing reindeer, visited the animals, rode in a tractor and even got to meet Santa!

Year 1



Year 1 have been working so hard this term, learning all of the traditional tales and nursery rhymes. They have looked at Jack and the beanstalk, the piper and many others. As a little treat, they went and

watched 'The Three Bears' at the Northern stage.

Year 2

During their 'Flight' topic, Year 2 visited the Sunderland Air Museum. The children had a great time learning about the different types of aircraft, as well as getting to sit inside some of them! During history sessions, they learnt about the Wight Brothers and Emilia Earhart, and even managed to find a replica of her plane at the museum. They have also studied the moon landing, Amy Johnson and Bessie Colman. What a busy term!



Year 3



As part of their D&T topic this term, the children have made their own sweet mince pies. They sampled many different types and designed their own topping. They were very creative!

Year 4

Year 4 have learnt all about the impact of the various invaders and settlers on our isles, and have pondered the question 'Who changed Britain the most - the Romans, Anglo-Saxons or Vikings. 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 have really enjoyed PE lessons this half term. They took part in a taster session for fencing and there are some budding musketeers in the class!



They also developed their rugby skills and in the weekly swimming sessions, everyone is making great progress towards their goals. Lots of children have

recently completed Bikeability sessions and can now ride confidently and safely in the community.

Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring different ways to keep safe this term. They have visited SafetyWorks to learn about staying safe in the water, the consequences of shoplifting and arson, and the importance of being visible on dark nights. They also had a pedestrian training session where they reviewed how to cross the road safely at junctions, and between parked vehicles. As part of their PSHE and history lessons, they learned about prejudice and discrimination through the Anne Frank Trust workshop and the impact that this had during the Second World War and continues to have in the world today. They have also been lucky enough to take part in a cybersafety "Play in a Day" where they have learned about how to stay safe online whilst also performing their play to KS2 pupils and parents. A very busy term!

