



Friday 19th Dec 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,
As you know we've had a very busy term here at school.

Due to the wonderful support we've received from yourselves we've been able to help a number of charities including Macmillan and Children in Need, we were also able to make a substantial contribution to the FEED project due to your generous food donations to help those less fortunate.

Your support at our Christmas Fayre was overwhelming and we were able to raise £1,500. These funds will help us to provide children with a range of learning experiences both in and out of school over the Spring Term.

We really appreciate all the support and help you've given us this term - thank you!

Have a very special Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



KS2 Christmas Carol Service

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

It certainly was on Monday morning when the pupils from KS2 performed at St Cuthbert's Church. The children enjoyed singing a range of contemporary and traditional Christmas carols and songs. They performed beautifully! A special thanks to Mrs Kelly for organising the performance, Reverend Elaine for allowing us to perform in the church and everyone who came to offer their support to the children!

Forest School



The children have had a fantastic time spending the Tesco grant money and using it to build our very own Forest School site. We have used reclaimed wood to make a seating area, a fire pit, a log store and even an outdoor classroom area with seating for a full class. Children from across the school were involved in planning the area, and a group of children from Year 3 helped with the actual building work. They hammered in the nails themselves and even used power tools (under close supervision!) The area is now ready for use - we look forward to seeing more children using it next year.



Down at the Farm



This term Reception have been to visit Santa Claus 'Down at the Farm'. The children experienced a ride on the tractor as well as seeing Santa's reindeers, his donkey and rabbits. Whilst on the trip the children decorated baubles, wrote letters to Santa and even sang Christmas songs to Santa, not forgetting our Nativity songs. Santa was very impressed!

Reception have been reading the Jolly Postman this term, they have enjoyed writing and sending their letters and cards in the Post Office role play. Once we had created our Christmas cards, we had a walk to the Post Box to post our cards to our families; we even saw the postman.

Dene House Primary School Choir on Tour

KS2 choir have had a very busy season and it's not over yet! With rehearsals twice a week at lunchtimes and leading the singing in the Carol Service for parents, it can be very tiring. However, I am pleased to say that all the hard work has paid off with successful visits to Bannatyne Lodge and Jack Dormand residential homes. The children sang, recited poetry and had a lovely time chatting with the residents. They were also rewarded with refreshments which were much appreciated. On Sunday, some of the choir attended a carol service at St. Cuthbert's Church with wonderful support from friends and family. The final performance for the season was at Castle Dene Shopping Centre, supporting the RNIB - the children raised a wonderful £126 to support the charity! I would like to thank all of the children who attended rehearsals and performed at the various venues - you really did make us very, very proud! I'd also like to say a very special thank you to Mrs Kelly and Mrs Cook for all of their hard work and dedication!



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity



The children in very, very hard Christmas Nativity'. All the practising the focussed on developing their



KS1 and Reception worked to prepare for their Performance - 'The children had great fun songs, whilst Year 2 learning their lines and acting skills. Thank you to



all the families who came to watch the performance and support the school. The performances have been spectacular and they have really got everybody in the Christmas spirit, what a wonderful way to end the term. Well done KS1 and Reception!

A Visit from Santa and the Blackberry Donkeys



Reception and KS1 children had a wonderful visit from Blackberry Donkeys. A special guest visited too, Santa! The children had a ride on Sox and Bandit and chatted with Santa about what they would like for Christmas. They all promised Santa they had been good and when he checked his list, they had been.

Decorating the Tree at St. Cuthbert's

Year 1 children made decorations for the tree decorating at St Cuthbert's Church. A group of them took their creations to the church and decorated a tree for our school. The tree looks amazing and the children were very proud of their achievements. They had a treat of juice and biscuits after their hard work and had lots of questions about the church especially the big pipes of the organ.



Centre 4 Life



Key Stage 1 had an amazing day at the Centre for Life. They were there to learn more about how animals have adapted to live and survive in the Polar Regions. The children carried out an experiment to find out which animals were best adapted to survive in the cold weather. Each child wore a special glove which represented the fur of different animals including a cat, an otter, a lizard, a human and a polar bear. Then they had to plunge their covered hand into an ice bucket!!

Brrrrr! The results showed that a Polar Bear with their layer of blubber were best adapted to survive in such harsh weather. They then carried out an experiment using thermometers to find out how penguins stay warm in their huddle. The children also had some extra time to explore the rest of the Life Centre and watch a science show. The children were so well behaved that the staff commented on their "....wonderful manners and excellent behaviour." They made us super proud!



Facebook

Please remember to join our closed facebook page so you will be able to share in the children's fun learning experiences in the new year and keep up to date with events!