

Parkhead Community Primary School

Weekly News Bulletin



Be kind. Be ambitious. Be the best you can be!

Issue Number 12 : Friday 29th November 2024

This week, we started our week off with our assemblies led by Reverend Alison, where she talked to the children about what advent means to Christians. She explained how it is the start of the Christian year and how it is a time for Christians to enjoy time with their families and friends. Reverend Alison showed us a picture of an Advent wreath, explaining that there are four candles around the outside and a further candle in the middle. She talked us through how the outer candles are lit each Sunday during Advent, with each one representing something different; hope, joy, peace and love, and how the final candle in the middle is lit on Christmas day. It is always lovely to welcome Reverend Alison into our school. In a few weeks' time, our wonderful Year 3 and Year 4 children will be popping up to see her at church to take part in various activities to further their understanding of what Christmas means to Christians. We also have our KS2 Christmas Carol Service at the church during the last week of the school term.

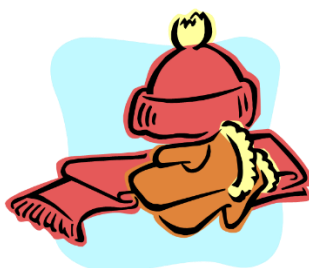


On Thursday, our fantastic Year 3 and Year 4s were out of school visiting Beamish. Throughout the day, their behaviour was exemplary. They had lots of fun exploring Beamish and taking part in a workshop all about electricity generation, where they looked at steam turbines, wind turbines and solar power and found out lots about inventors from the past. A great day was had by all!

As it is turning colder, please remind your children that they need to bring in their hats, gloves and coats. Mr Robson has already started to grit pathways when needed. Please do stick to the gritted pathways. We have a gritting policy and emergency procedures which will be instigated in bad weather. Our gritting plan is copied on page 7 below for you so you are reliably informed and can keep to the safe pathways.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Chard



ASDA REWARDS:

We now have a massive £546 in our Asda Rewards Cashpot. Tomorrow is the last day for adding to the cashpot. Thanks to everyone for your support with raising as much as possible for our school.



CHRISTMAS:

It is that exciting time of year where we have a whole range of Christmas activities on offer for both the children in school and parents/carers. We also do like to spread a bit of glitter around school! Please see below for all of our dates and save them in your diary. If you are unsure of which dates apply for your child, please contact the school office who will be more than happy to help you out.

We are currently looking for donations of tinsel and plastic tree decorations. If you have any spare, that you no longer need, please send them into the main school office as this will help us out with various Christmas activities.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

Our Christmas lunch day at school will be on 11th December. **If your child would like a Christmas lunch, please order by Wednesday 4th December on School hub.**

**Christmas
Dinner**

PUNCTUALITY:

From September, our gate opening times changed to a five minute window in order to get the children into school and learning started straight away. Thank you to everyone for supporting us with ensuring a smooth transition into school. Please remember the gates close promptly at 8.45 every morning for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 8.50 for Key Stage 2. Being late for school can get your child off to a bad start, cause your child to fall behind with their work and may be embarrassing for them walking into the class in the middle of a lesson.

Lateness = Lost learning

Each minute of school missed is a minute of your child's education. Persistent lateness can add up to days of learning lost over a school year as shown below:

5 minutes late each day	=	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	=	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	=	10 days lost
20 minutes late each day	=	13 days lost
30 minutes late each day	=	19 days lost

READING WORKSHOPS:

Thanks to all of the Year 1 parents/carers who joined us this week to take part in a phonics session. The children loved having you in school, showing you how good they are at reading, talking, reading words and using their tiles to make words. We are all super proud of how much progress they are all making with their phonics. If your child is in Year 2, you should now have your date and time for coming into school to take part in a reading session. We are looking forward to you joining us.



VISITORS IN SCHOOL:

This week, we welcomed Dentists Emma and Tom into school. They worked with children in Year 4 to support their learning in science. They discussed the importance of keeping our teeth clean and how often we should clean them. All children really enjoyed the session and asked lots of interesting questions.

In Year 6, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Hill, a parent and Governor. Mr Hill shared his passion for music with the class. He has a rich history in music, having played the drums in his own band before dedicating his time to teaching workshops in schools. His experiences travelling to various countries to share and expand his musical knowledge have been inspiring. His visit was both inspirational and educational for our Year 6 children and they thoroughly enjoyed it.



We are always trying to look for opportunities to develop the 'Be Ambitious' part of our motto so if any other parents or family members would like to talk to the children about their jobs and careers then please contact us.

SPARE MATERIALS:

As part of our Design and Technology we need different materials and fabrics of different patterns and colours, such as bed sheets. We would appreciate any donations if you have anything like this that you no longer need. Please send them to the school office who will give to our DT lead.

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WINTER RUNDERLAND

We are taking part in the Winter RUNDERLAND challenge this December. This is a Christmas themed, physical activity challenge set by the Gateshead School Sports Partnership for schools in Gateshead. The aim is for children to take part in as much physical activity as possible to earn carrots to feed the reindeers, which will give them enough energy to travel around the world. There will be a treat for the winning class at the end of the challenge. Good luck everyone!



SCHOOL CHOIR:

Miss Brown and some of our Year 3 and Year 4s will be popping over to Winton Court at some point over the next couple of weeks to sing some Christmas songs for the residents, who we know will absolutely love listening to their beautiful voices. It is always great getting our children out and about in the community.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS:

Next week, we are hosting our Christmas crafts sessions for parents/carers with children in Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. It will be great to see as many of you as possible in school. Please remember to sign up for the session via operoo. It is always a lovely time to come into school.



COSY CHRISTMAS DAY:

Next Friday, all of the children will be having a cosy Christmas pyjama day, where they can come into school wearing either pyjamas, onesies, dressing gowns or cosy non uniform such as jogging bottoms and a top. They can also bring slippers to change into when indoors. **This time, we won't be allowing football strips as non-uniform.** During the day, the children will complete various Christmas / winter crafts and they will get to watch a nice Christmas themed film.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Please see the dates section for the date of your child's Christmas party. Children can bring their party clothes in a named bag to hang on their peg to change into for the afternoon. As part of the party children will receive a small treat, play games and have a dance.

PANTO FOR KEY STAGE 1:

This year, we are extremely lucky to have Gateshead College students coming into school next week to deliver a pantomime to our children in Key Stage 1. We are all looking forward to this event.

WINTER RAFFLE:

❄️ We hope you've all enjoyed seeing our snowman this week! ❄️

If you would like to enter the Winter raffle, look out for Mrs Hawthorn or Mrs Lennox who will be with him on different gates over the next couple of weeks so don't worry if you've missed him.

Prizes include Newcastle match tickets for Boxing day, £50 Amazon voucher, 1 free ride for Go Karting, Tattoo voucher, Ring door bell, an Alexa, Christmas hampers, chocolate and cuddly toy hampers and many more! £1 per strip.



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SAFEGUARDING:

Many cars are being parked on the double yellow lines and zig zag lines outside of our school. Unfortunately, this week we have had a couple of near misses at both drop off and pick up times. Cars are also being parked half on the path which is making it extremely difficult for people with buggies or in wheelchairs to get by safely or at all, forcing them into the road. Please be courteous and think carefully about where to park.

Northumbria police regularly provide updates and information to schools to share with parents/carers. Their focus for this update is on county lines and child exploitation. If you would like to find out more, please see our website for further information. <https://parkhead-community-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/safeguarding/>

FunClub



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 3 rd Dec	2.15	Y3/4 Christmas crafts with parents
Thurs 5 th Dec	2.15	Y5/6 Christmas crafts with parents
Fri 6 th Dec		Cosy Christmas day – trees up
Tues 10 th Dec	9.15	Y3/4 Christmas singing concert
	2.00	Reception Christmas Nativity
Wed 11 th Dec		Christmas dinner day and festive wear
	11.00	Nursery Christmas sing a long
	2.30	Nursery Christmas sing a long
Thurs 12 th Dec	2.00	KS1 Christmas performance (only need to attend one)
Fri 13 th Dec	9.30	KS1 Christmas performance (only need to attend one)
Tues 17 th Dec	9.15	KS2 Carol Service
	2.00	Y3/4 Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Wed 18 th Dec	2.00	Nur/Rec Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Thurs 19 th Dec	2.00	KS1 and Y5/6 Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Fri 20 th Dec		Last day of term
		Mon 6th Jan - Back to school



Term dates:

Spring Term		
Start of Term	Half term	Last day of term
Mon 6 January 2025	Mon 24 February - Fri 28 February 2025	Fri 11 April 2025
SCHOOL CLOSED: training day Friday 21 February 2025		
Summer Term		
Start of Term	Half term	Last day of term
Mon 28 April 2025	Mon 26 May - Fri 30 May 2025	Fri 18 July 2025
SCHOOL CLOSED: Bank holiday Mon 5 May 2025 and Occasional day Mon 2 June 2025		

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KLUBZ After School Focussed Activity Timetable – Week Commencing Monday 2nd December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Design your own card	Advent promises	Clay tree decorations	Christmas paper chains	Rudolph biscuits

**** Please note that after school Klubz will only be open until 4.30pm on Friday 20th December ****

Star of the week

Class	Star
Seedlings	Kayla-Rae
Acorns	Finley
Saplings	Archie
Beech	Oliver
Elm	Calvin
Willow	Renee
Cherry	Noah
Spruce	Aaron
Maple	Lillie
Birch	Cole
Cedar	Alyssa
Pine	Dlovan

Mrs Chard's Stars of the week	
Early Years	Franky B
Key Stage 1	Evie T
Key Stage 2	Connie T Riley A



Parkhead Community Primary School is a safeguarding school and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services.

SCHOOL GRITTING:

- Please ensure your child comes to school with sensible shoes, a warm coat as well as a hat, scarf and gloves on cold, wintery days. We still try to get children out at playtime whenever it is safe to do so. Children who bring wellies are able to enjoy the snow without having wet feet for the rest of the day. These can be changed in and out of at break and lunchtimes.
- During icy weather and light snow, the Site Manager will grit the school automatically each day between 6.00 – 8.00am every morning as shown on **Plan A** below. This policy for snow and ice clearance is based on a priority for ensuring the school site remains open but safe at all times for staff and pupils throughout periods of inclement weather.
- If the weather is more severe i.e. heavy snow, school leaders will endeavour to make a decision as early as possible on the safety of the site for staff and pupils. We will always try to remain open to pupils and to ensure the safety of everyone we open only the entrance and exit routes in extreme weather as outlined on **plan B** below.
- In the event of extreme weather and an unavoidable school closure due to health and safety, parents will be notified by email, Facebook notification and an alert on the school website. Please support us by sharing these important notifications.
- Gateshead Council announce school closures on their website.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

