



Autumn News 2



Harvest Festival

A huge thank you, once again for your generosity in providing donations for 'The



People's Kitchen'. In preparation for their Year Group Worship, some of our Year 5 children visited the People's Kitchen to see what happens to the food we donate and got to meet the volunteers, who work hard to ensure that there is a warm meal and a friendly place available for the homeless on the streets of Newcastle.

Remembrance



Year 6 have taken charge of our Poppy Appeal this year as part of their preparation for their Year Group Worship. They have been selling poppies in and around school and a group of children went down to Durham to sell them. Altogether an amazing £1048 was raised for the British Legion! Thank you to all who supported this good cause.

Children in Need



Friday 18th November is Children in Need Day- children may purchase a ticket for £1 to be entered in the raffle to win a Pudsey Bear- we have 31 to give away.

Charity of the Year

Our School Council arranged a hustings and subsequent vote for our 'Charity of the Year'. The successful charity was Guide Dogs UK- fundraising events will take place throughout the year.

Staffing Changes

We would like to welcome Mrs Van Lent and Mrs Williams onto our school staff. Mrs Van Lent is working in the infants and Mrs Williams will be working in the upper juniors replacing Mrs Patterson, who retired at half term. We would like to congratulate Miss Best on her wedding over half term. She is now called Mrs McNicholas.

E-Safety Message from Durham Local Authority



YouNow is a fairly new app that allows users over the age of 13 to stream live video and receive comments from viewers. Broadcasters (the children using the app) are encouraged to become popular and to create content that will attract more viewers. There is also a system for buying a currency to virtually tip broadcasters. Videos created could be copied and stored. Durham Police have been made aware as a result of an ongoing case that paedophiles may be encouraging children to expose themselves, and are then involved in swapping images generated. Further advice is available at <http://parentinfo.org/article/a-parents-guide-to-younow>. Parents of primary aged children will want to ensure that their children do not have access to this app and that older children are aware of the possible dangers.

Parent Voice

We value the views of all in our school community. An electronic survey for parents has been shared via Parentmail and will be available on our school website. You can also access the link by pasting the following into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9HKVT23>

There is also a survey relating to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability provision) on our school website for you to share your views on this specific area of school life.

Sporting News



Our football and netball teams have been in action this term with both performing well in their respective leagues and coming out as overall winners. Our Y4 enjoyed the recent Hockey Festival down at Maiden Castle.

Congratulations to all the junior children who ran in the inter-house cross country competition, winning valuable points for their team. Everilda was the winning team on the day! Our Year 4 children and our Cross Country Team put in a brave performance once again at the School Sports Partnership competition, with several of our children qualifying for the Durham County Final- a fantastic achievement! Good luck to our Girl's Football Team, who play for the first time this week.



International Work

After a successful 'European Day of Modern Languages' back in September, our international projects have continued with our Year 3 children sending and receiving Christmas cards and decorations from a variety of European countries. Miss Brockington has started a German Language Club and has arranged for a Mandarin Language Club to begin next week.

Due to an unforeseen clash, Christmas lunch has been changed to Friday 9th December- Children may wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day!



Fundraising Music Concert

Mr Maynard has arranged an exciting fundraising opportunity for our school on 24th November. Acts, who have previously appeared on the Voice and X-Factor, will perform at Durham Johnston School at 6.00. Tickets are available from the school office.



Diary Dates

- 24th November- Team Midas fund raising concert at Durham Johnston
- 30th November- Year 2 to St. John's Church to experience 'The Christmas Journey'
- Friday 2nd December- Friends of St. Margaret's Non-Uniform Day (Pyjamas)
- 8th December-9.30: Y1 Nativity/ 2pm: Reception Class Nativity
- 9th December-9.30: Reception Nativity/ 2pm: Year 1 Nativity
- 9th December- Christmas lunch
- 10th December- School Choir to sing in the NSPCC Concert in the Cathedral at 11am
- 13th December- Year 2 to sing at St. Margaret's Nursing Home
- 15th December- Year 3 Christmas Worship at 9.15
- 15th December – 2pm: Y2 Christingle

Christmas Party Dates

- Y5 and Infant party – Monday 12th December
- Y4 party– Tuesday 13th December
- Y3 party – Wednesday 14th December
- Y6 party- Thursday 15th December



Junior children come to school in their school uniforms and change at lunch time. Infant children will be doing Christmas activities all day so may come to school in their party clothes. Please ensure that footwear is appropriate for playing outside. Teachers will send out more information closer to the time about party food etc.