

NEWSLETTER

North Duffield Community Primary School
Growing Learners for Life



This term:

STAFF CHANGES

QUEEN ELIZABETH

BIKEABILITY

FALCONRY VISIT

OPEN EVENING

REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPORTING EVENTS

CHILDREN IN NEED

FRIENDS

SPECIAL LUNCHESES

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

COMMUNITY



Mr Russell's Update

Happy new year, we hope you had a good Christmas and new year celebrations. The end of term was an enjoyable one, but also tiring, the holiday came at the right time for all the children and staff. As we move into 2023 we have a couple of changes to staffing.

CLASS 2

Miss Kennard has left the school to take up a full time role closer to home. We wish her well and thank her for all her hard work whilst she was with us at North Duffield. Miss Taylor, who has been working in school for the past year, will be teaching the class on Thursday and Friday each week.

CLASS 4

We are pleased that Mr Stroyd is able to start teaching more, as he continues his recovery from Covid. Along with his current days, he will be adding a half day on Thursday afternoon. Miss Taylor will continue on a Tuesday until he is able to increase his days again and I will be covering Thursday morning this half term. Mr Stroyd and myself are positive about his recovery and hope he will be able to teach more throughout this term.

OFFICE

We have also had a change in the office. Mrs Dennison has left the school for a promotion to school business manager at Wheldrake School. Whilst it is a loss to the school we wish her well in her new job.

At the end of the year we employed Mrs Karbani to fill the role of School Business Manager. She will be working every morning. We have also recruited Mrs Hinchcliffe to form as an Admin Assistant in the office during the afternoon. We welcome them both to North Duffield.

Mr Russell's Update Cont...

ATTENDANCE

As part of the national attendance agenda, we sent out our procedures to ensure all children attend school regularly. Currently our whole school attendance is 95.06%, slightly below our 96% target. Whilst we are aware of a number of illnesses at the end of term we have a number of children whose attendance is below 90%. The school will contact parents to support and ensure this improves in the spring term.

SCHOOL TIMES

Last term we had a number of children who were late for school. School begins at 9am, gates open at 8:50 to allow time for an orderly entrance to school. We realise, due to unforeseen circumstances, you may be late. We request that if you will be arriving after 9am you let the school know via email or phone call and also let us know what your child is doing for lunch. All our meals are cooked fresh each day and to ensure we can cater and guarantee a school meal, dinners must be ordered no later than 9:30am.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We will be running a number of after school clubs again this term, more details will follow this week and how to sign up for one.

Queen Elizabeth II



We had a very sad start to the Autumn Term with the sudden passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We held a special assembly where the children watched a newsreel of Her Majesty's life and had the opportunity to ask any questions. We observed a minute's silence to commemorate the Queen and some children chose to leave messages of condolence in our memorial garden.

Following this incredibly historic occasion, we allowed our pupils to spend a little time each day following the procession from Balmoral to Westminster and the lying-in-state period. School was closed on Monday 19th September for the state funeral.



Bikeability

Our Year 6 pupils completed their Bikeability cycle training Levels 1 and 2 in September. They learnt about their equipment, how to manoeuvre, signalling and various practical on-road skills. They had to take a written test on general road safety and the Highway Code. We are very proud of them all and hope you see them using their newly gained techniques around the village.



Falconry

Class 1 were visited by SMJ Falconry and their wonderful array of birds of prey. The children met and handled Tawny, Tropical Screech, Long Eared and Barn Owls. They learnt all about these beautiful creatures and thoroughly enjoyed this hands on experience.



Open Evening



Thank you to everyone who attended our Open Evening in October. It was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for us to not only showcase our school to prospective parents, but also give our existing families the chance to see what their children have been learning. We know that many of our newer parents, who missed out on an open day due to lockdown, appreciated being able to explore the classrooms and our other facilities and gain a greater understanding of our curriculum. Please note that the deadline for applications for children starting school in September 2023 is 15th January.

Sporting Events

Children from across both key stage groups have attended a whole host of exciting sporting events over the last term. Year 2 kicked things off at Barlby High School's Multiskills Festival, where they took part in a wide range of different activities alongside other local primaries.



Class 3 then had a challenging workout at the CrossFit Games Event. This high-octane activity was a lot of fun for everyone involved and the pupils make us proud demonstrating their resilience and fantastic teamwork.



At the beginning of December it was Year 1's turn to learn some new skills playing dodgeball at Read School in Drax.

Remembrance Day

We held our annual Remembrance Service in school on 11th November. Some of our Year 6 pupils read the poem 'In Flanders Fields', this was followed by the official Landing Craft Association exhortation, with whom we have had a special relationship with for many years. The Last Post was then played before the whole school observed a two minute silence.



Every single pupil made their own poppy and placed them in our memorial garden. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who purchased a Royal British Legion poppy, we helped them raise £64.20, a great contribution.



Children In Need

Fundraising with Pudsey is always so much fun as well as being incredibly worthwhile. A large proportion of the children dressed up this year and many of you baked or donated treats for our popular charity cake stall. We raised a whopping £159.55 which we were delighted with, particularly in the current climate when times are tough for so many. This level of generosity really did surpass our expectations.



Friends



It was a very busy term for Friends of North Duffield School. They started the school year with the return of our much loved (and slightly delayed) Summer Fair in September. In October they held a Halloween costume and cake sale. November brought their AGM where they said goodbye to some long standing committee members and made exciting plans for 2023. They then ended the year in a flurry of activities with their ever popular Elf Shelf, incredible hamper raffle and refreshment stalls at both our Carol Concert and Nativity.

We would like to say a huge thank you for all of their hard work throughout the year and we know they appreciate the ongoing support from our school families. They will fill you in with details of their fundraising via their own newsletter shortly, but if you would like any further information or would be interested in getting involved please get in touch - new volunteers are always welcome.

Special Lunches

Mrs Langhan and Mrs Wass love to make dinnertimes special. Last term the children enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween lunch, an explosive Bonfire lunch, a Pudsey lunch for Children in Need and of course a delicious homemade Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, enjoyed by almost 150 children and staff!

We can't wait to see what they're cooking up for 2023.....



Christmas Activities

We never do things by halves when it comes to Christmas at North Duffield School and this year was no exception. The children participated in carol concerts, nativity plays, music assemblies, Elf Shelf, a Christingle service, parties, classroom festive activities, Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa himself. It was an exhausting but thoroughly exciting way to end a term of hard work and wonderful learning behaviour from our pupils.



North Yorkshire Music Services put on an inspiring festive assembly, demonstrating dozens of the instruments that children can learn in school. If your child is interested in taking music lessons please let us know.



Well done to all of our brave musicians and school choir who performed at our music assembly, it brings us a lot of joy to showcase our pupil's many talents.



It was so lovely being able to return to St Helen's in Skipwith for our Christingle service, after a three year break due to the pandemic. The children sang so well and the flickering candles were a magical sight. Thank you to so many of our families for attending this service.



Community News

North Duffield and the surrounding area are very important to us and we feel extremely fortunate to be part of such a special village. We would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who always help us to embrace and strengthen our community bonds.

Firstly our thanks to the parishioners from the Methodist Church, who come into school every month to hold an 'Open the Book' assembly. The children love participating in their bible stories which teach them important values such as forgiveness, kindness, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

We would also like to pass on our gratitude to North Duffield Short Mat Bowling Club who spent an afternoon teaching Class 5 some new skills - several of them showed real promise. Over the years numerous pupils have taken up the sport after one of these sessions, so watch out for a future champion! All of our pupils are always welcome to attend free junior taster sessions, you can get in touch with the club via their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northduffieldbowlingclub/>.

Finally congratulations to Emma and the Kings Arms for a fabulous Christmas Weekend. We were delighted to be invited to take part in this celebratory weekend. The school choir sang carols beautifully, in front of a very large audience, on Sunday 4th December. This was followed by the official village lights switch on, a very special community event.



Dates for the Diary

February

- 13th to 17th - Half Term

March

- 2nd - World Book Day

April

- 3rd to 14th - Easter Holidays
- 17th - INSET Day

May

- 1st - Bank Holiday
- 8th - The King's Coronation
- 29th to 2nd - Half Term

June

- 7th to 9th - Residential

July

- 24th & 25th - INSET Days
- 26th - Summer Holidays



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