



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Our busy Autumn term has come to an end, the children have worked incredibly hard and are now ready for a well-earned rest!

Thank you so much for all of the kind gifts and cards we have received this Christmas.

Some highlights from this term have been our Ofsted Inspection which was carried out on the 8th and 9th October. We were very proud of our children, some were able to talk about their learning and others shared reading books with the inspectors. All children were observed working and behaving beautifully. Please follow the link to read the report.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50263300>

## **Skyler looked very proud in the soldier's uniform.**



In November the children enjoyed remembrance workshops, which were carried out by the Northumberland Fusiliers Museum veterans. The children learned about life as a WWI soldier and why we raise money for poppies. A child in each class was able to dress up in a soldier's uniform while the other children looked at artefacts.

We had a visit from the Fire Service where children learned about firework safety.

The Y1 and Y2 children have been to visit Rothbury library where they listened to a story and chose a book to share at school.



## **Effy enjoyed reading a library book to the Y1 and Y2 children.**

We had fun dressing up for Children in Need and we raised £93.96 which we have sent off to the charity. Recently we had a very successful book fair selling £596 worth of books, so we are able to spend our 40% commission on more books for classrooms which is fantastic.

All of the children have been involved in our annual Anti-bullying project and odd socks day this term.

An online safety workshop was arranged and all parents were invited to find out about how to keep children safe when online.

We welcomed parents into school for a coffee and questions session where they could learn a little bit more about the teaching of English and Maths and how parents could help with these areas of learning at home. At the same time parents and other family members were able to join in our underwater diversity project entitled 'We are different....but we all swim together.' Our underwater display is now complete with all your wonderful creations.

**Diversity project**



Our children had the opportunity to watch the switch on of the tallest living Christmas tree at Cragside along with George Clarke. They sang and signed Christmas songs and enjoyed a creamy hot chocolate at the event.



**Cragside**

Another singing event for some of our Y3 and Y4 children took place at Rothbury Cottage Care. The children sang Christmas songs and brought tears to the eyes of many of the residents.

**Rothbury Cottage Care**



Thank you to all of those parents of Nursery and Reception children who joined in with our stay and play sessions this term. Ms Campbell reported that they were very much enjoyed by both children and parents.

## **TRANSITION ACTIVITIES**

The Year 3s and 4s enjoyed a very active morning up at the Middle school where they played dodgeball with the other valley schools. There will be more inter school sports activities next term. Dates tbc.

## **ART COMPETITIONS**

Ms Riding organised an Art competition with All Saints church. The pictures are currently being displayed in the church where you are welcome to go and view them. There were some wonderful entries and some truly worthy winners.

The winning entries were as follows:

Y4 **1st** Jack **2nd** Fallon **3rd** Lola H **Highly commended** Olivia

Y3 **1st** Oliver **2nd** Emily **3rd** Isla **Highly commended** Nell, Ella and Lola E

Y2 **1st** Martha **2nd** Jay **3rd** Emmie **Highly commended** Craig and Logan

Y1 **1st** Eri **2nd** Rowan **3rd** Ronnie Paul **Highly commended** Dixxi, Jack and Harry

Ms Riding also entered some of our wraparound children into a national competition. The children were invited to create a magical mythical creature. We had two winning entries - Nell and Danny. Their creative drawings will be published in a book which will be coming out in early 2025. All winning entries in the book will then be judged again and the outright winner will win £1000 for their wraparound club. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

## **PTA**

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support of the PTA this term, we genuinely feel it has been our best yet. Not only have we watched the children enjoy the sponsored walk, Halloween disco and the Christmas biscuit activities but we have been able to raise sufficient funds to fully fund the theatre trip, provide art supplies and contribute to the early years learning space.

We are now a registered charity which we hope will allow us to apply for more funding schemes. The ASDA Cashpot for Schools Scheme added to the pot and our school lottery and easyfundraising accounts are still going strong, please do consider using these if you are not already. If you would like any information please just ask.

None of this would have been possible without your contribution as well as the efforts of our committee and volunteers. We have some exciting plans ahead for 2025 which we would love you to be a part of. If your new year's resolution is to give a bit back please do consider joining us, everybody is always welcome and we would be delighted to have you. If you would like to get involved or have any questions please do catch one of us or email [rothburyfirstschoolpta2017@yahoo.com](mailto:rothburyfirstschoolpta2017@yahoo.com).

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful break.

The Friends of Rothbury First School (PTA)

## **FINAL WEEK**

Particular highlights this week for all our children have been the theatre visit to see Little Red Riding Hood, thank you to the PTA for funding this great experience for the children. Mrs Bolton served up a delicious Christmas lunch along with paper hats and crackers. On Tuesday all the children had a surprise visit from Santa in the yurt followed by Christmas parties. The PTA organised a Christmas cookie decorating event and the children received their whole class rewards.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas play 'Straw and Order'. The children worked so hard and I'm sure you will agree they were all shining stars on the stage.

The Christmas raffle raised £241.55, thank you so much for your contributions. The proceeds will go towards learning resources.

On our final day today we wore our cheery Christmas jumpers to raise funds for the local food bank. Thank you all for your kind donations. We raised £40.

**NEW ARRIVALS** We are very pleased to have welcomed Isla, Jack and Christopher into the Nursery this term and after Christmas we will be welcoming Cleo and Everley. We have also welcomed Erica into our Year 3 class.

### **READING/CHOIR CLUBS**

Reading club will begin on Thursdays 3.15 until 4pm, beginning 9th January

Makaton **will not** begin until after February half term

Choir will begin again on Mondays 3.15 until 4.15, beginning the 6th January

### **FOREST SCHOOL/PE**

Y3/4 children will be starting Forest School on Wednesday afternoons after the Christmas holiday. They will be taught in mixed groups. They will find out when their session will be after the holidays. Please can the children have a pair of wellies to keep in school, and wear long trousers and a long-sleeved top on their Forest School days.

### **YOGA**

All children in school will have a yoga session with Debbie MacAllister each Friday during the first half of the spring term.

Y3/4 will be doing PE on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Y1/2 will be doing PE on Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

N/R will have PE on Thursday and forest school on Wednesday.

### **SWIMMING**

There will be no swimming this term. Swimming will begin in the summer term for Y1/2

**TRIDENT** will start again on Wednesday 8th January.

### **WRAPAROUND**

Our wraparound service continues to be well used. If you require any wrap around care, please text **07776 945623**. This is checked regularly between the hours of 7.30am-5.30pm Monday - Friday. A parental permission/contact form needs to be completed if you wish to use the service. Bookings will be taken on Friday 3rd January for the first week back.

### **BABY & TODDLER GROUP/TODDLER FOREST SCHOOL.**

The next toddler forest school session with Toni Dick will be on Thursday 16th January 10-11.30am.

### **WINTER ILLNESS**

We have seen increasing numbers of children affected by diarrhoea and vomiting in school children. Please ensure that you keep your children off school for 48 hours after their last bout of illness and encourage frequent handwashing.

### **WINTER WEATHER:**

Please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat. We will still have outdoor play times in the rain.

**WINTER WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURES:** If the weather is particularly bad and we need to

close the school, we will inform you via parentmail at the earliest possible opportunity. School closures will also be updated daily on the Northumberland County Council website.

Thank you for your continued support. We would both like to wish you a very happy Christmas and hope you have a relaxing holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 6th January at 8.45am.**

Mrs C Auld and Mrs H Duffield

**School Office:**        **[admin@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)**

**Headteachers:**       **[cheryl.auld@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:cheryl.auld@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)**

**[helen.duffield@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:helen.duffield@rothburyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk)**