



Dear Parents/Carers

Thursday was a difficult day for the staff and friends of Wylam First School where we said goodbye to our friend and colleague, Claire Short. I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding which allowed staff members to attend the service. I would also like to thank anyone who contributed to the memories board or the video which was shown as part of the service. Claire's family were very grateful for the contributions and it all added to the lovely and fitting tribute to Claire's life. Claire Short will be sadly missed by all.

Our PTA Christmas fair was back with a bang this year. Thank you to all who attended. It was a fantastic event and helped to raise an amazing **£1936** towards our fundraising drive to purchase books for our reading scheme. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who supported the event and a special thanks to Sarah Kelly who worked so hard to make it all possible. Please see the list attached for the raffle winners - prizes should be collected from the school office, ideally before 9 December please.

On 19th November Sarah Kelly also held Wylam's Got Talent. This event was great fun and raised over **£900** for the PTA. Thanks again to the volunteers who supported the event, Ross and Helen from ITV who presented the event, and all of the performers who took part.

Christmas is approaching at a rapid pace and all of the teachers and pupils are busy practising and perfecting their Christmas performances. Shortly you will receive your tickets for the shows - children will be bringing them home early this week. Parents will be allocated 2 tickets per show. If you do not need the tickets then please return them to school and we will re-allocate them, otherwise please keep the tickets to present at the door (if you want to enter the prize draw the £1 should also be paid at the door).

You may have seen that there is a pinned post now on our Facebook page. This post kindly reminds parents not to add the names of any pupils who are posted onto the site, through comments made. Our Facebook page is an open site so naming pupils is a safeguarding risk. Thank you for your support in this matter.

## News

### **NUFC Multi-skills**

Y2 went along to the Newcastle United Foundation's facility, NUCASTLE, to take part in a multi-skills festival recently. They had a great time, were extremely well behaved and worked hard to improve their skills.

### **Skipping Festival**

Y3 had lots of fun at their skipping festival at the Wentworth Centre and were fantastic representatives of Wylam First School

### **Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy**

Safeguarding is fundamental to the culture of our school. To support our pupils in understanding how to keep themselves safe and how to speak out if they feel unsafe, we have created a child friendly version of our safeguarding policy. Our Student Council are currently looking at this and will present it to the rest of the children in the next few weeks. We will also send a copy home so that you can talk through it with your child.

### **Poppy Appeal**

Donations reached a total of £274.01 for the Royal British Legion who have asked us to pass on their huge thanks to all who donated.

### **Children in Need**

Thank you for all of your kind donations towards Children In Need. Our Spotacular raised £133.66 for this very worthy cause.

### **Student Council - Friendship Week**

The Student Council have been working hard this term to support pupil wellbeing. They have recently evaluated our behaviour policy and prevention of bullying policy, and they launched friendship week by running an assembly about bullying. Well done!

### **Maths Workshop**

Thank you to all who turned up to our maths workshop last month. The aim of the workshop was to give parents information about the strategies we use to teach maths and to encourage a positive attitude towards maths. If you were unable to attend but would like some support on how to help your child at home or on the strategies we use then please contact Emma Long, Maths Lead, who would be happy to help. All of the information regarding our calculations policy and curriculum information can also be found on our website.

### **Choir**

It has been so lovely to have a school choir again at Wylam. The choir practise on a Monday after school and were brilliant in their first performance at the Christmas Fair. They will also be out and about this Christmas and are performing at the Institute on 20th December for the Friends of Wylam.

## **Reminders**

### **Food bank donations**

Just a reminder that we are collecting for the Miner's Lamp foodbank this December. You can find the information about this on our school Facebook page, along with the list of items you can donate. There is a collection box in each classroom and all donations are to be sent into school by 4pm today, **5th December**. This Christmas is going to be a particularly challenging one for many families so any donations would be greatly appreciated.

### **Rocksteady Concert**

Our Rocksteady rock bands are holding their Christmas concert for their parents on 10th December at 10am. If your child takes part in Rocksteady you will receive information regarding this directly from Rocksteady.

### **Christmas lunch and Christmas jumpers**

Our Christmas lunch will be on **Friday 16th December**. On that day children can come to school in non uniform, sporting their Christmas jumpers. We will not be collecting for charity, this is just for fun.

### **End of school term: Thursday 22nd December**

Just a reminder that we now have a training day on Friday 23rd December so the last day of the Autumn term will be **Thursday 22nd December**.

### **Service at St Oswin's Church**

This year sees the return of our end of term Christmas service at St Oswin's. The service will take place from 1:30pm. Children will be able to go home with parents directly from the church.

### **Return to school: 10th January**

Monday 9th January is a training day for staff so the Spring term will begin on **Tuesday 10th January**.

## School Calendar

5th December	Y4 Illuminated Sheep workshop
7th December	Y2 visit St Mary's Prudhoe - A Christmas Journey
7th December	New to Nursery meeting at 3:30pm
16th December	Y4 visit: Ovingham Middle School - Christmas Quiz
22nd December	Last day of Autumn term
23rd December	Training day
9th January	Training Day
10th January	Back to school

## Christmas 2022

Monday 12th December	KS2 Christmas performance 9:30am KS1 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Tuesday 13th December	EYFS Christmas performance 9:30am
Wednesday 14th December	KS1 Christmas performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas performance 1:45pm
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Christmas performance 1:45pm
Friday 16th December	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 19th December	EYFS Christmas Party
Tuesday 20th December	KS1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 21st December	KS2 Christmas Party
Thursday 22 December	End of term Christmas Service: 1:30pm at St Oswin's Church Last day of term

Best wishes.

**S Gibbon**  
**Head Teacher**