

VILLA REAL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - 2024

CE1

CE1 pupils all enjoyed the fantastic Sensory Christmas Show, 'Crimblesense' by Embracing Arts. With the help of Frost, Joy and Buddy the pupils were transported into a magical sensory exploration which engaged all of their senses. They experienced the snow falling, the cold wind blowing, they were surrounded by delicious smelling bubbles, chimes and music. They also helped to prepare the Christmas dinner with mixing bowls and wooden spoons. They all had torches and explored the Northern Lights under a canopy. Everyone really loved this magical sensory experience, and they all helped to decorate the Christmas tree.



CE2

CE2 have had a brilliant Autumn term! We have made new friends, worked super hard in CE programmes, attention building activities, rebound therapy, Literacy and Maths. Some of the younger students enjoyed a trip to Hardwick Park to follow a Stickman trail and learned to ride a bike. While the older students have enjoyed visits to the school library, shopping and cooking. We have worked together in lying programme and we showed great confidence during 'Show and Tell' on 'No Pens Day'. We have also worked hard on our attention building skills and we love being outdoors!



HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

It has been a very busy term with lots of visits and visitors supporting our wonderful pupils with exciting opportunities. A big thank you to all parents, carers and friends who have attended our special days – Dads that Dig, Mams that Move and the upcoming Parents that Paint. Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jill Bowe



GOVERNOR COMMENTS

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, there has been so much fabulous work by our pupils, staff and governors. I would like to thank Rev Jamie Daniels for his support, as he now steps down from his position, but we are looking forward to working with Rev David Lees, who will begin to learn how we work in the new year. We also welcome Pam Monaghan who has many years' experience within Education, and within Durham Local Authority. Many of you will have met them as we looked around school earlier in the term. I am also happy to share that Lindsey Robinson is continuing in her capacity of Parent Governor for a second term of office.

I hope many of you are able to come into school to enjoy the Christmas Performances, and I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Suzanne Bailey
Chair of Governors

CE3

CE3 have had a fun filled term making chutney for our Christmas fayre, helping on the tombola and selling raffle tickets. We visited Marquisway centre for their special Olympic celebration and had such a great time. We are very excited to be joining them next year to learn wheelchair dancing and to train for our very own Olympic gala. Special thanks to Paul Potts from Auto chargers UK for gifting us tickets to see Cinderella at the theatre. We had such an amazing time!



S3A

S3A have had a super busy and festive half term! S3A have thoroughly enjoyed their Attention Autism sessions this term. We have worked independently and as a group to complete a variety of Maths and English tasks. We have also had the privilege of specialist Jo James to come and complete music sessions together. Merry Christmas and have a happy new year. Stay safe and we will see you again in January for another busy term.



EYFSA

This term we have been very busy. Our topic for Science is 'Food of the Seasons.' We have explored lots of different seasonal vegetables and smells. We even made Christmas play dough with cinnamon and cocoa powder, good enough to eat for some of us! 😊 We have been working very hard on our Christmas performance and we love our songs. We are enjoying making Christmas decorations; exploring lots of different textures and materials, especially glitter. We are going on our first trip of the year to the Tim Lamb Centre before Christmas as we have worked so hard and settled in really well since September. Finally, we have been having adventures in class with our new friend Buddy the elf. We look forward to seeing what he gets up to - we especially like his antics when he goes home with the children.



SCHOOL NEWS

This term, Villa Real students entered AK Teaching's competition to win a visit from Pudsey Bear. We were delighted to find out our entry was successful! Our students were really excited when Pudsey surprised them at assembly and in their classrooms. Thanks AK Teaching for this lovely opportunity.



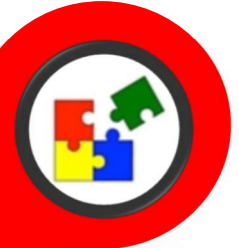
Thank you to everyone who attended the VRSA Christmas Fair. We raised an amazing **£2118.29!** Well done everyone!



We would like to say a massive thank you to David & Kate, owners of Consett Gas who once again have kindly donated the Xmas tree for our School. We absolutely love it and are so grateful for your generosity.



We have also taken delivery of a brand new school mini bus which was funded by the Mark Benevolent fund. We would like to thank them for their generosity. We would also like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers that attended our Dads that Dig and Mams that Move events this term. Merry Christmas everyone!



P3A

P3A have been showing off their creativity this Autumn term. For Anti-Bullying Week 2024, we designed a display in our classroom called 'We Stick Together', which included our important words that we chose all about respecting each other. This display was Hawaiian-themed, P3A's country for our Christmas Performance. We have been practicing our singing and signing for many weeks now and hope you enjoy it!

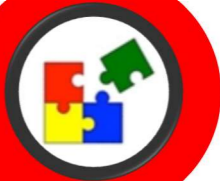
We also went on a trip up the country to Wallington Hall. Here, we went on a scavenger hunt to find all the lost Christmas mice before walking around the beautiful grounds, making a couple of feathered friends along the way.

More recently, 'Stickman mania' has taken over P3A. We have been making our very own Stickmen, and spending lots of time in the school gardens collecting sticks and making shelters for our creepy crawly friends. Mele Kalikimaka from all in P3A!



S3

Senior three have had fantastic 2024 with so many things going on. Children have been taking part in the Duke Of Edinburgh Award, Wild Passport and also brushing up their Mathematics and English skills. Recently the children in S3 have been learning their lines for the up-and-coming Christmas production of 'The Polar Express'. They can't wait to see you there, watch out for the naughty Elf!



S2A

This term S2a have been developing their knowledge of yoga. We have been carrying out our PE sessions with the lovely Fay. Pupils have all developed their confidence and improved their movement and flexibility during the sessions.

They are all now following the lead of the yoga teacher and it is fantastic to see them reflecting her movements and positions. During these sessions students have begun to learn how to control their breathing and relax, which in turn will only support their wellbeing and improve their spatial awareness.

Well done, to all of S2a who have taken on all of the challenges and are continuing to progress, making them fitter and stronger!!



S4

S4 have enjoyed exploring a variety of topics during the Autumn term. The students have been working hard on their ASDAN, AQA and NOCN accreditations. As part of our AQA topic on Heroes and Myths and Legends, a group of students attended the INTO Film Festival in Newcastle to see the Asterix film. Our ASDAN students have been developing fantastic careers skills through their work in the local community. They have volunteered at The Salvation Army, The Bread-and-Butter Thing and the Just Love Project. Their contribution was very much appreciated. Other highlights of our Autumn term were participating in the Harvest Festival, attending regular sessions with DAAC and working hard to launch the Villa Real Cafe.



P1A

P1A have loved taking our learning outside this term. We have enjoyed engaging in lots of different activities linked to all areas of the curriculum. We have also had child-led learning opportunities so we can explore new objects and activities and develop skills in our own unique ways.



P2A

We have had a very busy term in P2a. This term we have been working hard in all subjects. We have especially enjoyed some of our set texts in English such as 'Which Food Will You Choose?' By Claire Potter. To get us in the Christmas spirit we have been looking at the story 'The Polar Express' by Chris Van Allsburg. We have loved our music sessions every week with Jo James. We have been learning about the speed and beat of songs which we have really enjoyed. We have had some successful trips out to see local sculptures such as The Willow Miners in Durham, and the Weeble sculptures at South Shields as part of DT and Art. All of the pupils were great ambassadors for the school and we are looking forward to accessing more trips out in the New Year.

From all of the team in P2a we just want to say a huge well done to all the pupils in P2a for a fantastic first term back at school. We hope you have a lovely break over the Christmas holidays.



P2



PSHCE: Belonging to a Community

P2 has been happily exploring what it means to belong to a community! They had a wonderful time at the Christmas Fair, really enjoying the sense of togetherness within the school community.

They've had fun role-playing different job roles while learning about the fantastic people who help us in our community.

They're super excited about getting involved in the Primary Christmas Party and can't wait to show everyone how much they belong to this amazing community!



P3

This term in P3, students have been working very hard across all areas of their curriculum, particularly through outdoor educational visits that enhance their studies in Art, Design, Religious Education, Geography and physical fitness.



Hexham Abbey The Gruffalo Trail



Gibside



Students have regularly participated in swimming lessons to enhance their water safety skills.

We learned how to play the ukulele in music class.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us in the Primary 3 class.

