



## Message from Mrs Shaw .

The run up to Christmas is always very special at New York Primary. Whilst teaching and learning has continued over the last 7 weeks, we ensure that we connect our Christmas performance preparations to our curriculum so that learning is not 'paused'. Preparing for Christmas provides rich, meaningful learning that develops pupils across many areas of learning including language and communication skills, vocabulary, oracy, reading, counting beats and cues, stage direction and general confidence. The singing and performing is a strength of our pupils and it brings great joy to me and staff to see how happy and confident pupils are on stage when performing. Many of you commented to me the difference you note in your child from this time last year. During this 7 weeks our year 6 pupils have experienced a residential at Robinwood and made us proud with their team skills, attitude to challenge and sense of fun. Choir continue to impress with participation in various singing events including Christmas Market, NS800 Parade and our local residential home. Year 5 led whole school in a beautiful, respectful Remembrance Assembly. We enjoyed our visiting jazz band and consider ourselves very lucky to have such opportunities. The year 1 and Year 4 Christingles were beautiful and a highlight for many parents and staff. We all enjoyed welcoming Holly the reindeer back to New York to support Father Christmas on his visit. We really enjoy welcoming families in to school. Thank you for supporting all the events including performances, Christingles, Book Looks, Christmas Fayre and Crafts. I would also like to thank those of you who purchased from the Book Fair this half term. School are able to receive a value of books for school as a result of your spending - Thank you. I often say that our children are very lucky to attend a school with such dedicated staff providing a wealth of opportunity to pupils. Staff are only prepared to do this because we feel lucky to work with such super children and the joy they bring.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Enjoy and see you 5th January 2026. *Mrs Shaw*

## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is %

w/c	Whole school %	Winning class	% of winning class
3/11/25	92.7	10GL/JB	98.4
10/11/25	96.4	1SH	99.6
17/11/25	95.9	7EJ & 11RH	100
24/11/25	96.1	5AT	98.8
1/12/25	96.3	5AT & 6CD	100
8/12/25	95.0	7EJ & 11RH	100

## SEND Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 26th November we welcomed Amy Burgess from AJs Brain into school to host a coffee morning for parents and carers. Her focus was on ASD and ADHD and shared some of her experiences of navigating life with a dual diagnosis.

Our next coffee morning will be on 14th January and will have be led by the Parent/Carer Forum. Please come along and join us.



## We Expect Respect

There have been several occasions this term where staff have been spoken to by parents with disrespect and even aggression. Some schools have notices and signs up to remind parents and families to be respectful. I do not want to do that because I believe that our school community shares the value of respect. Signage as a reminder should not be necessary. We welcome feedback and will always listen to any concerns you may have. Any disagreement must be discussed calmly, with respect. I will not tolerate New York staff being treated with a lack of respect or courtesy. We have a **Displeased Parent Policy** which outlines how to disagree politely, should anyone like to request a copy. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming school environment.



## Able Maths Day

On Wednesday 5th November we hosted an AIM Higher Maths Day for 6 of our Year 5 & Year 6 pupils along with pupils from 3 other local primary schools. The day was run by Sharon, a maths expert who challenged our thinking and taught us new maths through games and puzzles. The day was a great success and even our staff, who supported, came out feeling mathematically challenged!

## Year 4 Visit to Durham Cathedral

On Friday 7th November Year 4 visited Durham Cathedral as part of their RE work and to learn about the importance of pilgrimage. Children were amazed by the size of the Cathedral and during the visit took part in a tour as well as taking part in a workshop where we explored different reasons for going on a pilgrimage.



## Year 4 Christingle

Year 4 have been learning different songs to sing at the Christingle at Christ Church on Tuesday 2nd December. We practised at Whitehouse Primary School and then again at Christ Church before taking part in the community event in the evening. It was a beautiful service and the children spoke and sang so clearly. Thank you to all of our families who attended and supported this event.



## Year One Christingle at St Aidan's

In RE we have been learning about The Christmas Story and why we give gifts at this time of Year. We learnt the story of Christmas and wowed our families with our very own performance, showing off what we have learnt about this special time. We made Christingles using oranges to represent the world and candles to show Jesus is the light of the world.

We performed our Christingle in St Aidan's Church, singing and speaking loud and clear. It was a brilliant turnout of families - thank you



# Anti Bullying Week

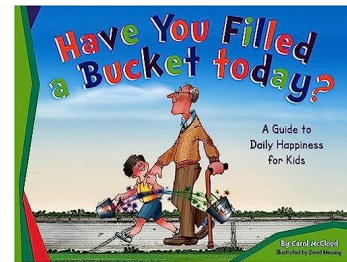
## Odd Socks Day

To kick start Anti Bullying Week we all came to school wearing odd socks on Monday 10th November. We celebrated our differences and similarities and talked about the need to treat everybody with equity and fairness.



## Nursery

In Nursery, the children read the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, which introduces the ideas of 'bucket fillers' who help others feel good and 'bucket dippers' who are unkind. The children discussed different ways they can fill someone's bucket and shared their ideas through drawings, including giving hugs, sharing toys and using kind words.



## Reception

In Reception, the children read the story *Kind* and explored many ways they can show kindness to others and use their 'Powers for Good'. They set up kindness jars in the classroom and used kind gestures to create a growing chain of kindness.

## Year 1

In Year 1, the children read the story *Be Kind*. They discussed how they show kindness to others and how it feels both to be kind and to receive kindness. The class then worked together to create a 'Kindness Agreement' to guide their behaviour.

## Year 2

In Year 2, the children talked about bullying and how everyone has their own 'power for good' which can be used to help and support others. As a class, they identified fictional characters who use their power for good before designing their own anti-bullying superheroes and describing how they could stop bullies.

## Year 3

In Year 3, the children took part in a PSHE session with Peter from Connect Mental Health. He talked about different ways to help themselves feel calm when they are upset or frustrated. The session also explored how bullying can make people feel, and the children practised breathing techniques and body-calming exercises.

## Year 4

In Year 4, the children identified the four main types of bullying. They worked in groups to match statements to the correct type of bullying and discussed a range of scenarios, explaining what they would do or say in each situation. They also considered how standing up for someone can make them feel and identified the type of bullying involved. To finish, the class created a 'Power for Good' song using Suno, a music generator.

## Year 5

In Year 5, the children identified different acts of kindness and discussed how these can positively impact others. They chose their favourite acts of kindness, explained the impact they could have, and illustrated their ideas through drawings.

## Year 6

In Year 6, the children explored the theme of Power for Good. They discussed what power means and how it can be used to spread kindness. The children wrote their own poems to express how they can use their voices to support others, stand up to bullying and help create a positive environment for everyone.

## Children in Need - Crazy Hair Day

On Friday 17th November there were many crazy sights to be seen in classrooms across the school. From artists palettes to doughnuts with the odd ice cream thrown into the mix! We raised a total of £200 for Children in Need by wearing our hair in a crazy way! Thank you for supporting this event.



## Year One TVLB Visit

This half term in History we have been learning about Grace Darling and how her heroic actions support the work of the TVLB. We visited The Watch House in Tynemouth to learn about what they do in helping people who are in trouble at sea. We re-enacted a rescue mission, visited the towers and even tried on some old rescue equipment. This is such a fascinating visit which we really enjoy. We had such a great morning; the children could not stop talking about it!



## Year 5 – RE Visitor

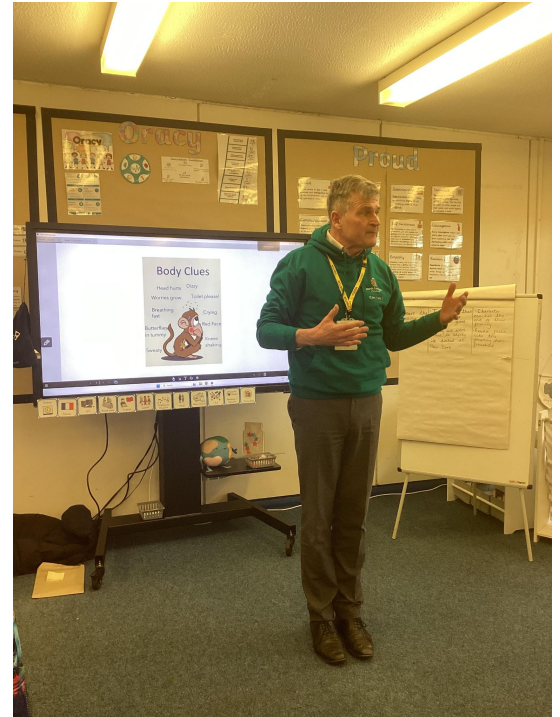
As part of our RE learning, we had a visit from Reverend Francesca, who is currently supporting at St Aidan's Church. She helped us explore our big question: *How do Christmas traditions and celebrations help Christians feel closer to Jesus?*

We discussed different traditions, such as giving gifts, decorating the Christmas tree and singing Christmas Carols and thought about how these activities link to the Nativity story.



## Year Three PSHE

This half term we have had Peter from Connect Mental Health for our PSHE lessons. He has delivered the 'Fun Friends' programme in which he talked to us about building our identities, normalising big feelings and making new friends. He was extremely impressed with the discussions that took place and he enjoyed hearing all of our lovely ideas.



## Craft Opportunities for Families

Please see details of some 2026 craft and textile opportunities for families. These will be held at Wallsend Boys Club every Saturday from Jan-March and are run through the Helix Arts Programme.

Details below:

**Better Connect – Family Saturdays**

Dive into Saturday mornings where textiles, tech and creativity collide.

In these hands-on family workshops you'll design your own fabrics that light up, flash and glow!

10 Jan – 28 Mar 2026

10am-12pm at Wallsend Boys Club

Free, family friendly and for children 7+.

All materials provided. No experience needed.

Bookings are via TicketSource at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/helixarts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/helixarts)

## Theatre Royal

On Thursday 18th December all of the children in Reception - Year 6 boarded coaches galore and went to the Theatre Royal for the Aladdin Pantomime! A great time was had by all, with much audience participation and laughter along the way.



## Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

On Thursday 4th December, Jane and her team in the kitchen prepared and cooked Christmas Dinner for the whole school, including our 2 Year Olds and Nursery children. We all ate together in the halls, with teachers joining the children at festive tables! We enjoy it all ... especially the pigs in blankets!



## Christmas Diorama

Our popular Christmas scene in a box saw many, many entries this year. From stable scenes to candy houses and snowy forest displays. Thank you for entering. Everyone received a candy cane and winners from each year group received a chocolate orange.



## Family Crafts

On Monday 15th December, we enjoyed a day of Christmas Crafts. It was lovely to welcome families in and see what Christmas-themed crafts they created. There were plenty of reindeer, snowmen and Christmas trees!

# Christmas Parties

## EYFS

On 17th December all of EYFS joined together in the hall for their annual Christmas party. There were some superb dance moves, wonderful statues and the odd game of pass the parcel. Following that we devoured all of the party food kindly donated by our families. Thank you!



## Year 1 and Year 2

Key Stage 1 had a fantastic Christmas party on Tuesday 17th December. We played musical bumps, pass the parcel and corners. Some of us even won prizes for our fabulous dancing! Then we went back to our classrooms to enjoy the party food our families had kindly donated. Thank you!

## Year 3 and Year 4

On Wednesday 17th December Year 3 and 4 enjoyed their Christmas party. We played pass the balloon, Musical Statues and a game of Heads or Tails. We loved dancing to the Christmas music with friends! We then went to the classrooms to enjoy party food and music - thank you for all of the generous food donations.



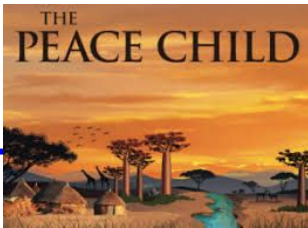
## Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their Christmas party on Tuesday. They took part in a host of Christmas-themed games and showed off some impressive (and very creative) dance moves. Each class then returned to their classroom to devour a mountain of party food that had been kindly donated.



## KS2 Christmas Performance

We were incredibly proud of our Key Stage 2 children for their wonderful Christmas performance of *Peace Child*. The children showed amazing confidence as they sang beautifully, acted with expression, and worked together to share a thoughtful message of peace, kindness, and hope. Their enthusiasm shone throughout the performance, with big smiles, fantastic dance moves, and clear enjoyment of being on stage. It was a joy to see the dedication and hard work put into rehearsing and performing, and they should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support, especially for helping to provide costumes and for encouraging and supporting the pupils on the day – it truly made the performance extra special.



## EYFS Christmas Performance

On Wednesday 10th December, all of our EYFS children took to the stage to perform 'The First Christmas' We all spoke clearly and sang loudly to our family and friends. Songs included Its a Squash and a Squeeze, Twinkle Twinkle and We are the Naughty Sheep.

We are very proud of all children and know that our grown ups were very proud too! We loved listening to the cheers and applause when we finished.



## KS1 Christmas Performance

On Tuesday 9th December, Key Stage 1 took to the stage to perform our show 'Simply the Nativity'. We showcased fantastic oracy skills, using the microphones to speak loudly and clearly to a large audience. We also enjoyed singing songs like 'Two Thousand Years Ago' and 'What am I Gonna Be'?

Well done to all the children who worked very hard to put on this show and thank you for families at home for helping them to learn lines and providing costumes.



# Music @ New York



## Choir @ Phoenix Rise

Some of our Choir members visited Phoenix Rise on December 4th to entertain the residents with a selection of our favourite Christmas songs, including 'I Wish it Could be Christmas Everyday', 'Sparkle and Shine' and 'Mary had a Baby' The residents and staff were so impressed and there was even a special visit from Santa!



## Choir @ Victorian Market

We had a wonderful time entertaining the crowds at the Victorian Christmas market in North Shields on 6th December. We wore our festive jumpers and sang our Christmas socks off!



## Winter Sing @ Whitley Bay Playhouse

We thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Winter Sing at the Whitley Bay Playhouse on November 12th. We closed the show with three songs - Rather Be by Jess Glynn, Nobody Knows by the Lumineers and Waterloo by Abba - performing them brilliantly to a packed and appreciative audience!

## Crotchets and Quavers

At the end of November, we welcomed Miles Walton and his band, Crotchets and Quavers, who entertained pupils with a selection of popular songs such as Bare Necessities and Sweet Caroline. The children were introduced to each instrument in turn. We were amazed at the different types of the same instrument that the band use. We were encouraged to sing along - and we did!



# Dates for your diary

- Friday 19th December - Children Break up for Christmas
- Monday 5th January - Children return to school
- Monday 12th January - After School Clubs begin
- Monday 26th January - Road Safety Day
- Wednesday 14th January - SEND Coffee Morning 9-10
- Wednesday 25th March - SEND Coffee Morning 9-10
- Tuesday 3rd February - Book Look AM & PM
- Wednesday 4th February - Year 2 Class Assembly
- Wednesday 4th February - Bedtime Story Night
- W/c Monday 9th February - Children's mental health week
- Friday 13th February - Finish for half term
- Monday 23rd February - Spring term 2 begins
- Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th March - Parent consultations
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Friday 6th-Monday 9th March - High Borrans
- Monday 16th March - Year 1 Phonics parent meeting
- Wednesday 18th March - Spring Disco
- Tuesday 24th March - High Borrans Celebration
- Wednesday 25th March - Year 3 Class Assembly
- Thursday 26th March - After School Clubs finish
- Tuesday 31st March - Easter Assemblies - UKS2 - am / LKS2 - pm
- Wednesday 1st April - Easter Assemblies - EYFS - am / KS1 - pm
- Thursday 2nd April - Finish for Easter
- Monday 20th April - Return to school



**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
Help shape services for families in North Tyneside

**Whats your thoughts on North Tyneside Family Hubs?**

North Tyneside Council want to hear from families about your experiences with our Family Hubs.

Tell us:

- Do you use the hubs?
- How do you use them?
- What do you value?
- How can we improve?

Share your views by scanning the QR Code below to help shape the future of Best Start Family Hubs and how they can better support you and your family in the future.

If you need a paper copy of the survey, please contact the Children's Participation Team with your name and address and they will send one to you in the post.

Email: [advocacy@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:advocacy@northtyneside.gov.uk)  
Phone: 01915438550

## Best Start Family Hubs

The Local Authority are seeking views around Family Hubs and they would like to hear from you to get your thoughts and feedback to help shape how the hubs could be delivered in the future and how they can better support you and your family.



## TOP TIP

Did you know you can add our calendar to your mobile? Log into the school website, find the calendar and click on this symbol then add to your calendar - all our important dates will now appear on your mobile calendar.

