



Henshaw CE Primary School

Newsletter

Newsletter No. 4 Autumn Term 2024
Friday 13th December

West Tyne Federation of Schools

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A Message from the Head Teacher

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and you looking forward to the Christmas holidays. It has been a great term at Henshaw Primary School with fabulous learning in all classrooms, visits near and far and opportunities for our families and specialists in curriculum areas to visit the school.

A letter will be going out in January regarding the Department for Education's renewed guidance and focus on school attendance and a follow-up meeting between all the West Tyne cluster Head Teachers regarding this. Thank you for continuing to support us in achieving good attendance for your children.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas production at Haydon Bridge High School on Wednesday; we can't wait to show you the acting, singing and dancing skills of our Federation.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our children, parents and families a very, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; all the staff at The West Tyne Church Schools Federation hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

A day at the Life Centre

We had a wonderful time at the Life Centre on Friday when Years 1 and 2 travelled to Newcastle to explore the museum and show their skills on the ice-skating rink! The children really enjoyed the interactive exhibits on offer, and it was a great way to end a fantastic half term.

A huge thank you to the teachers for organising this event and to the parents for their contributions, allowing this visit to happen; without which we would be unable to offer such amazing visits. A great time was had by everyone, with the children asking if we could create an ice-skating rink back at school - let's see what the festive weather brings this January and February!



Class News

In Tyne Class we have been reading different traditional tales 'The Gingerbread man' and 'Hansel and Gretel'. We have enjoyed talking about the different characters and settings in the stories. In Maths we have had lots of fun thinking all about 2D shapes, specifically shapes with four sides. At home you might want to go on a shape hunt. The children have all been fantastic learning the different songs and dances for our Christmas Nativity, all the children loved taking part, hope you enjoyed the show!

Thames class have been very busy practising and performing their Christmas play. I am sure you will agree they were all superstars! We have been working hard to develop our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes. We are now confident to name shapes and explain how many edges and vertices a shape has. We have been writing letters to Katie Morag to ask her what life is like on the Isle of Struay. In RE we have enjoyed listening to and sequencing the story of the Nativity. We have also shared some amazing DT homework. Thank you for supporting your child with this.

In Rhine Class, the children have completed their non-chronological reports on the Vikings and have started planning their explanation texts. They have also completed their module on multiplication and division for this term and are currently working on area. We have been busy rehearsing our Christmas Performance 'Beauty and the Beast', which is beginning to take shape. In R.E., we have been looking at the similarities and differences between baby and adult baptism and the connections with the baptism of Jesus by John. In art, the children have completed their work on William Morris and we have also been doing our end of term quizzes, angels for the church and props for our play. It was also lovely to go and share our Christmas Carols at the over 60s Christmas lunch. To top it all, we have also had some fabulous homework in.

During Autumn two, the children have been exploring how to create their very own vector drawings by combing shape tools using Microsoft Publisher. The children can resize their shapes, copy and paste a shape and rotate shapes to create images. The children have studied photographs and animals and used the drawing tools shapes in Publisher to replicate these images. What vector drawings can the children find around the house?



Our School Promise

Our School Promise reminds us of our vision and values that we hold dear at The West Tyne Church Schools Federation.

Learning Award - Billy, Arty, Abigail, Harry

Resilience & Teamwork Award - Lilly L, Niall, Poppy, Belle

Etiquette Award - Harry, Olly, Zach

Environmental Award - Rhine Class, Finley, Tobin, Rhys, Lincoln

Kindness Award - Fearne, Maddie, Robert, Aidan

Inclusion Award - Sophie, Freya

Friendship Award - Christopher,

Role model Award - Lewis, Alicia, Billy, Macy



Attendance:

Tyne - 100%

Thames - 93.3%

Rhine - 90%

Nile - 93.3%

Whole School - 93%

The Department for Education guidance for attendance changed in August this year. Head Teachers are now unable to authorise holidays in term time. Guidance also states that 5 days of unauthorised absence should be reported to the local authority. The Department for Education have clarified that holidays or absences for leisure are not considered exceptional circumstances.

Swimming for Year 5.6

Just a reminder that the children in Years 5 and 6 will be going swimming after the Christmas holidays. Children will require their swimming kits, a towel, swimming cap and goggles on a **Wednesday** from the first week back.

Swimming is a compulsory part of the Key Stage 2 PE National Curriculum. We will continue to subsidise the cost of transport and lessons to ensure that all our pupils benefit from these lessons and are taught this important life skill of staying safe and being able to swim.

Our Proud Wall

We would like to start a 'Proud Wall' at school. If your child has achieved something to be proud of (trophies, certificates, taken part in clubs/activities), please send a picture and a brief description to the office email. Alternatively, they can bring trophies/certificates into school, and we can take photographs to go onto the Proud Wall. We would love to display all the great things our pupils get up to outside of school.

TA Vacancy at Henshaw Primary School

We are recruiting for a Teaching Assistant at The West Tyne Federation, working with a child 1:1. If you are Level 3 qualified and would like to work with us (9am - 3pm Monday to Friday) we want to hear from you. Please follow the link below to apply or phone Mr Glenton at school. <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/151097/EDV-2024-HCEPS-12367>

Homework

Wow, is all myself and the teachers can say! It has been amazing the response we have had from our DT homework, set this half term by Miss Thompson. As well as creating these games at home with families, the children have shown confidence and ingenuity when describing their inventions and taking questions from their peers. This is what homework should be about; producing something that the children remember and are proud of.



Christmas Dates for the diary

Tuesday 17th December - Key Stage 2 to HBHS, rehearsal day

Wednesday 18th December - Key Stage 2 to HBHS, Rehearsal and performance at 2:30pm and 4:30pm.

Thursday 19th Dec - Christmas Dinner Day, Christmas Jumper Day and Santa Dash!

Thursday 19th Dec - Christingle at All Hallows Church 2pm, parents welcome to attend

Friday 20th December - Christmas Parties - children can come to school dressed in party clothes but please ensure appropriate footwear and children have a coat.

School closes on Friday 20th December and reopens on TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY

A final thought...

The greatest Christmas gift of all is getting to spend time with
people you love Anon.