

# Weekly Bulletin

# Term 1 Week 14: Friday 11th December 2020

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Hello and welcome to this week's newsletter. I hope this finds you well.

Overall this week, despite a few challenges, there has been a wonderful atmosphere in school. As I showed potential new parents around (in a Covid secure way) today I was so proud of the children and staff in school. There is so much to be pleased and proud of, from the more serious side of school like the brilliant attitude and efforts of the children in assessment week, to the fabulous mosaic art work I enjoyed seeing in Peregrine class this week.

I hope you are managing to get in the festive mood. We are looking forward to a Christmas themed week in school next week. Obviously, this year is far from normal but we still want the children to have as much 'School Christmas' as possible. As I said last week our Christmas tree looks lovely and we have lots of nice things planned next week, including our virtual pantomime. However, I can't help but to feel a little flat today as I write this newsletter thinking that I would usually be writing about how much I have enjoyed the children's performance in our nativity or Christmas themed performance. We would also have visited Kings church Selby for their wonderful Christmas experience and be full of excitement about our trip to Cast in Doncaster as a whole school to see the Pantomime and Church visit. All of these will return!

I have to say that these Covid times have been extremely challenging for us all, including our school team. I remain ever so proud of the way the staff team have responded throughout this pandemic. I would like to thank you all for your continued support as we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic. Please let's all keep vigilant with safety measures in the next few weeks, allowing all families to have the Christmas they have planned and are allowed to have.

### Staffing update:

This week we have welcome Mrs Whitehead to our Midday Supervisor Team (MSA). We are really pleased to have you on board!

# Selby Education Trust (SET) and Academy Conversion:

We are still on track to convert to an academy on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and I hope to give you confirmation on this next week, when the process and official documentation between SET, NYCC solicitors and the DfE are all finalised.

### Special mention to Mrs Gay & Forest Schools:

I would like to offer a <u>special mention to the wonderful work that Mrs Gay does in Forest Schools</u>. I really love this aspect of our school – the enhancement and wider curriculum addition is a brilliant and embedded feature, and is so popular with all pupils. Mrs Gay is so creative, skilled and enthusiastic with the children and offers them a brilliant experience. I know all of the children who

have taken part this term, whether making campfires, poppy art work, slingshot making, Christmas trees pallet challenges and everything else in between, have developed skills not only in woodwork and tool use, but in turn taking, collaboration, determination and problem solving. They also have had a great time and gained confidence too! Congratulations to all who have taken part and in particular, to the wonderful Mrs Gay!

I have met with Mrs Gay this week and we have already identified the children who will be taking part next term, so always more to come!

### **Reminders**

- End of term dates:
  - You will have read my ParentMail yesterday that explains that we have decided not to close a day early, as per guidance, but remain open on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This is the last day of term.
  - o Children return to school in the new year on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** as planned
- Last day for Christmas cards being brought into school is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Jumper day is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We are also looking forward to our Christmas lunch on this day too.
- Year 1 have finished their Forest School term with Mrs Gay and therefore just need to come into school in normal uniform next week.

#### Christmas gifts:

As always there is no expectation that staff members should receive gifts. However, I have been asked by some parents whether they are 'allowed' under restrictions to brings in gifts for staff members. May I suggest, (whilst clearly saying there is never an expectation) that if you want to provide a gift you are able to do so, and we would receive these gratefully in a Covid secure manner, placing them in a box for 72 hours etc. However, we would also like you to consider, if you wish, to attentively make donation to the Selby Food bank or Sleep safe Charites - these would be appreciated too. https://selbydistrict.foodbank.org.uk/ & http://sleepsafeselby.org/

Have a safe and happy weekend. Keep safe!

Jon Watson

**Head teacher** 

Developing lively, inquiring and creative minds

# **Harrier Class**



In English, we have learnt model texts including 'Can't you sleep, Little Bear?', 'How to care for a bear' and 'Where's my teddy?'. We have had lots of fun creating actions, thinking of new ideas to change the texts and inventing our own stories and instructions. We even wrote instructions to help Mr Watson to take better care of his bear, Clarence!



We have been doing lots of experiments and have become excellent scientists! Some of our experiments have included skittles, magnets, shadows and gloop. We have made predictions, conducted our own tests and have discussed and recorded our results.

# **Osprey Class**

# Talk for writing

This term we have had lots of fun learning different text styles and making our own actions to help us remember all of the words. We are getting quick at learning these now and have surprised ourselves by learning 350 words off by heart! We have had lots of fun changing the stories using our own ideas and are becoming creative writers with amazing ideas.



## Topic

Our topic this term has been 'solid as a rock' we have looked at this theme in many different ways, from learning that there many different types of rocks all around us and can now use the scientific names for some rocks too. We learnt all about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age where the children enjoyed learning about how different their lives were to ours today, we still can't believe that they make their houses out of poo!



## P.E/ Dance

In P.E this term we have been studying dance. We have broken dances down into different elements and created our own dance sequences. We learn how important it is to count out loud each of the beats to help us all to stay in time. The loud 1,2,3,4 can be heard all around the hall. We have really persevered with our timings and have put jumps, turns and transitions into each of



the beats.

# **Other News**

Please see below details of upcoming services on behalf of Rev. Becky

# **Christmas Services at your local church**

### Drax

12<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm 'Church Outside', including a visit from Santa, and church open inside for private prayer

16<sup>th</sup> Discussion group at 10am and reflection online

20<sup>th</sup> 11am Advent Holy Communion

24th Outdoor crib service 3pm

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10am

### Carlton

14<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at 11am

16<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10am Happy Birthday Jesus Party for toddlers and pre-schoolers

20th Sunday evening Carol Service at 6pm

24th Outdoor crib Service from 3pm

24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holy Communion service at 9pm (Bethlehem-time midnight mass)

Or find us on Facebook and YouTube to see online advent reflections and much more.