Barton, Ravensworth, East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham CE Schools

Cornerstone Schools

Building Futures with Love

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will see below, we have had a very busy week and I have been so impressed by the resilience of our amazing children. Our Christmas plans have not turned out the way we wanted them to in any of our schools, and it has been disappointing for parents not to be involved in Christmas events in the way that they normally would. It's fair to say though, that the children have had a wonderful time and have been so excited by all the events that have taken place.

Throughout Advent the children have been learning the nativity story and have worked so hard to learn lines and song words for the nativity plays that took place this week. The videos of these have all been uploaded to a private school YouTube channel in the same way as last year. You should have received a link on your child's school email address.

Special visitor

As you can see Father Christmas has been in training this week getting ready for his big night on 24th! He popped in to all of our schools to meet with the children during their Christmas party, he even delivered a gift for each of them. A big thankyou to all of Santa's helpers who helped to make this so special for the children.

Christingle

One of the themes that runs throughout our curriculum is 'Courageous advocacy' we encourage our children to be advocates for change and for others in need. This week we have considered the symbolism of the Christingle and have thought about the work of the children's society and how they provide hope and support to young people who are at a dark point in their lives.

Thank you to those of you who donated to our Children's society collection.

Parent Governor
We had one application for the role of parent governor, and are delighted that Andrew Heney, a nursery parent at Barton has agreed to take on the role.

Are you buying a new device for your child for Christmas?
Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner has been in the news this week after meeting with 16-21 year olds to talk about ways of keeping children safe online. She recommends that parents talk to their children about online safety **before** allowing them access to a phone/device. She suggests conversations about online sexual harassment could start as young as 8 years old, in an age-appropriate way.
She says: 'The overriding message you'll see from our focus group is **talk early, talk often.** You might be surprised how early our young people felt parents need to start the conversation. But children want an age-appropriate conversation that evolves over time in line with their growing maturity.'
Further guidance and advice for parents can be found here

3 Houses Step Challenge
The final scores are in, here are the grand totals for the challenge. Congratulations Bolton for getting the most steps!
1st - Bolton - 2,715,172
2nd - Middleham - 2,555,477
3rd - Richmond - 2,480,036

John Muir Award
Outdoor learning is a very important part of our curriculum and we are delighted that over the course of the year our children will be working towards the John Muir award for outdoor learning with Kat Vasby- Burnie. A massive well done to the KS2 children at East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham who have achieved the Discovery Award for the work they put in to caring for the environment and developing wildlife areas in the school grounds. You will hear more about the award of the next two terms.

Mental Health support for Children and parents
Traditionally Christmas is a time for fun and celebration, however it can sometimes also bring, pressure, stress and anxiety. Some children find all the change to routine at Christmas very challenging. The news this week has also been very gloomy, and for some people is difficult to cope with. If you feel that you would like some support for yourself or your child, you could try the following websites:
https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/ and/ or https://www.kooth.com/

Feast – Holiday help
The Department for Education is providing local authorities with funding to coordinate a holiday programme offer combining provision of healthy food and enriching activities for children and young people who get benefits related free school meals. The offer is available to all NYCC children, but it is free to families eligible for means-tested Free school meals. If you would like to find out more, please visit their website FEAST - North Yorkshire Together

This seems to have been an extremely long term, and many of the children are definitely ready for a rest. A big thank you to all the staff in our schools who have worked tirelessly this term to make sure that the children catch up on lost learning, that they learn how to build strong friendships and that they have fun while they are doing it.
We wish you all a very merry Christmas and sincerely hope that we will all be back in school on Wednesday 5th January as planned!

Kind regards,

Mrs H Dudman
Headteacher

Barton CE School

News from Class 2

We have had a fun-filled exciting week of learning in Class 2 this week, we have written diary entries about an unexpected guest at Christmas, based on the John Lewis advert. The children were very imaginative and descriptive in their writing and enjoyed using a thesaurus to find synonyms to describe the Christmas decorations, in Maths we have been practising our adding and subtracting skills by helping the elves to solve clues to unlock the box and get the Nice List ready for Santa. With Class 1 we have recorded our Wriggly Nativity which will be sent out for you all to see very soon, the children really impressed me with their singing and dancing skills and had great fun performing it too, such a shame we couldn't have an audience but I'm sure you will agree they did you proud, thanks to Mrs Whittle for helping with the costumes too! We have also been busy crafting Christmas decorations, ready to bring home to add to the lovely decorations, children have shared from home. Thank you for attending our Christmas Carol service this week too, I hope you enjoyed the singing as much as we did. And to top it all off we have had great fun at our Christmas party, with dancing and games and of course that special visit from Santa. We think the children deserve a lovely Christmas holiday and wish you all a fun, festive and restful Christmas break.

Friends of Barton

A HUGE thank you to all parents and carers for all your support this term! We are pleased to confirm that we raised £293 from the Santa Fun Run, £146.50 of which will be donated to Storehouse. We also raised £120 from the Christmas raffle, £35 from Mrs Whittle's Craft bags and Jams and so far £95 from the Virtual Christmas Bonanza! Please remember that the Bonanza is running until Christmas Eve if you need any last minute gifts!! We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year!!

Barton – Dates for your diary	
Friday 17th December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4th January 2022	Inset day – staff only
Wednesday 5th January 2022	Return to school

Dales Academies Trust
Together for Excellence

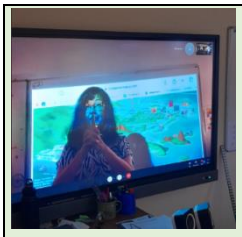
*Barton, Ravensworth, East Cowton and Kirkby Fleetham CE Primary Schools are members of **Dales Academies Trust**, company number 08372064, registered office at: Blair Avenue, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton on Tees, TS17 5BL*

Kirkby Fleetham CE School

Kirkby Fleetham - Children celebrating achievements this week					
Stars of the Week		Dojo Points	Bolton	Middleham	Richmond
Esme and Oscar HP		**This week**	31	15	16
		Total for year	801	668	627

Class News

What a festive week! Whilst the mood of the nation has been rather low this week, the mood and Christmas spirit at Kirkby Fleetham has been positively dazzling. Following the excitement of our nativity on Friday, the children once again rose to the occasion in our Christingle service on Monday evening. It was, as usual, a beautiful, calm service, and the children conducted themselves with great maturity and respect. This couldn't have been in starker contrast to our Christmas dinner on Tuesday however, when the children (actually the teachers!!) were not very mature at all, as they danced around the hall serving sprouts and singing Christmas carols at the top of their voices! As if this excitement wasn't enough, we had a very special visitor in our gazebo on Thursday morning, which had been beautifully decorated by some secret elves. We then descended into an explosion of party games and cool dancing at our Christmas party in the afternoon. What an amazing week! Good job we've got a two week holiday ahead with plenty rest, recovery, good food and pyjama days. Happy Christmas everyone!



This week, as part of our topic based on South America, we had a virtual visit to Rio de Janeiro. We met Elaine West, who is a retired maths teacher from a British International School in Rio. Elaine showed the children her garden, which is on the edge of a rainforest. We learnt about the wildlife: there are poisonous snakes; monkeys that eat all the mangoes from her tree and porcupines that fire spines into her dog's face. The children asked her some fabulous questions about landmarks, festivals, climate, and food. Some children thought it would be nice for us to go on a school trip to Rio!

Message from the Friends of the school

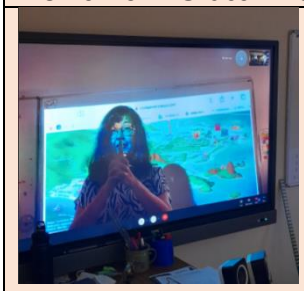
Heartfelt thanks for the wonderful letters from parents and children that helped our grant application for new playground equipment. Sadly, our application was not successful, the funder was seeking a wider geographical reach than our catchment. We will keep looking for other grant opportunities.

Kirkby Fleetham – Dates for your diary	
Every Thursday morning	Brass Lessons with Mr Batty – 9.30am
Friday 17th December	Break up for Christmas holiday
Tuesday 4thJanuary 2022	Training day
Wednesday 5th January	Children return to school
Thursday 6th January	Friends of School Pub Quiz
Tuesday 11th January to Tuesday 8th February	Whole School swimming lessons

East Cowton CE School

East Cowton - Children celebrating achievements this week	
The Pebble Award for Trust goes to:	Lissy White

News from Class Two



On Monday, as part of our topic based on South America, we had a virtual visit to Rio de Janeiro. We met Elaine West, who is a retired maths teacher from a British International School in Rio. Elaine showed the children her garden, which is on the edge of a rainforest. We learnt about the wildlife: there are poisonous snakes; monkeys that eat all the mangoes from her tree and porcupines that fire spines into her dog's face. The children asked her some fabulous questions about landmarks, festivals, climate, and food. Some children thought it would be nice for us to go on a school trip to Rio!

In English, we have been using the silent film 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs- well done to Miss Olivier for planning a series of lessons that the children have enjoyed. They have done some roll play and learnt about speech; they have also written some interesting alternative endings to the story.

Christmas maths has seen us learning about co-ordinates in up to 4 quadrants. Elves and snowmen have appeared on graph paper and are looking impressive.

I'd like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas. I wish that those of you who are unwell, make a speedy recovery and have enough energy to enjoy the festivities.

Swimming in the New Year

Please note that payment for this has been allocated on ParentPay and is due by Friday 7th January along with all consent forms. Swimming commences on Tuesday 11th January for five consecutive Tuesday afternoons. There is no Forest Schools this half term.

Christmas Lunch

Mrs Raw put on a fantastic spread (as always!) on Thursday for our Christmas lunch. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and had very full tummies afterwards. Thankyou Mrs Raw!

East Cowton – Dates for your diary

Friday 17th December	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 4th January	Training Day
Wednesday 5th January	Children return to School
Tuesday 11th January	Whole School swimming lessons start for 5 consecutive Tuesdays

Ravensworth CE School

Ravensworth - Children celebrating achievements this week:

	Stars of the Week	Writers of the Week	
Class 1:	Rose	Lily-May & Eli	**Carpenter's Cup:** Teachers
Class 2:	James & Carter	Ellie & Dexter	**Monkey:** Freddie
Class 3:	Holly, Lucy & Florie	Elliot, Alanna & Max	**Kindness Award:** Elizabeth & Lucy

News From Class 2

The lead up to Christmas has been VERY exciting in class 2. We finished reading our book, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, it was a very emotional ending. We continued our topic of addition and subtraction (but with a Christmassy theme) as well as using our measuring skills making a paper chain; we are hoping to break our record from last year! Within foundation topics we have been rounding up our learning of The Americas as we wind down for the Christmas break.

In more exciting news, we had a special visitor in school. Santa! He brought all the children a book and the friends of the school also bough each class some beautiful gifts that we had chance to use after the Christmas party.

Christmas Fun!

Admin Information

A big thank to for all my Christmas cards and gifts, your kindness is very much appreciated. I hope you have a very happy, healthy and restful Christmas, best wishes to you all love from Mrs Richmond xx

Ravensworth – Dates for your diary

Tues 4th January	Teacher Training Day – school closed
Wed 5th January	School re-opens usual time
Wed 8th - Fri 10th June	Year 5 & 6 Residential visit to East Barny Outdoor Education Centre – more details to follow soon

Quick Links for Each School

BARTON

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term-Dates-2021-2022

The Friends of Barton School easy fundraising link: Easy Fundraising

The Friends of Barton School amazonsmile link: Amazonsmile

Wraparound care: Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Parentpay: ParentPay Login

Uniform: Uniform School Shop

Cool Milk: Cool Milk

Newsletter: 4 school newsletters link

Covid 19 Risk Assessments: click here

KIRKBY FLEETHAM

School Admin email: kfadmin@eckf.dalesmat.org

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch Information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term Dates 2021-2022

The Friends of Kirkby Fleetham School easy fundraising at no cost to you: Kirkby Fleetham easy fundraising link

Wraparound care: Breakfast and Afterschool Club

Friends of the School Facebook link: Friends

ParentPay: ParentPay login

Uniform: Uniform order form

Newsletter: 4 School newsletters link

Covid 19 Risk Assessments: click here

EAST COWTON

Admin email address: ecadmin@eckf.dalesmat.org

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch Information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term Dates 2021-2022

Friends of the school link: Friends

Wraparound care: Afterschool Club

ParentPay: ParentPay Login
Please ensure that your ParentPay accounts are in credit each week – Thankyou

Uniform Order: Order direct from School trends via this link: School Trends.

Newsletter: 4 school newsletters link
Covid 19 Risk Assessments: click here

RAVENSWORTH

School Lunch Menu: School Lunch Information

School Holidays/Term Dates: Term-Dates-2021-2022.

Wraparound care: Afterschool Club

Ravensworth School Friends quick fundraising: - smile.amazon.co.uk

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rsfarichmond/

Uniform: school/uniform/

Parent pay: click

Newsletter: 4 school newsletters link

Covid 19 Risk Assessments: click here

School Facebook pages

Please help us to promote our schools by liking and sharing out Facebook pages:
https://www.facebook.com/Barton-CE-Primary-School-107161734680028
https://www.facebook.com/East-Cowton-CE-School-101930341769707
https://www.facebook.com/Kirkby-Fleetham-CE-School-102216125067240
https://www.facebook.com/Ravensworth-CE-Primary-school-100240412148195

Useful Contacts and Links for Parents

SENCO: If your child is struggling and you would like some advice, please contact their class teacher in the first instance, or you can contact Miss Crisp our SENCO on amycrispsenco@dalesmat.org

Keeping Children Safe Online

Whilst children are spending so much time online, we need to make sure we keep them as safe as possible. If you would like some advice on this, please see guidance for parents below:

Talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_2021.pdf
How to protect children from online sexual harm | Internet Matters
www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/getting-to-know-what-your-child-is-doing-online/
https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
http://www.net-aware.org.uk/send-online-safety-hub/
Parent Zone

If you are worried about the safety of a child or want to know more about how to keep your own child safe:

NYSCP *(North Yorkshire safeguarding children partnership)*
NSPCC
Parents Protect

Free School meals

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office or follow this link: Apply for Free School Meals

Links to Free online books:

https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/
https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/download-e-books-e-magazines-and-digital-audiobooks

County Music service

Is your child interested in playing a musical instrument? North Yorkshire County Music Service offer a wide variety of lessons for pupils. For more information on the type of lessons available and costs, please visit www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk to register your interest.

Sports links:

North Yorkshire Club Finder

A great way for schools to 'signpost' their pupils (parents/guardians) to their local clubs. The link can be found here - North Yorkshire Sport - Activity Finder