

Dates for your diary

5th January

Children return to school

6th January

Wheelchair basketball session—PE kit needed

10th January

Police officer visit

11th January

Police dog handlers visit

12th January

Bags2school collection

24th January

Library bus

7th February

PTA meeting

WALTON AND LEES HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



December 2021

Newsletter 8

Caring, sharing and always learning

If you want others to be happy, practise compassion.

If you want to be happy, practise compassion. (Dalai Lama)

Generosity and Compassion have been the Christian values of focus this term. Our learning about generosity culminated with our harvest celebrations where we delivered gifts of produce around Walton. We have moved on to the trickier value of compassion and we're beginning to understand what this looks like in day to day life, as well as in the special story of Jesus' birth.

Mrs Stobbart and Mrs Rooney

Wilderness camping

Earlier in the year we had a campout in our school grounds. We slept in bell tents and made our own beds. We constructed dens, made bread and had a stone age workshop where we learned how to make a fire. Everyone enjoyed making hot

chocolate, having a barbeque and sitting chatting around the campfire. The banana splits, homemade bread and gooey marshmallows were all popular camping snacks. It was a great couple of days of learning new skills and spending time with our friends.



This is got to be one of the highlights of this term for all of us and such an exciting way to use our wonderful school grounds.



Terrific 2-year-olds!

Early in September, we began welcoming 2-year-olds to the Walton and Lees Hill CE Primary School family. They come to learn and play with us on a Tuesday and Friday morning and really enjoy exploring all of the different area we have in the infant classroom and around and about school. Some of their favourite things to do are; play

outside, play on the bikes, play in the mud kitchen and play with their friends. Tommy, Grace and Ruben are popular members of the team and have integrated into nursery very well, along with Harry and Ellie. If you know of anybody looking for 2-year-old provision, please ask them to get in touch with us.



Remembrance Day

On 11th November we made poppies to remember the people who died in wars fought around the world. Some of us even attended a Remembrance service at Walton church. We had a minutes silence to remember the soldiers that died. We even got to ring the school bell. Amazing!



I want to ride my bicycle!

In November, we got a new Daily Mile track. On the new track, the children can go on the bikes and complete laps of the school building. We can also run a daily mile and have a look at our sensory garden on the way round. We look forward to using the track more in the New Year. Thank you to our PTA for kindly purchasing new bikes and helmets. We just love them!



Whizzy Wheels

It was very heart warming to see Walton Whizzy Wheels in use in Walton last month.

The cancer charity, 'Daft as a Brush', asked schools to create a design for their patient transport vehicles. They have been operating over in the North East for quite some time and have now branched out to Cumbria. We hope that our artwork can provide some comfort to those who are going through a difficult time.



PRAYER FOR HEALING

Father God, we humbly pray for all those who are fighting cancer. Give them the hope and courage they need each day. Comfort them in their pain and bless them with healing. Strengthen their family, friends and caregivers. In Jesus' name, Amen!



Fabulous footballers

Our team really enjoyed the football tournament at William Howard School at the beginning of October. They did very well and got to the semi-finals. They trained twice a week in the run up to the tournament. They had their ups and downs but they never gave up. Thank you to Nev Waugh and Gary Lithgow for

being such great coaches. They never gave up on us and we couldn't have done it without their guidance and support



Talkin Tarn outdoor skills



This term, the school went to Talkin Tarn to do lots of activities. We did; archery, raft building and orienteering. First of all, we tried archery. We had to put arm protection on and we got 3 shots each. We totalled our scored at the end. Second, we did raft building. We were given 2 long poles of wood, rope and 4 barrels. When we built the rafts, we put them in the tarn and sailed away! After lunch, we completed orienteering challenges in small groups. We ran all over the Talkin Tarn site. The following day, two juniors cross country teams competed at the tarn and did very well. All children showed



perseverance and resilience and keep on running. We didn't get a prize but we all tried our best.

Whithaugh week

We really enjoyed our week at Whithaugh. We did all sorts of fun things like swimming, orienteering, abseiling and canoeing. Everyone became a better swimmer and enjoyed splashing about! We were all very brave when abseiling and developed our skills from the first day to the second. It was fun when the infants came along to Whithaugh and we were given the opportunity to explore the woods when orienteering.



Walk to school Wednesdays

During each month of this term, we have managed a walk to school on a Wednesday. We start at the top of the hill, near Courtney's house and walk the 3/4 mile to school. It's a great way to start the school day. In December, we did a reindeer walk to school and finished off with a run around our new track.

So far, we have raised £318 for Jigsaw children's hospice. This is a fantastic amount raised. Thank you everyone.



Experiencing Harvest

To celebrate harvest time in October, we visited Lanercost Priory. Each church school in our local area created a station to represent harvest. The stations were harvest of the Earth, harvest of the garden, harvest of the sea, harvest of the flock and harvest of the grain. The children visited each station and were guided by an adult from school.

There were activities at each one, to help us think about the different aspects of harvest. It was lovely too spend time reflecting in the quiet space of the Priory.



Library van and visit

We visited the library in Carlisle on Monday 29th November. It was lovely to have time exploring the different areas of the library and share stories with friends. We were able to take a book back to school with us. Earlier in the term, the library van visited school and it

was very exciting to see the new van. It had lots of exciting books and colour changing lights. We can't wait for the van to come back in January.



Open Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our open evening last month. Lots of people came and it was a really good idea because the grown-ups got to find out about the things we do in school and we got to play while the grown-ups were talking!



Stuart Reid author visit

Earlier in the term, the author Stuart Reid came to visit our school. He came to talk to us about his job as an author and to read some extracts of his books to us. We really enjoyed listening to his stories and some of the children joined in with acting too. He was really funny, like a comedian and listening to his journey into becoming an author was very interesting. Some children bought some of his books to read at home. We really hope he can visit school again.



Christmas craft fair



In November we had a Christmas craft fair in our school hall. Many people attended and there was a very good selection of stalls. Stalls included The Wee Shade Shop, Usbourne books and Creative Natured

jewellery and crafts. In our infant classroom, there was a baking stall and a refreshment area. Our PTA raised £900 for their funds, which will go towards lots of brilliant opportunities for children in school. Thank you to all who supported this event in many different ways.

Sensory garden

In our school garden area we have a new sensory garden with 4 massive planters, stepping stones and a small water fountain powered by solar power. It is really beautiful. In our planters, we have lots to plants to stimulate our 5 senses.



Movie night

On Friday 15th October we held a pizza and movie night. We also enjoyed popcorn and hot chocolate. We stayed at school until 7.30pm and we managed to watch 2 movies. The first one was The Flintstones and the second was Early Man. Both films were chosen to fit with our stone age topic. We held a movie night to raise money for Cancer Research, after the visit from the Tuk Tuk tour. We raised a brilliant £135 for the charity.



Being generous



On the 13th October we went to St Mary's church in Walton, to put the Christian value of generosity into action. After our request for donations, we received a great selection of home-grown produce and non-perishable items. We made harvest parcels to deliver to members of the community and brighten up their day. After our special deliveries, we went to Walton Green for our harvest celebrations. We sang traditional hymns, as well as catchy songs and shared Bible readings and prayers.

Since our deliveries, we have received many thank you cards. These have been lovely to read. Thank you to everyone who donated produce and came along.



Awe and wonder

In November, we went to visit Newcastle Cathedral. First, we met the people who were going to show us around. Then, we followed the word trail to the entrance; it had lots of words like love, joy, perseverance, hope, trust and wisdom. They link really well to our school Christian values. The Cathedral had many stained glass windows and other interesting features. We made crowns and had to find different things on a Cathedral scavenger hunt. It was a great day. After our

visit, we made the short walk to the Tyne Theatre to see Elf: the musical. The theatre was spectacular inside and the show was amazing. To watch live acting and live music was a fabulous experience and we thank our PTA for paying for this. We really enjoyed the interval ice creams too!



Miracle Child



It was such a nice feeling to be able to invite family members into school, to see our Christmas production of 'The Miracle Child'. The children worked very hard to learn all of the songs and their lines for the play. The hall was filled with Christmas cheer, as the children told

the story of a family preparing for Christmas. In the midst of their preparations, they nearly missed out the true gift of Christmas, being the gift of Jesus. The children's singing was beautiful and one comment as a grandparent left the hall, was that we should be making a CD! Now, there's an idea! Thank you to the staff team who made the hall look beautiful and Christmassy and supported the children with producing the show. Thank you also to you at home, for helping children to learn their lines and probably listening to the children singing the songs during the weeks building up to the performances.

As you will see from reading our newsletter, it has been a term filled with many different experiences for our children and many opportunities for learning. We've been fortunate to be able to hold our Christmas events this week, which have included a craft afternoon, end of term church service, carol singing around Walton and our Christmas lunch with year six parents and carers visiting.

Thank you to the children who have helped out a lot with this edition of our newsletter, by writing some of the articles. It has been a bumper edition, so their help was very much appreciated!

New for this term, we have kept a record of Christian value tokens that the children have collected and they have logged these in their Christian value passports.

Congratulations to **Charlotte** who has collected the most tokens this term. These are celebrated weekly in our celebration worship time on Friday.

Looking ahead, we have some new after school clubs coming up;

Monday—Lego club—in this club, new Lego kits will be available to construct. Children will need to work together and use their problem solving skills to construct. They can then use their models to tell stories and use technology to record these.

Wednesday—Sports club—A sports coach from Carlisle United will be leading a sports club each week. This will include a range of different sports and activities for children to try. Please note that the same coach will be teaching curriculum PE on a Wednesday afternoon too, so PE days will be Tuesday and Wednesday after Christmas, starting from w/c 10th January. The first day back on 5th January will not be a PE day, but children need to come to school in PE kit on 6th January, for a wheelchair basketball session.


Friday—Roving reporters club—in this club, we will keep on top of school news! Each week will be different, but will include things like contributing to the school website, taking and editing photographs to show family members and the community, various aspects of our school and interviewing visitors to school and members of the community. The children will have lots of ideas too and we may even contact the Cumberland News for their support with being a reporter.

Clubs are open to children age 3+ and should be booked by e-mailing Mrs Lyons by Thursday 6th January.

We hope you all have a relaxing Christmas break and enjoy time with family. 2021 certainly hasn't been any easier than 2020, but we can only hope that 2022 holds more positivity moving forward.

Thank you for your amazing support for our school and your child's learning and thank you also for the cards and gifts we have received this week.

Merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Wednesday 5th January.



Merry Christmas
and best wishes
for the New Year
from all the staff
and children of
Walton and Lees
Hill CE
Primary School

