

St. John's Church of England Academy



Telephone 01325 380725 - email: admin@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk
www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss C Large B.Ed (Hons)

Chair of Governors: Mrs V Cadd



Newsletter

Monday 11th December 2017
Issue 121

Guided by God, to be the best that we can be.



We have just two weeks to go until we break up for Christmas. The children are very busy preparing for their concerts and are full of excitement. We lit our first candle on our Advent Wreath to remind us of Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us: and the government will rest in His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.



Last Monday, we lit our first candle on our Advent wreath and our preparations for the birth of Jesus have begun! The children are very busy practising their nativities and concerts; an invitation will be sent on Monday. We look forward to seeing you all and sharing this magical time of year.

Major Shirley from the salvation Army led a lovely worship with the children's help and the head girl and boy presented her with a £30 cheque for the Toy Appeal. If you are aware of any families in need who would benefit from a Christmas



present, please speak to Mrs Baker in confidence.



A Fair Success!
Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fair and made it a huge success. The doors opened at 2pm

and we are sure by 3pm everything was sold out!

We will have the final total by the next newsletter. All the events over the Christmas period would not be possible without the dedication and help we get from the PTFA. Thank you once again for all your time and hard work you do for the children of St. John's.



Christmas Journey

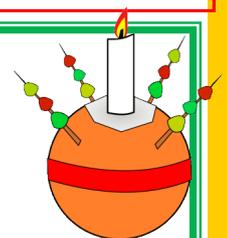
Year 2 went to St John's Church to take part in an interactive workshop and learn all about the journey to Bethlehem. It was a magical experience and the children had lots of fun learning about the first Christmas. They enjoyed



listening to stories, meeting different characters from the Bible, watching a puppet show and dressing up as shepherds and the three kings. In the words of Tia "It was such a lovely story".

We will be going to St. John's Christingle Service on Thursday 21st December at 2pm.

We would love to see you all there to share this magical service. Your child will be bringing home a Christingle Donation Box today. Please put in donations for The Children's Society in the box and return it to school by Tuesday 19th December. We will be taking the donations to the Church when we go for the Christingle Service. Thank you.



Silence Child!

On Tuesday 21st November, Years 5 and 6 experienced the wrath of Sir Ramsay and Madam Brown during Victorian School Day. The children spent the day working in the hall and everything (apart from the cane) was as close to a Victorian school as possible.

The children were not permitted to speak unless spoken to and some were even brave enough to try Cook Penteney's gruel and soda bread. After copper plate handwriting, learning a poem, Bible readings, long multiplication and map reading - all in silence - most of the children were glad to get back to the 21st century.



Cancellation Notice

Due to the busy week of Christmas concerts and many other things happening during this time of the year, there will be **no after school clubs in the last week of this term.** Thank you.



Our Choir have had a very busy week performing at St. John's Church Christmas Fair last Saturday and at school during our Christmas Fair. Well done children you sang beautifully.



Many thanks to Mr Smart who very kindly gave us lots of rock salt from Castlegate in Stockton. We are certainly going to need it!



The senior members of our Sustainable Travel Ambassadors team travelled to The National Schools Travel Awards in the Scientific Centre in Newcastle. St John's were nominated for their hard work and dedication for trying to improve the safety of our children crossing the road by encouraging parents to park responsibly outside of our school. The team had a wonderful day sharing the fun with many other North East schools. We were delighted to receive yet another Gold Star award and a beautiful glass trophy for the best school in Darlington. We are very proud of all our STAs; keep up the good work! May we respectfully remind parents to park responsibly at all times to keep our children safe.



Dates for Diaries

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|-----------------|--|
| 12.12.17 | EYFS visit to Bear & Butterfly at Hullabaloo - 1pm |
| 19.12.17 | Christmas Lunch |
| 20.12.17 | Christmas Concerts 10.30am EYFS 2pm & 6pm KS1 & KS2 |
| 21.12.17 | Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party - AM |
| 21.12.17 | Christingle at St John's Church. Start 2pm all are welcome. |
| 22.12.17 | Nursery & reception Christmas Party - AM |
| 22.12.17 | KS2 Christmas Party - PM |
| 22.12.17 | School closes for Christmas Holiday |
| 8.1.18 | Children return to school |

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Our whole school attendance is 95.8% which has improved slightly but we are aiming to achieve 96.4%, which is the target set by our Governors. Well done to the classes who won the attendance awards.

Attendance Winners for Autumn Term 2

| | | |
|--------|-------------|------|
| Week 3 | Y4 | 100% |
| Week 4 | Y2, Y4 & Y6 | 98% |
| Week 5 | Y6 | 98% |