



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
10th December 2021



Tel: [W: 01207560325](tel:01207560325) [B: 01661842271](tel:01661842271)

Website: www.broomley.northumberland.sch.uk/website



Our overall attendance this week was

97.2 %

Well done everyone for a fantastic attendance record this week.

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN:

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising and running the fantastic Christmas Fair this afternoon. We couldn't have done it without you. The children have had some much fun visiting the stalls and even getting to visit Santa in his grotto, what a treat! Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch too this week-it's been full of festive cheer!

We had our final dress rehearsals this morning before the film crew arrives on Monday to film our three Christmas performances. Pre-school and reception, Year 1 and 2 followed by Year 3 and 4. As you will be well aware, we have decided not to host audiences again this year and I have made the reasons for this really clear in previous correspondence from NCC. The swift rise in cases of the Omicron variant and further restrictions has underlined the need for that decision. All performances are being recorded and shared on a DVD so please do click on the link to order if you would like a copy [Christmas DVD orders](#)

COVID cases in school are currently relatively low (compared to Local Authority data) and although there has been an increase in isolated cases, we are doing all we can to give our children the best experience of Christmas possible. We are managing all of the things that we are currently doing to try and minimise risk and protect the Christmas break for our children, families and staff. I am sure that you all want to be able to spend some quality family time over Christmas and visit those near and dear.

Next week we look forward to the Panto visit, Christmas storytelling afternoon, Christmas Parties and the Christingle-we can't wait!

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

Reception

- Aurn T- J for his brilliant

Year 1

- Roo R for his fantastic work in RE

Year 2

- Ruben B for his amazing rhyming sentences

Year 3

- Matteo H for his resilience and persevering in all his work

Year 4

- Walt M for excellent skill and accuracy during P.E!



Head Teacher Awards

- Natty G in Year 4-for being a fantastic role model to others.
- Francesca S in Year 2 for have super polite manners
- Edward M in Y4 for being an absolute star helping out in class today

SCHOOL UPDATES

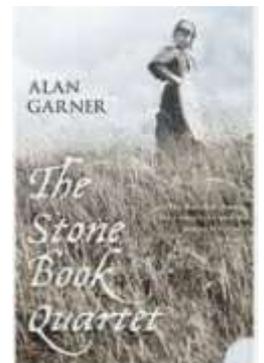
Book Review Corner:

This week's book review comes from Mr Moore who has shared his top picks for both children and adults.



'My book recommendation for the kids is Dog Man by Dav Pilkey - it's been around for a while but I only just read it. It's hilarious, set in a comic book style and all kids will love it!'

'My recommendation for parents is The Stone Book Quartet by Alan Garner. It's a compilation of four short stories spanning several generations of the same family, all of them focussing on a day in the life of one of the children. It's tremendous, especially the final story which is set in winter. If anyone gets a few hours to themselves (!) this holiday I can think of nothing better than curling up with this book.'



Mr Moore

Thank you Mr Moore - something for all the family there. We can't wait to read them!



Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day

We loved seeing the children in all their Christmas finery today for Christmas Jumper Day. This is in aid of Save the Children which helps children both locally and around the world.

If anyone would like to donate to the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day appeal, you can find our Just Giving Page by following the link below or scanning the QR code:

[Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Donations](#)

Thank you to everyone who has already donated - so far we have raised £103.



Christmas Performance DVDs

As we are unable to welcome parents into school this year to watch our Christmas Performances, we have arranged for the performances to be filmed and put onto a DVD which parents will be able to purchase at a cost of £5. All of the key stage performances will be on one DVD, so if you have a child in more than one key stage there is no need to buy more than one copy. If you would like to order a copy then please follow the link below and complete the google form:

[Christmas DVD orders](#)

Payment may be made by Parentmail PMX, cash in a named envelope or cheque (made payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust) You may order multiple copies if you would like. If paying on parentmail please select the item and then add the quantity you would like to order before adding to the basket.

Please place your orders by the close of play on **Monday 13th December**. The Christmas Elves will then get working to get orders to us as soon as they possibly can!

School Christmas Party Lunch Thursday 9th December:

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mr Brennan and Mrs Finch for preparing such an amazing Christmas buffet lunch, and to Mrs Archibald for helping to serve it all out. The children and staff all seemed to really enjoy it and tucked into the fabulous feast with gusto. There were crackers, party hats and Christmas music to add to the festive feel too.



Christmas Fair and Visit from Santa:

We all got into the Christmas spirit today - the children all looked amazing wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats. There were lots of sparkles and glitter which put everyone in a very Christmassy mood and made us all ready to have some fun at the PTA Christmas fair. Thank you to all those parents and our amazing PTA who came along to volunteer to run the stalls and activities for the children. We also had a very special visit from the great man himself, Santa Claus. There was great excitement and everyone had a fantastic time.



Other Christmas Events:

As well as practising for their Christmas Performances, the children have also been busy making Christmas Crafts this week. Each class has done something different. As you can see from the picture, Y1 children have been busy making and decorating a gingerbread man each.



Next week we also have the storytelling afternoon, Christingle service and of course we will be rounding the week off with a special disco party for each class.

Usually we have a collection bucket at the Christmas performances and use the donations we get to help fund the Christmas activities. However due to Covid restrictions in place again this year, we are unable to invite parents into school to watch the plays. To help us cover some of the costs of the above treats, we have set up a voluntary contribution on Parentmail of £5.00 for anyone who would like to donate.





Jack and the Beanstalk Panto:

Thank you to all the parents who have already paid a voluntary contribution of £8.50 for the pantomime next Wednesday. If anyone else would like to make a contribution, this can be done through parentmail or by sending cash into school. We appreciate your help with this - all contributions will be used to cover the cost of bringing the pantomime into school.



Milk for Spring Term:

If your child has milk at break time, it is time to place your order for the Spring Term. The cost of milk for the full term will be £17.50 per child. Our preferred method of payment is Parentmail PMX but cash or cheque (payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust) may be sent in to school in a named envelope.

If your child is under 5 for the whole spring term i.e. 5th birthday falls after Friday 8th April 2022, they are eligible to receive **FREE** school milk. Children who receive benefit related free school meals are also entitled to free school milk.

Please complete the google form [Spring term milk](#) to let us know whether your child would like milk.

The deadline for completing the google form is today - the form will be closed on Monday morning. Anyone requiring milk for their child after this time, will need to contact the school office directly.

Mid Tyne Kids Club - Holiday Opening Hours:

If you would like to use MTKC over the holidays they will be open on the following days:

- Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd December - normal opening times
- Tuesday 4th January - Teacher Training Day - normal opening hours

Kids Club will be closed from the holidays - Friday 24th December to Monday 3rd January inclusive.

If you would like to book a space, please contact them on 0737 817 5687.



Christmas Appeal for The People's Kitchen:

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our People's Kitchen Christmas Appeal - we have so far raised £190 to help those in need in our local community to enjoy a hot Christmas lunch in a safe and warm space this holiday. Receiving this friendship often gives people the strength needed to navigate tough times.

If you would still like to donate to the 'Feed a Friend for a Fiver' appeal, please follow the link to our Just Giving page - [Feed a Friend for a Fiver Broomley](#) You can make a donation of any amount on the page - it doesn't need to be a full £5 - and together we can hopefully provide lots of hot meals for people who really need them. If you would like to know more about the work of The People's Kitchen, visit their webpage <https://peopleskitchen.co.uk/>

Covid Symptoms and PCR testing:

Just a reminder that with the new variant of Covid circulating the rules around PCR testing has again tightened. The advice we now have from Northumberland County Council is that any children who have any symptoms of Covid should book a PCR test and remain out of school until a negative result has been confirmed.

We are striving to protect all our children, families and staff so that we can hopefully all have a lovely Christmas so thank you for your continued support with the above.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 13th December Christmas Performances - due to Covid restrictions, parents will not be able to attend but performances will be filmed
- Tuesday 14th December Christmas Music Concert - children learning an instrument will have a chance to perform in front of the other children.
- Wednesday 15th December M and M Production of Jack and the Beanstalk in school
- Thursday 16th December Visit from 'Christmas Animals'
- Thursday 16th December Christmas Story Telling Afternoon - whole school
- Friday 17th December Christingle Service - to be held in school
- Friday 17th December Class Christmas Parties and disco -children invited to wear party clothes
- Friday 17th December School closes for Christmas Holidays
- Tuesday 4th January Teacher Training Day
- Wednesday 5th January School Reopens for Spring Term
- Thursday 6th January Y3/Y4 Netball club begins
- Tuesday 25th January Reception Class Vision Screening - more information to follow shortly

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher