



# Northburn News

Dear Parents

I would like to thank you for your good wishes and thanks to us all. I am very grateful for the support you give to us, and your children in their schooling. I would also like to thank the staff, as they have worked incredibly hard to plan inspiring lessons and learning opportunities. Thank you to the P.T.A for their dedication in supporting the school. The Christmas fair was a huge success and raised an incredible £837.36. The obstacle course raised a huge £1,662.00. They also provided refreshments at the church, our assemblies, Nativity and parties and Christmas activities for the children. The money raised also paid for the pantomime performance, Dick Whittingham, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Yet another term has flown by and as usual, there has been plenty going on at Northburn.

A personal highlight is the Reception Nativity and the Nursery Sing Along. I am always amazed at how confident our children are and the number of lines and song lyrics they can remember. They were simply fantastic!

**Mrs Jackie Smith will be leaving her post as mid-day meal supervisor after an amazing 27 years. We would like to thank her for her dedication and care for the children of Northburn. We are thrilled that we will continue to see her around school, as she plans to continue in her job as cleaner.**

**Thank you very much from all at Northburn.**

It was lovely to see our school community come together for a carol service at St Nicholas Church. The children read and sang beautifully. Mike and Tish have asked me to remind you that they are holding a service at St Peters, in the school hall at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve. All are welcome. I hope you have all been able to see the decorations in the church which were made by our children in Nursery and Reception.

This term we have relaunched OPAL and each key stage has been responsible for developing different areas within the school grounds and we now have the following areas up and running: mud kitchen, water area, construction and den building area, small world area, stage area. The children have access to these areas

## Donations

In January we are looking for donations of:

- Sand toys e.g. buckets, spades, sand moulds etc.
- Wheeled items e.g. suitcases, wheel barrows, buggies (full size and toy), trolleys, bikes, scooters, hoovers, skateboards

both at play times and lunch times



OPAL  
and are enjoying exploring the new are-

# Northburn School Games Mark Success

School Games Mark is a national award to recognise and reward schools for their year-round commitment to PE, school sport, physical activity and the development of competition across their school. 2018-19 was another successful year for Northburn, as we achieved the prestigious **Platinum Award** for the first time.



To achieve the Gold Award a school needs to ensure that all children have 2 hours of timetabled PE, engage at least 50% of pupils in extra-curricular activities, have a year-round calendar of opportunities for appropriate competition, engage at least 15% of pupils in leadership activity, have active links with local community providers and support school staff in the delivery of school sport and physical activity.

Northburn Primary School is one of only four Cramlington and Seaton Valley schools who have achieved the **Platinum Award**. The Platinum level was launched to reward schools that have maintained consistently high standards with their school sport provision. To achieve the **Platinum Award** a school must have maintained the Gold Award for 5 consecutive years and demonstrate their school's achievements through a detailed case study. Congratulations to Northburn staff on the national recognition of their commitment to providing a wide range of opportunities to their pupils throughout the year.



## Girls Football Tournament

KS2 girls have been training hard in preparation for the Y5/6 Cramlington and Seaton Valley football tournament, which took place in October. Both teams played fantastically and with great sportsmanship. Amazingly, Northburn yellow team won the tournament and will represent Cramlington and Seaton Valley at the Northumberland School Games in June 2020.



## Improving standards and increasing opportunities in PE

Northburn staff have been working alongside specialist coaches in PE sessions, aiming to increase the range of opportunities available to pupils, whilst also improving their subject knowledge and confidence in some activities, to promote sustainability for the future. During the Autumn term, gymnastics, badminton and Pilates were introduced to classes across KS1 and KS2. Badminton is a sport that many pupils may not have had the opportunity to try before, yet is a great activity for getting active with family and friends. Pilates was new to many of the children, who discovered that it was hard work! As an individual activity where you are only competitive with yourself, and a chance to relax and be calm and mindful, this has engaged pupils in PE who might not always enjoy "traditional" PE activities.

## Table Tennis

Pupils in KS2 have enjoyed learning to play table tennis at after school club. The club has been very popular and was set up as a result of a suggestion made in a pupil voice forum. Pupils that had never played before are now developing good basic skills under the tutelage of Harry, our coach.

## Thunder in the Valley—Basketball Tournament

In November, teams from Northburn descended on the Newcastle Eagles Community Arena for the annual Thunder In The Valley basketball competition. Y5&6 pupils from Cramlington schools took part in a 4v4 basketball competition. The standard from both our teams was impressively high with a lot of competitive play and plenty of baskets scored. Almost 300 players, school staff and family supporters stayed and enjoyed the spectacle of live top-class basketball as they cheered Newcastle Eagles to a 104-71 victory over Manchester Giants.





Thank you all for participating in our 'reverse advert calendar. We were blown away by your generosity and the volunteers at the Hope Centre were reduced to tears. They have now filled their shelves and are sharing out your donations to local families in need.

They offer a uniform exchange service and welcome donations of Northburn uniform.



## Governors

Thank you very much to our Governors who have had a busy term of meetings and school visits. Your time and support is much appreciated.

## P.T.A

Thank you to the P.T.A for the amazing work you do. Our school budget continues to be incredibly tight and funds raised through events are critical, if we are to continue to provide an exciting and inspiring primary school experience.

## 100% Attendance

Well done to all who have managed to escape illness and attend every day since the beginning of the autumn term.

Those children who attend every day are entered into a termly draw. The winner receives a Vue voucher. Ryder Gray is our winner this term. Very well done.



**Green House have won the cup for the term. Well done!**



# Early Years Foundation Stage

EYFS have enjoyed a busy half term we enjoyed sharing our school and some of the activities we do with our family and friends at the Autumn Open Day.

Don't forget to log into Tapestry so you can see what else we have been doing.



Reception were amazing performing on the stage for the first time in 'A Miracle in Town'. The children were fantastic and thank you parents for the super costumes and helping the children learn lines and songs. What a team!

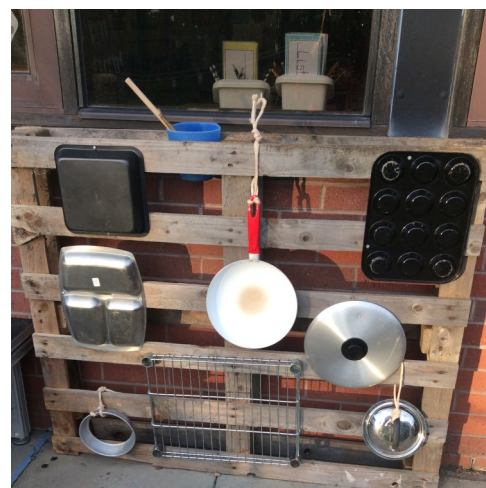


## Nursery

Nursery performed for the very first time this term at their Christmas Concert. All the children were extremely brave and sang beautifully. Well done Nursery.



We have spent a great deal of time improving our outdoor area the children decided which areas they wanted and what they wanted in those areas. They are also learning how to take care of the area. A big thank you to Mrs Palmer and Mrs Coull's dads for helping us develop the area.



# Key Stage 1

## Beamish Trip

Pupils in key stage one enjoyed a trip to Beamish Museum to learn about transport in the past and enjoy some traditional craft activities. The school was a firm favourite with the children. They enjoyed scribing on slate boards and playing 'hoop and stick' at playtime. After a quick trip on an open air tram, pupils visited the sweet shop and bakers. During the day pupils played traditional parlour games at the farm and Pockerly Manor. They also made cinnamon biscuits and a wooden peg doll to hang on their own Christmas tree. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the trip and had lots of experiences to write about upon returning to school.



## KS1 OPAL Water Zone

KS1 have created their own water splash zone as part of the school OPAL initiative. Pupils have been learning about recycling unused materials and have donated old buckets, hose pipes and wellies to make this fun learning resource.



## Fire fighters Visit

In October, KS1 had a visit from the firefighters of East Hartford Fire station. Pupils were learning about fire safety as part of our 'Fire of London' topic. The fire fighters talked about fire safety at home and also on bonfire night. Pupils also got to sit in the fire engine and look at the important equipment that fire fighters need to do their job safely.

## Winter Craft Morning

Parents and relatives of KS1 pupils were invited into school to enjoy a morning of winter crafts with their children. Parents and children worked together to make a variety of winter decorations including a snowman, marshmallow biscuits, glittering stars and reindeer pegs. The morning was finished with coffee and biscuits and a selection of popular carols. Thank you to everybody that made donations, we will use funds raised to purchase new role-play equipment in KS1.



## Foodbank

Pupils have been donating food and household products to support a local foodbank as part of our reverse advent calendar scheme. KS1 feel this is a fantastic way to show the pupils that Christmas is about giving, as much as it is receiving. We appreciate every kind donation that has been made.



## PTA Obstacle Course

KS1 pupils had a fantastic time completing the PTA annual obstacle course. This year pupils had to run the gauntlet of mud, water and gloop. While climbing over haystacks, through tunnels and under cargo nets... getting very muddy and wet in the process! A great time was had by all pupils and lots of sponsorship money was raised.



# Lower Key Stage Two



Since September, Year 3 and 4 have gone all Italian. We began by researching the landscape and cities of Italy and even compared the climate to that of Great Britain. (Not very favourably for Cramlington!)

Since half term, we have begun to investigate the history of Italy and why the Romans came to Britain. We will continue our work into the way of life of the ancient Romans in Britain next term.

We have been working on our core strength in PE by doing Pilates. Favourite positions have been the plank, shoulder bridge and happy and sad cat.

Gymnastics involved following complicated sequences with different balancing and travelling movements.



Year 4 have been enjoying cookery lessons with our school cook, Mrs. Clattenburg and Mrs. Ashley. During the sessions they have learnt chopping skills, decoration with icing and how to make bread, cup cakes, shortbread and pastry. Pupils have really enjoyed these lessons and produced some impressive bakes.

It has been a very busy term for the choir, particularly in the run up to Christmas. The children have worked extremely hard during lunchtime rehearsals to learn a range of Christmas carols and songs. They were thrilled at the opportunity to perform to the lunch club at East Hartford Community Centre. We are also grateful to all the parents who came along to support us at the Christmas Carol Concert. We are looking forward to recommencing in the spring term.



Upper Key Stage 2 has had an extremely busy term. We have a trainer from Newcastle Eagles teaching us about basketball; support from the county badminton coach and PC Wells (a Community Support Officer) teaching us about how we can be safe online. We have also had additional coaching for the girls and boys football teams which we thoroughly enjoyed as well as our VERY muddy Obstacle Course.

Pupils have continued to complete their *Challenge Award* at school and at home. We look forward to seeing what the children produce next term.

### Duck Day

This half term Year 5 as they had to run a business for the day! In teams, they were given £150 to spend on resources to make and sell origami ducks. We had some magnificent ducks, and some really tiny ones which were sold for £200! Every team made a good profit on this day, and showed how effectively they could reason, problem solve and work together. The winning team made over £700 profit, we definitely have some future entrepreneurs in Year 5.

#### Amelia Asquith

Duck Day allowed us to work as a team. It taught us how to run our own business and how silly decisions lead to consequence.

#### Jonathan Tosh

Managing money is really important.

### Bikeability

Whilst the Year 6 were having fun at Hawkhirst, Year 5 were taking part in Bikeability. Despite a very rainy start at the beginning of the week, all of the children made progress with their cycling skills! Under the watchful eye of the Bikeability instructors, everyone made it out onto the roads demonstrating high levels of skill and observation. All children who took part were complimented on their impeccable behaviour, their determination and resilience.

#### Nina Lin

I learned how to safely ride my bike.

#### Zach Fellows

I learned when you stop on your bike you have to put your left foot on the path so. I really enjoyed Bikeability.

#### James Stephenson

I learned how to turn and the importance of looking for cars.

### Katie Dougherty

I enjoyed Parliament Week because it was fun learning about debating and the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

#### Alfie Flint

I learned about the House of Commons, so I am going to watch the news more.

### Parliament Week

Pupils participated in UK Parliament Week. Councillor Wayne Daley visited and explained his role and that of Northumberland County Council. Pupils also explored the notion of democracy whilst learning about the House of Commons, House of Lords and General Elections.

#### Shay Ashley

Parliament Week was amazing. Wayne Daley came in to discuss his job, which I found extremely fascinating.

# Upper Key Stage Two

### Little Inventors

Year 6 had the 'Little Inventors' team in to generate energy, save energy or to use energy more effectively. Little Inventors are organisation that inspires imagination by taking children's amazing ideas seriously. We hope to be one of the fifteen young people from the North East, who will have their invention made.

### Hawkhirst

A successful year where children faced their fears in activities like climbing, abseiling and zip wire.

#### Amber Lashley

It was amazing. Although I was scared at first, I overcame my fears.

#### Logan Forster

I enjoyed learning campfire songs. My favourite was "The Tree Song!"

#### Theo Daughtery

I enjoyed the zip wire even though it was scary at the top.

### Dyson — Design Process Box

We have been using the Design Process Box on loan from the *James Dyson Foundation*. Pupils have discovered what a design engineer is and the processes products go through before they reach consumers. This has been linked to how engineers developed the Dyson Air Multiplier fan, a source of great fascination.

A massive thank you to Year 6 parents for their generosity. Your donations at the Hawkhirst assembly raised £91! Year 6 adopted Alice the Snowy Owl and Ollie the Little Owl at Kielder Water Birds of Prey Centre.

#### Lily Munro

I loved Hawkhirst because I got to do lots of things I had never tried before. My highlight of the week was zip wire.

The lead up to Christmas has been extremely busy. We have supported the PTA with the Christmas Fayre and decorated baubles, helped serve Northburn's Christmas lunch and had to time celebrate Christmas at our party.

## Science, Technology, Maths, Science (S.T.E.M) week

Year 6 had a visit from the Little Inventors team and they spent an afternoon designing an invention to solve an everyday problem using renewable energy. Miss Hurst has been teaching Year 5 & 6 about the role of a Design Engineer with a Dyson Fan she has had on loan for 4 weeks. It has caused immense excitement. Year 5 and 6 have started working on their designs for the goblin car.

In the New Year:

STEM will focus around Global Goals and KS1 will undertake a project tackling needs within our local community.

The Invention shed will open up for use during break and lunchtimes. It will support the teaching of STEM subjects.

Mrs Nicholson

## Dates for your Diary

Teacher Training Day	Monday 6th January 2020
Children return to school	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Parent consultations	Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th February 2020
Jungle Book performances for parents	Tuesday 11th –Thursday 13th February 2020
P.T.A Valentine Disco	Wednesday 5th February 2020
Easter Fair	Wednesday 1st April 2020
Drop ins	Wednesday 8th January and Wednesday the 22nd April 2020



**Many thanks for your continued support. Have a magical Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.**

**Clare Scott**

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