

23rd December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the first of our new regular updates from School. We hope to be able to share with you what the children are doing in School including photographs from each class.

In this first edition, we are pleased to share with you photographs from the various performances which have been taking place over the last 2 weeks.

For the first time since Autumn 2019, it has felt like a 'normal' term in School. The children have worked extremely hard since their return in September and, despite it being the longest term that I can remember, their work ethic has not faltered. It has been my great privilege to be able to visit each class and see the amazing things that the children have been doing and learning about. Not only have they worked hard but we have been impressed with both their behaviour and attitude. Visitors to the School all comment on how calm and purposeful the classrooms are.

Both the Academy Committee and I would like to offer our thanks to all the adults who work in School not only to provide the best possible learning opportunities for the children but also to support them when they need it.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all of you who have supported both the School and your children throughout the Autumn term.

On behalf of the School and Academy Committee, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with love, joy and peace.

Merry Christmas!

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



Attendance Matters



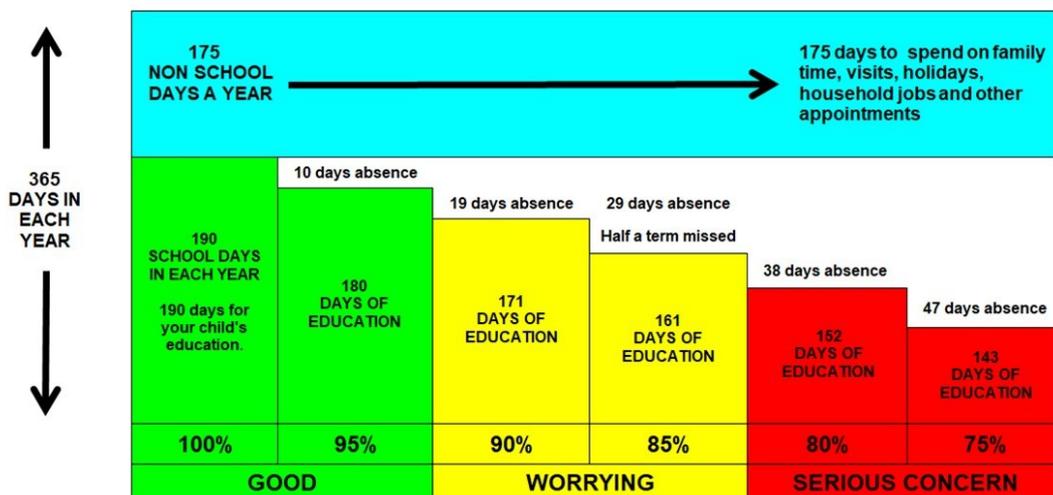
We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this term is summarised below:

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Reception (Owls)	95.4	Year 3 (Gibside)	95.4
Year 1 (Wallington)	96.3	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96.8
Year 2 (Craggside)	93.4	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	95.3
		Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.5

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days off School add up to lost learning!



'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'

Christmas Ukulele Concert

Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed showing their parents and carers what they had learnt at the Christmas Ukulele Concert. They played songs using single notes and chords from a variety of musical styles including folk, rock and roll and classical. They really enjoyed playing some seasonal favourites such as Rudolph and Jingle Bells!



Music and Drama Showcase

Both Drama Club and Choir showed what they have been learning at a special evening event. While families enjoyed canapes and a Christmas meal, provided by Richard from the Pele Trust, Drama Club acted out 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' and the Choir sang a variety of Christmas songs. There was even an opportunity for children to showcase their individual talents during the show. The event raised £932! Well done everyone!



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

A Miracle in Town!

We were absolutely delighted to be able to welcome the families and friends of the Early Years' children to their Nativity performance of a Miracle in Town! This was the first performance for three years but the children were not at all fazed by it! Everyone remembered their lines, actions and songs delivering them clearly and confidently. Well done everyone; an amazing and memorable show!



I'm Gonna Shine with Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 had a great time retelling the story of Christmas at St. Andrew's Church. There was amazing singing, including solos, reading, acting and dancing all celebrating the birth of Jesus at that very first Christmas. It was really special being able to perform again at our parish Church in Heddon.



Key Stage 2 Carol Service

There is no better way to celebrate the end of the Autumn term than with our Carol Service at St. Andrew's Church with Key Stage 2. The children enjoyed singing ancient and traditional carols, including one in Latin, acapella, and more modern ones with the help of some of the staff including in German and Spanish! We also enjoyed singing our 'Christmas at the Movies' medley to end our service.



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Friends of Heddon Christmas Fair

School would like to thank all the people who attended our Christmas Fair on Friday 16th December. It was wonderful to see so many people in School again following the restrictions of the past few years.

Thanks to the hard work of the Friends of Heddon alongside the children and staff the Fair raised £1157.98.

Thanks to your continuing generosity for Christmas Jumper Day the School was able to donate £136 to Save the Children.



Reminder

School re-opens on Monday 9th January 2023.

We look forward to seeing you all then.