



# News from Woodlawn

## Autumn 2017

### Choir Goes from Strength to Strength



#### Hands Hearts Voices Choir

The choir is continuing to grow in size and confidence. They were once again invited to sing at Christ Church in North Shields as part of the LD:NE carol service on 1<sup>st</sup> December. There were some very proud parents & carers present. Nichola Aldcroft also signed a lovely reading for an appreciative congregation.

The choir also performed a fabulous rendition of popular Christmas songs at the Enterprise afternoon.

The choir is led by Nichola and practices every Thursday afternoon.

### School Song

The pupils and staff have recently chose 'Count On Me' by Bruno Mars as our school song.

### Bubbles Galore!

We were very fortunate to have

Jesse Ward, a Bubbleologist, visit school last week. All pupils had the

### WPFA



The team are always looking for new members – if you can support in any way, please contact the school for more information/come along to a meeting. The WPFA are currently raising funds towards a new mini-bus for school.



Here we are after packing 1000 puddings and certificates into individual carrier bags on the 11<sup>th</sup> in readiness for the 'Boxing Day Xmas

Pudding Run'. We are in our 32<sup>nd</sup> year!



We were overwhelmed this year with the generosity of Sainsbury's who donated over 800 fruit puddings and well done to Susan Smith who got an additional donation and discount from

Morrisons for the 200 sponge pudds!

Please come along on Boxing Day – to run or cheer or both!

Registration from 9.30am.

Entry fee £7.00 adult & £3

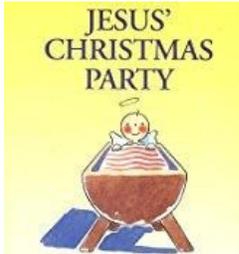
child. A 3 mile run starting at

the War Memorial, The Links, Whitley Bay. It's always a great event and helps raise money for Woodlawn School. We had in excess of 800



opportunity to watch her make her bubble creations and get actively involved in her workshop activities.

### What have Primary been up to?



What a fabulous performance to round off the term in Primary. Each class performed their piece to a very appreciative audience of family, friends and invited

guests.

Thanks to our 'Director' Nichola and all parents/carers for the wonderful costumes.



In EYFS the children have been working really hard on their communication and language skills, developing communication through their senses and learning new words from sensory stories. Some

children are beginning to sound out initial sounds in some words using picture communication symbols and sound buttons to support – well done everyone!

In Kimberley's class the pupils have been working with lots of Christmas themed activities, the favourite being freezing and melting 'Santa's hands' where they all worked hard together to see where they could melt his 'hands' the quickest - you can see below the radiator was the winner!

The children were also very excited for and had a fabulous time at their Polar Express Party last Monday.



The children in Sara's class have been learning about letter writing using 'The Jolly

runners last year and we are sure there will more this year. Look out for our bus passing out the carrier bags!

**General Meeting** – Watch out for a date coming in the Spring term - please come along and support with the planning of the Summer Fair 2018!

In Mhari's class the children have been exploring Winter and the changes from Autumn to Winter. They have explored a sensory story where the children decided 'what happens next' and included a rather adventurous sleigh ride! The children have explored how ice is made and how it changes state over time. They created their own production line to make items for their enterprise stall and have enjoyed making lots of other lovely Christmas crafts.

Throughout the term Claire & Keely's class have learnt to work and play together, helping each other to build lego, developing their sharing skills and turn taking. PE has been one of the favourite lessons, where pupils have taken part in a sensory circuit with a range of different "stations" challenging their balance, physicality, gross motor skills and helping to develop their sensory processing skills. The pupils have shown excellent progress in listening skills, team work and leadership skills.

The class went on a trip to Beamish, where the children experienced life as an Evacuee from World War II. They loved getting warm by the coal fire, making carrot cookies with rationed ingredients and preparing for a blackout.



In Debbie & Joe's class during Design and Technology the children have been as busy as Santa's Little Helpers, making baubles, cards, wrapping paper and baskets. They used and explored lots of different materials and techniques to make things such as: salt dough, computer programs, handprints, finger prints, stamps, they even managed some baking!

**OpenUpMusic** The orchestra group continue to enjoy making music and developing their musicianship skills. They have created a Halloween

Postman' book as their literacy focus. The children have written and received letters from characters within the book and also went to post letters to Santa Claus. They were thrilled to each receive a response from the man himself!

## Secondary Department Update

GW form have been out and about developing their road safety skills. They rounded off the term with a trip to Newcastle city Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

CJ form have had a great time looking at stories and storytelling in Creative Arts. They have learnt some of the techniques writers use to make a story interesting. They have listened to stories from around the world and really enjoyed the dark versions of traditional fairy tales that Roald Dahl tells in Revolting Rhymes! The class went on to write their own stories; some of them writing versions of known stories with new characters others wrote a completely original tale. After preparing in groups, the pupils acted out their stories for the rest of the class. The brilliant performances of 'The Gingerbread Pig' and 'The Naughty Boy and Girl' were not to be missed!



AB form have completed some fantastic work in History. They have covered the fight for the throne in 1066, the Battle of Hastings and William the Conqueror's subsequent victory.

Pupils made their own representations of a motte and bailey castle by using sweets and cakes. The whole process was very creative and lots of fun.



and



Secondary pupils attended an interactive Bonfire safety event in Benwell along with Post 16 pupils have participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Aid

song with carefully constructed expressive individual musical elements and lyrics and been involved in composing another about Christmas. The new participants have been exploring different sounds on the instruments. They have diverse interests and skills, including several who enjoy singing. They are working either individually or in pairs to begin finding particular instruments and musical means of expression that particularly suit them.

## Physical Education

A number of pupils have been competing this term

U11, U14 & U16 Cross Country in South Shields

U16 Gymnastics at Northern Hope

U16 Girls disability Football Festival in Walker which is ongoing through to June 2018.

U16 Basketball at Tyne Met College.

We have had some great coaching in school including Newcastle Falcons delivering rugby to our secondary pupils and Laura Prince Dance in Education developing a lunchtime club for us and will be involved in our 2018 dance festival entry.

Swimming sessions are continuing to go from strength to strength and the pupils should be very proud of their achievements in developing their water confidence, swimming skills & stroke development.

The lessons have taken on a very festive theme these last few and the children have responded well. They have swam through 'igloos'; collected foam baubles to decorate the pool Christmas tree; made a snowman out of snowballs and swim resources and worked hard to receive a reward from the pool Christmas advent calendar. It's been a magical time.

## Governor News

We have three new Governors. Two are co-opted who have strong links in the community - Helen Samuel & Emily Ward. Also your new parent Governor is Angela Blades.

All Governors can be contacted via the main office.

A number of visits have been conducted over the Autumn term including learning walks as well as

training with The Red Cross.

### Christmas Enterprise

What a great afternoon we had. Fabulous singing from the choir and lovely stalls by each class. Well done everyone!



### Staff News

We are saying a fond farewell to Claire Taylor & James Crowther from our Primary Department at the end of the Autumn term as they go to pastures new. We wish them every success and thank them for their hard work during their time at Woodlawn.

We have welcomed some new staff to our team during the Autumn term, Katherine Fellowes & Helen Murray as teaching assistants, Jude Ryan as receptionist & Joanne Brown as lunchtime supervisor.

We welcome back Keely Crowther in January from her maternity leave.

Get well wishes are sent to Georgie Hind.

### School Council

The pupils have elected their representatives for the new academic year. The school council benefits the whole school, pupils and teachers, because it provides opportunities for pupils to communicate their feelings as well as influence decisions that are made. Our representatives will attend school council meetings in school and be a voice for their class. We will keep you posted on facebook and by future newsletters on what the council are doing.



Last Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December the majority of pupils and staff enjoyed a fantastic lunch provided by our catering team –



Post 16 and a review of Equality & Diversity. Training has included Child Protection.

### Safeguarding

Our child protection policy has been updated and a copy is on our website.

### Health & Safety

Woodlawn is undergoing a full external Health & Safety Audit in January. We will let you know how we do.

### New Website Coming Soon

We will be launching our new website in January. More news to follow.....

### Charity Fundraising

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING**



£208.64 raised



**Jeans for Genes Day**  
Changing the world for children with genetic disorders

£75.91 raised



5

many thanks to Anne & her staff.

£99.08 raised

### **Look who came to Town!**

We had a very special guest at the Primary Department Christmas Party. Santa spared us some time out of his very busy schedule to deliver presents to the pupils.



£ 61.94 raised

Thank-you for all your contributions this term for the above worthwhile causes.

## Message from the Head

I can't believe we are at the end of the Autumn Term. It has been 17 busy weeks here at Woodlawn!



I want to thank all the staff for their efforts in getting the school ready for our pupils in September following the major works within our ceilings over the summer holidays. The works were more extensive than originally anticipated and we have more to do next Summer!

It has been truly wonderful to see so many parents and carers at our events including the MacMillan coffee morning, parents evening, the Harvest Festival led by our Vice Chair of the Governing Body Rev Peter Dobson and of course the Christmas events, which I'm sure you will agree have been magical this year. The staff and pupils worked so hard in our primary department on their performance skills, singing and signing and also all classes making their products to sell at the enterprise event. Thank-you for your continued support and engagement. I must also thank the WPFA members for their continued support not only at these events serving refreshments but also their fundraising via the Summer Fair and the Pudding Run. We are hoping we will be in a position to get a new mini-bus next year.

It was lovely to also catch up with our leavers from 16/17 at their awards assembly last month where Stephen Miller, 6 x Paralympian attended to hand out their records of Achievement.

As we move into 2018 Woodlawn celebrates 100 Years in Education and we are working hard on bringing together a programme of celebrations. It now only leaves me to wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to hearing all about the festivities from our pupils on their return to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018!**

## General Reminders



Please remember to label all uniform including PE kit.



Also everyone should have changed to the new logo. We re-branded in September 2016 and the old logo should no longer be in use.



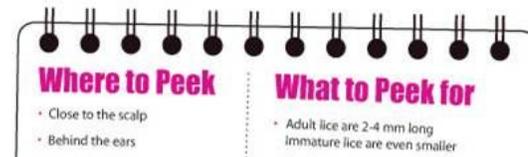
We can no longer grant any leave of absence during term time (including family holidays). Absence from school during term time can disrupt the continuity of a child's learning and have an impact on their achievement. If leave of absence is taken it will be marked as unauthorised.



If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.



Please remember to telephone the school if you child is absent so that the office staff can keep our registers up to date.



## Diary Reminder

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017	Last Day of Autumn Term
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	32 <sup>nd</sup> WPFA Xmas Pudding Run
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Pupils return to School for Spring Term
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Swimming Competition – Hebburn pool
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Boccia Competition
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	School breaks up for Half Term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Pupils return to School
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	World Book Day (Normal uniform)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2018	Sport Relief - Fundraiser
TBC	Easter Events (Details to follow)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Pupils return to school for Summer Term



✉ Email us - [woodlawn@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:woodlawn@northtyneside.gov.uk)

🌐 Check out our Website - [www.woodlawn.org.uk](http://www.woodlawn.org.uk)

📌 Like us on Facebook - Woodlawn School

📌 Follow us on Twitter @WoodlawnLive