



Attendance this week- 98.3 %

We really appreciate all your efforts in arriving at school promptly and working to our staggered start and finish times



Headteacher Message: The Christmas elves and fairies have been very busy this week in school getting everything looking more festive than ever. We hope you have enjoyed seeing the Christmas lights put up by our Caretaker Mr Robinson and the wonderful display in the foyer window created by Mrs Ridley and Mrs Lee. Remember to keep up with our 12 Days of Christmas prize draws on Instagram, congratulations to all who have won so far. The draws continue up to and including the 12th December so keep following everyone!

As we had a covering of snow this morning, this is a good time to remind you of our winter weather procedures. The grounds are checked at 6am in school and the caretaker will contact Mrs Barker to assess the routes into school. If there were any closures of school due to adverse weather you would receive correspondence via parentmail by 8am to confirm the arrangements.

Next week we have our PTA Christmas storytelling and games evening on Tuesday and then Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children on Friday, we can't wait!

Community News



MAGPIE

H*Uday CUBS

JUST FOOTBALL COACHING

&

FUN FITNESS

DATES	VENUE	TIMES
MONDAY 21st DECEMBER	CORBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB	10AM-2PM
TUESDAY 22nd DECEMBER		
WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER		

WE HAVE PUT MULTIPLE MEASURES IN PLACE TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN:

NSM SAFETY

ALL COACHES HAVE COMPLETED AN ONLINE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT WORK COURSE

ALL SESSIONS MEET THE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES RATIO

ALL VENUES ARE OUTDOORS WITH TOILET FACILITIES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

BOOK IN NOW FOR OUR 2020 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS COACHING DAYS:

PRICE: £20 PER DAY **PACKED LUNCH & DRINK BOTTLE REQUIRED** **FOR AGES: 5-13 YEARS (RECEPTION-YEAR 7)**

BOOK NOW:
 MATTIE: 07801821112
 CHRIS: 07988736340
info@magpiesportsltd.com

PRE-BOOK**PLACES ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS WITH PAYMENT REQUIRED IN ADVANCE**



January 2021.

Fit4Kids team are launching our 4-Week-Fit scheme in Consett from

This scheme is great at promoting the children's understanding and awareness of Healthy Eating and Healthy Living through a range of engaging activities, sessions and resources.

If you would like to learn more about what our scheme includes, please reply to this email or [click here](#)

School News



Stars of the Week: A huge Whittonstall 'well done' to this week's stars!

Class 1: ★ **Alice V** for amazing work on her writing

Class 2 : ★ **Jenson B** for giving his all and having a fantastic attitude

Class 3: ★ **Donnie K** - for his excellent participation this week. He has shown super enthusiasm and interest in all we have done.



Drop off and pick up routines: We really appreciate how everyone has adapted to the changes we have had to make this year to keep our school community safe. Could we please make a gentle reminder to all parents and carers that a face mask must be worn when dropping off and picking up your child and to maintain social distance from other parents. If you have a medical reason why you are unable to wear a face mask could you please let the school office know.

In the past we have allowed children back in to school after they have been dismissed at the end of the day if they need to use the toilet. Due to the current enhanced cleaning routines we are not able to let children back into the building once they have been released to parents at this time. Please keep in mind that there will be no toilet available if you take your child to play on the field after school.

Many thanks for your help and support with these matters.

Uniform additions: we recently let you know about new items of uniform for the colder weather available from Salto. Due to disruption to production caused by covid, some of the sizes of the navy fleece body warmer are proving difficult to source. Salto can instead supply a grey colour in this instance, and this is also fine to wear with our uniform. Please visit https://www.saltouk.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=59_148 to order. You can choose from home delivery or a 'click and collect' service.



Christmas is Coming!

Although this has been a very strange and difficult year, we are determined to make the run up to Christmas lots of fun for all the children. We are busy pulling together lots of exciting and fun Christmas Events so keep checking the newsletter for more information

Christmas Cards: In previous years we have encouraged the children to make a donation to a local charity rather than bringing Christmas cards in to school for their friends. However if this is something they would like to do, to keep things as Covid safe as possible can cards be brought in to school on a **Monday** only please. These will be quarantined in school and distributed to go home on a Friday.



PTA Twelve Days of Christmas 'Buy a Square' Prize Draw: We hope you have been keeping up with our 12 days of Christmas prize draws on Instagram this week. . A number (or 2 or 3, depending on the final amount of prizes) is being drawn daily from until December 12th. Thanks to everyone who has supported this and good luck everyone!

PTA School Self Portrait print: The order has now been placed for our fantastic school self portrait. Thanks to everyone who has placed orders and to Fox and Woody's Mum for the great design and producing these for us. The posters will be sent home as soon as they are ready.



Christmas Storytelling and Fun Night: next Tuesday 8th December the PTA are organising a Christmas storytelling and fun night. It will run between 5.00 and 6.30 pm and the children will be able to enjoy games, stories, snacks and other surprises within their bubbles. The cost is £5 per household. The children can wear their pyjamas and slippers but we ask that no teddies or pillows are brought in this year please. If you haven't already returned the reply slip and would like your child to take part please do by the morning of Tuesday 8th at the latest.



Christmas Parties and Christmas Lunch: On Thursday 17th December Mrs Robinson will be making her amazing Christmas lunch. The children will eat in their bubbles and in the afternoon each class will have their very own Christmas Party in their classrooms. The children can come to school in their party clothes and will have lots of fun and games with their classmates. **Just a reminder to Nursery parents to please collect their children at the slightly later time of 1pm on this day.**



Christmas performances: as we can't hold our traditional Christmas performance or Carol Service this year, each class is preparing their own special Christmas presentation which will be recorded in school and shared with parents via website and google classroom. If you have given us permission to share images via the newsletter and website this will cover permission to share the performance, unless you let us know otherwise.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Save the Children

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day/ PTA Christmas Jumper Jumble: next Friday 11th of December is Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day! Put on your festive glad rags for the day and donate to Save the Children to help support their amazing work in the UK and beyond. We have set up a Just Giving page to allow you to make cashless donations direct. Please go to

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittonstall-first-](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittonstall-first-school1)

[school1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whittonstall-first-school1) or scan the QR code to donate. Just open up the camera on your smart phone and point it at the code and it'll take you directly to the page.



Not got your jumper organised yet, or has your child outgrown last years? The PTA are organising a Christmas Jumper Jumble as part of the school's ongoing commitment to recycling and reusing. If you have any donations please could you drop them in to school ASAP as Christmas Jumper Day is very close now!



XMAS JUMPER JUMBLE!

THE PTA ARE PLANNING AN XMAS JUMPER SALE AND WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS. ALL JUMPERS WILL BE SOLD FOR A SMALL AMOUNT AND PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS FUTURE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY DONATIONS OUTSIDE THE OFFICE IN A CLEARLY MARKED BAG, THANK YOU



PTA Christmas Catalogue of crafts: our wonderful PTA have been talking to local craft businesses to put together a fundraising catalogue of gift items for you to choose from, to help your Christmas shopping along. The children will also be making special handmade items to order. Look out for further details soon!



Northern Stage at Wheelbirks Parlour: On the last day of term, Friday December 18th, the whole school will be travelling to Wheelbirks parlour in Stocksfield to watch an exciting Christmas production by Northern Stage. This visit will be subject to covid guidance at the time.

The children will travel there and back in their separate bubbles by coach. The production will be streamed on to a movie screen in a barn at the farm, which has been converted to a cinema, making it a covid safe way to enjoy some festive fun together.

On their return to school Mrs Robinson will have a special Christmas packed lunch ready for the children to enjoy. Look out for a letter with costs, timings etc coming home soon.



Applications for Reception Class 2021: The portals for Reception class applications are now open and will close on **Friday 15th January**. Applications are made online direct to the local authority, and not through school.

For families who pay their council tax to Durham County Council, please follow the link below-

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2189/Apply-for-a-primary-place-deadline-15-January-2021>

For families who pay their council tax to Northumberland County Council please follow the link below –

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Reception-entry-applications.aspx>

Parents will be informed of the outcome of their application on Offer Day, Monday **1st March 2021**.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 8th December – Christmas storytelling and fun night - wear your PJ's 5.00 – 6.30 pm

Thursday 10th December – nasal flu vaccinations in school for Years R-4

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children

Thursday 17th December – School Christmas lunch followed by class Christmas parties – wear party clothes to school. Nursery class 1pm pick up today.

Friday 18th December – whole school visit to watch Northern Stage at Wheelbirks

Friday 18th December – break up for Christmas holidays

Have a lovely weekend everyone and stay safe

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher

