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Looking back at this term...

When I look back over the past few months it feels as if we have accomplished a lot of things in just one term. New staff have settled in well and become a part of our community. The children are working well and have adapted to the challenges a new school year have brought them. Our links with the churches on Holy Island and in Lowick have continued to strengthen. We have also welcomed in the local community and hope to continue to do so in the new year.

Highlights have been our visit to the Berwick Art and Film festival showing; Harvest Festival on Holy Island; raiding the island as Vikings as well as visiting the Heritage Centre and the Priory and the respect we were able to show through our Remembrance work and service at the war memorial. We have also really enjoyed your engagement with our 'In Living Memory' project and your responses to 'Little Mouse', and our museum of treasures and photos from your childhood has been a source of fascination for all and has led to so much excellent work and discussion.

We are building links with other schools and organisations to the benefit of the children's education. They attended the skipping festival with other local schools, enjoyed workshops on bats and migrating birds, showed their care for others in fundraising through Christmas shoeboxes, Cash for Kids, Children in Need and donating to the foodbank.

Advent in school has been truly special this year. I am so very proud of the children and their wonderful performances of Born in a Barn. We also have had an exciting last week of term with the Cinderella panto visit, the party, our lovely church service, a fantastic Christmas lunch and the Polar Express themed indoor den-building afternoon. We have come together as a school and a community. Our school vision of 'Journeying Together' has become especially powerful. We thank you all for being part of it.

Looking forward to next term...

We hope to follow up our latest work with the Lindisfarne Nature Reserve and go to see the light bellied Brent Geese who have migrated to Lindisfarne for the winter. We will continue to do workshops with the Nature Reserve team through the year.

We are also looking forward to meeting with members of Lowick PCC to talk about how the school can contribute towards re-vamping the bus stop in Lowick.

We are delighted to let you know that we have been accepted onto an exciting project with the Great North Museum. We will be working with Louise Underwood, a textile artist based in Newcastle, to create a banner for the Dippy Exhibition. This is in addition to our ongoing science research project we are already doing with them and Durham University, looking at mammals in Northumberland.

Rebecca Simpson

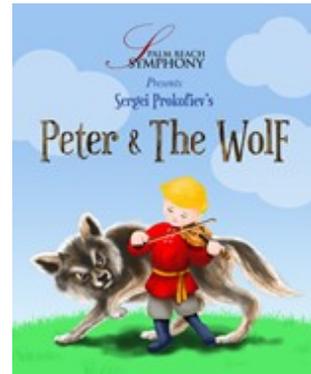
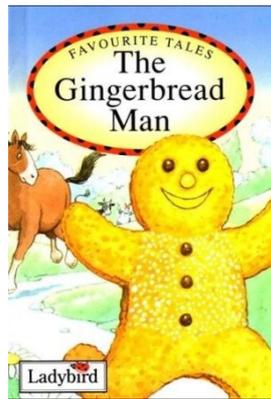


Our theme for next half term: Traditional Tales

We hope to combine looking at fairy tales and traditional tales with work on music and art. We will be looking at some of the different instruments in an orchestra, doing work inspired by Peter and the Wolf. We will see if we can create music to fit characters from other traditional tales such as little Red Riding Hood and the Gingerbread Man.

We will link this to forest school, animation in computing as well as music and illustration in art. We will be looking at seasons, light and shadow in science so we will incorporate this into our animation and artwork as well. We will make links where they are natural and enhance learning across the curriculum. Where there are not obvious links, these aspects of the curriculum will continue to be taught separately.

You can find information about our following themes of Nature and Castles on our website under curriculum information.



Please note that the Monday 7th January is a teacher training day and the children are not expected back in school until Tuesday 8th January. In the meantime, I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Swimming will restart on the first week.

A huge thank you to Margaret for the wonderful Christmas dinner on Wednesday. It was delicious!

