



Hugh Joicey

C of E Aided First School



Dear Parents & Carers,

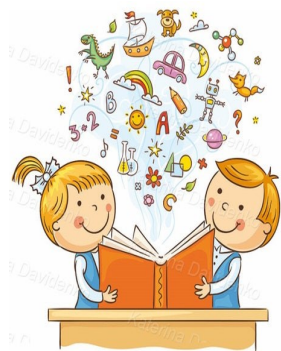
What an exciting couple of weeks we've had in school. Earlier this week Ms Gilbert said to me, "They really know how to do Christmas in Ford!" I think this sums the week up perfectly. It's been action-packed and there's so much to celebrate and share with you. This has been my first Christmas as headteacher of Hugh Joicey First School and I feel blessed to have shared this magical time of year with the community. The school has been filled with a buzz of excitement but, don't worry, we have carried on learning amongst all the Christmas fun and games.

STAFFING

After the Christmas holiday, Mrs Burn is returning to work and will teach Beech Class four days a week (Tuesday-Friday). She's had some 'keeping-in-touch' days and has worked alongside Ms Gilbert to ensure a smooth handover. Ms Gilbert will be staying and she will be teaching Beech Class on a Monday. We will have some more updates in January about Ms Gilbert's responsibilities in school.



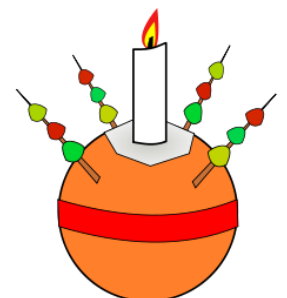
TRANSITION TO PRIMARY



Earlier in the term, we had our information evening to outline the plans for the transition of our school from a first school to a primary school. Mr Roberts and Governors were pleased to welcome many families and we would like to thank everyone who attended for their support. This change presents an exciting opportunity for the school to grow and support all children in the Ford school community up to and including Year 6. Keep your eye out for dates in the new year of a second information evening to share further progress about our exciting journey.

CHRISTINGLE

This afternoon, we will have our Christingle at St. Michael and All Angels Church. We're so grateful for the support that Reverend Charlotte and Reverend Alex give us throughout the year but we're especially grateful at this special time of year. This afternoon will give us chance to celebrate the birth of Jesus and think about Jesus as the Light of the World. During our week of celebration, we have taken many opportunities to reflect on how lucky we are and after our Christmas dinner Reverend Charlotte lead a really thoughtful prayer about all the things we have to be grateful for.



READING

In school, we recognise that reading, and a person's reading proficiency, is one of the biggest predictors of educational success. Reading is a vital skill across the curriculum so, understandably, it is a top priority in school. As part of our journey of continuous improvement with reading, we have introduced Accelerated Reader for years 2,3 and 4. This is an educational program designed to monitor and manage students' independent reading practice and comprehension. The program assesses students' performance through quizzes and tests based on the books the children have read. As the students read and take quizzes, they are awarded points. If your child is in year 2-4 they should have an accelerated reader book and as soon as they've finished it they can access a quiz for the book online. Follow the link which is on the school website under 'Useful Links - <https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/6702148> . We know that Christmas is a time of rest but reading with your child is a great way to relax and connect. If you have time, please take the time to read with your child in the holidays and maybe fit in a quiz or two between leftover brussel sprouts.



PRICKLY HAY



I'm really not sure what to say about our Christmas performance this year. The children were absolutely outstanding and we really appreciate all the positive feedback we've had at the performances and since the performances. All the staff worked really hard to prepare the play and we're so proud of how the children rose to the occasion and put on such a fantastic show.

The spirit of Christmas was alive and well -
"Christmas is for me, Christmas is for you, Christmas is for everyone..." Personally, I can't stop singing this catchy tune



Safeguarding

As we hope you are aware, we consider safeguarding to be the most important thing that we do in school. Mr Roberts is the safeguarding lead and Miss Carr is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead.

We hope you are finding the weekly 'Wake up Wednesday' safeguarding updates on Seesaw to be informative.

Parents should also be aware that we are an 'Operation Encompass' school and an 'Operation Endeavour' school. More information about both of these initiatives can be found on the safeguarding section of the schools website:

<http://www.ford.northumberland.sch.uk/web/safeguarding/182420>

Any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children should be directed to Mr Roberts.

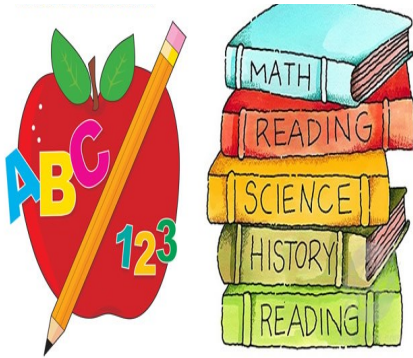




A huge thank you to the PTA for organising a fantastic Christmas Fayre. We have asked to fundraise for us to purchase some class ipads. The school was buzzing on the evening of the Christmas Fayre and we're so grateful to them for volunteering their time to prepare and run the event.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WEEK

This week in school has been Design & Technology week. It's been lovely visiting the classrooms and seeing the hard work the children have been doing. There's been pop-up books, flip books, stockings and spaghetti structures.



CURRICULUM

In the January training day, we will be continuing to look at how the curriculum will progress through to the end of Year 6. Following this, we will be able to update the website and provide the additional curriculum information that parents have asked for. Look out for half-termly curriculum maps that will be sent on Seesaw early in January.

WRAPAROUND CARE

In January, the pre-school team are taking over our wraparound care provision. Booking of after school provision will be done through Parent Pay at the beginning of each half term but can also be booked as late as on the day of the desired club. There will be no expectation that children will attend the same clubs every week, you can book in to the club that you need that week. You will pay through Parent Pay for the clubs that you have booked. Payment will be able to be done through your tax free child care account.

The wraparound hours and provision that are provided will continue to be regularly reviewed to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the majority of our families and ensuring the most cost-effective service for all.

A Christmas Wish from the Staff & Governors

From all the staff and governors, please can we wish you all the happiest of holidays and also express our appreciation for all that you do to support us throughout the year. We hope you have a most restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and we wish all of the community a very happy new year. Please remember that the 6th January is a curriculum training day for staff so we will welcome the children back to school on Tuesday 7th January. With our best wishes, the Hugh Joicey Team.