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Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! The first week of term has gone well and it has been lovely to welcome the children back into school and to hear their news. They are always enthusiastic and excited to share what they have been doing over the holidays. A very warm welcome to our new families who joined us during the last few weeks of the autumn term.

### Beach days...

Last term I wrote to you about Beach Schools and I am delighted that each class has continued to benefit from this provision within what we offer. Mrs Johnson has worked incredibly hard to ensure that everything has been in place for us to continue with Beach School. Classes will have their next day at the beach after the February half term holiday.

It was wonderful to see some of our parents and grandparents volunteer to support these trips (or any of our other trips) and in order for these events to continue going ahead we do need parental support.

Finally, a huge thank you for your support leading up to Christmas. Thank you for your donations for the raffle at the Christmas Jolly and supporting our hard-working PTA. The gifts, cards, messages and emails that you sent in at Christmas were greatly appreciated by all the staff. The school performance was once again - amazing. The carols around the tree was a lovely experience too and it is always great to hear your generous comments as you leave the school.

This term we will be having class assemblies coming up where you will be very welcome to join us again to see what the children have been busy doing in school.

In the meantime, we hope to share a link with you to a song that the children have been learning called "Life is always better when we share it with each other." When the children sing at Hipsburn it always makes me smile and I hope this song makes you smile too.

### 100%-ers...

Congratulations to seventeen of our pupils who achieved 100% attendance in the autumn term. They have all received a special certificate in assembly. Each term children are awarded a certificate for 100% attendance and if they receive three for the whole year (autumn, spring and summer terms) they are presented with a Barter Books voucher at the end of the summer term. Well done to the seventeen who are part of the way there!

Have a great half term!

Kevin Moloney, Headteacher



### Some Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clubs this half term:  
Mondays, Trident Soccer, All Mondays, Arts & Crafts Club, R/Yr 1  
Breakfast Club, Every Day, All Tues/Weds Homework, All Tuesdays, SATs Club, Yr 6  
Thursdays, NUF Rugby Yrs 3-6  
Fridays, Lego Club, All
- ◆ Alnwick Castle Class Assembly  
Wednesday 19th February, 9.15-9.45am. Parents welcome
- ◆ Break up for half term  
Friday 20th February
- ◆ Back to school  
Monday 3rd March

Please keep checking the calendar on the school website for more events



# Festive fundraising...

What great fun everyone had last half term, helping to raise money for Children in Need and for Save the Children. A big thank you to everyone who donated - we raised £209.50 for CiN and £85.00 on Xmas Jumper Day. Here are a few memories...



It was great to see everyone in their festive knits, tucking in to Christmas Dinner....

...and taking part in the Santa Dash!





On the beach...



It's so lovely to see the return of beach schools, hosted by Mrs Johnson. We were lucky enough to have gorgeous wintry sunny days on the beach days last half term - here is a selection of postcards from the coast...



Alnwick Castle Class had a Stickman themed beach day, using their imaginations to retell the story using natural materials linking real life objects and wildlife to the text. The collaboration and team work were wonderful to see and hear, we even did a show and tell feedback session so everyone had to present what they had made. Everyone worked really hard so we had a treat of a play at the play park as a reward. Then back at school we recalled the story and made bird feeders.



Ford Castle Class were so lucky with weather and had a wonderful first Beach School on the theme of tectonic plates, volcanoes and rocks. After taking part in a beach version of the National Santa Dash, we then had a very geographical beach day of thinking about the movement of tectonic plates and their effects, understanding volcanoes and their role in shaping landscapes and also exploring and classifying rocks and looking for fossils. We had a fantastic day!





Etal Castle Class headed to the beach for their day themed all about Mountains of the World. We worked on developing our geographical knowledge, our understanding and skills to enhance our geographical, locational and place knowledge as we created major mountains of the world in our groups. We thought about the different types of mountains, how they had been formed and the features of them. We shared some interesting facts and during lunch we were inspired by the story of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

It was a wonderful adventurous day.



A big thank you to the Burgage Holders of Alnmouth who continue to support our beach schools - their funding enables us to provide such an invaluable and enjoyable part of school life





## A hint of magic...

### Well, what a show!

Our whole school Christmas performance was amazing. The children were absolutely fantastic (oh yes they were!).

From learning lines and songs, to creating props, costumes and stage directions, every child gave it their all. They made us laugh and they made us cry and they should all be extremely proud of themselves.

The children were enthusiastic right from the start and this was very evident in all the performances, which entertained grown ups on three occasions.



We know from your lovely comments that you enjoyed watching your children perform and we know that you are as proud of them as we are here at Hipsburn.

This will be a memory that the children will take with them from here and remember for years to come.

Our thanks go to all staff - their hard work and dedication ensured that this show went without a hitch, to our parents, helping with lines and costumes and listening to the songs for weeks (and probably singing them too), but most of all, our thanks go to your fantastic children. Without them, there is no show.

### Here's to the next one.

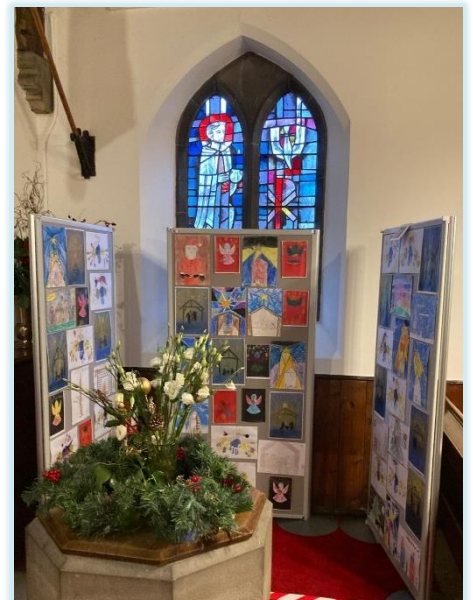


## Winning ways...



Catherine Whyte - Church Warden at St John the Baptist church in Alnmouth (and previously a governor in our school) always struggles to choose the winning designs to be printed on the church services Christmas card.

A special thanks and well done to Samuel, Alexander, Abbie, Erica and Florence. Many of the children's designs are displayed in church over Christmas so visitors and members of the congregation can enjoy the wonderful artwork. Fantastic designs everyone!





# PTA news

The PTA had a hugely successful Christmas Jolly, raising £843.00 through the raffle and another £400.00 from the activities on the day! Thanks to everyone involved. More events are in the planning stages, so please keep an eye on the PTA facebook page and if you would like to help raise money the PTA would love to hear from you!

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The design process... here are a few images of pupils in Ford class creating their Christmas card designs. They explored using watercolours to create different shades, tones and blends. The children traced outlines of bauble images and sketched different patterns. They then used the watercolours to decorate. The children loved exploring blending shades together and using more water or white paint to create shades that mimicked highlights. They then made their art into a Christmas card. Well done Ford!



## ParentPay

Please keep checking your ParentPay account and keep up to date with payments to school. A reminder that only pupils in preschool and years 3 and above pay for school dinners (unless you qualify for means tested free school meals)



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in packed lunches. Thank you.