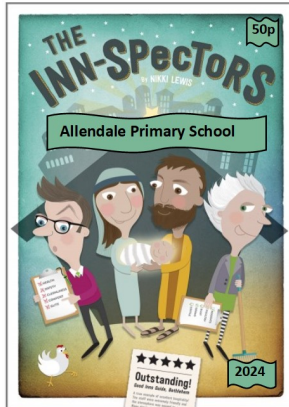


As ever, the build up to Christmas has been hugely busy and exciting and there have been such a lot of activities going on in school and out. I hope you enjoy seeing this round up from the last few weeks. We have certainly enjoyed seeing the children taking part enthusiastically, helping each other and joining together for fun, friendship and learning. May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from all of the staff at Allendale Primary School.

The Inn-Spectors

Thanks again to all of the children and staff who put together such a wonderful performance this year. Such a lot of work goes into the learning of songs and lines and the making of props and costumes. We hope that you enjoyed it and that it put you in the Christmas spirit! Our charity collection raised a fantastic £338 which has been split between our chosen charities The Great North Air Ambulance and Daft As A Brush Cancer Care. Thank you everyone!



Christingle Service

The Christingle service at St Cuthberts's Church was well attended and the children made us proud with their confident singing and smart uniforms representing the school and the Scouting Association.



Christmas Choir

Our Christmas Choir sang our nativity songs and other Christmas favourites at Deneholme and Lowgate care homes this week and last. They were very well received with lots of lovely comments from all who heard them. It was wonderful to see them bringing the joy of Christmas to the local community.



All About the Archive Workshop at Allendale Primary School

We did an archive history workshop with Megan. On the first day we had lots of people come in and we asked them questions about their childhood life (Allendale has changed a lot!) Did you know there was a fish and chip shop? They said when the war was going on (World War Two) it was very scary because they had to go into the air raid shelter and they didn't know what was going to happen, anything could happen in three minutes!

Did you know a group of three young boys got a fine of £1 for sliding on ice in the centre of the Hexham Market Square?

On the second week, we built some manor locations including: a church, a school, a jail, a barn etc. We used lots and lots of cardboard (which is good because its eco friendly and you can recycle them) we also had these tools which were specially for cardboard: a saw, a screwdriver, and a tool for bending; there were also some screws which we could use. Then we painted the buildings then they looked like the real thing!

On the last day, we did some stop motion animation; Megan brought in some plasticine to make our figures and props. We also used our buildings from the previous week. She also brought in three iPads and three GoPros which we used to film our animations.

As a pupil, I think that the workshop was really good, Megan and the people who worked with us were really nice. I had never heard of an archive before that workshop. I also learnt what a manor was (I also hadn't heard of that either).

By Lola Gilbertson (Year 6)



Attendance

Our whole school attendance figure is currently **96.6%** which is good. We aim to achieve above 96% for the year.

Good attendance at school has many positive benefits beyond the purely academic. Meeting people and doing activities helps social development and positive mental health. Academically there is a clear correlation between attendance and performance. Pupils make better progress and achieve higher outcomes when they attend.

When attendance falls below 95% we will write to you at the end of the term to let you know. Attendance below 90% is considered serious. We know that some children struggle to attend school so please speak to your class teacher if you have any concerns or need some support. We work with families to help overcome barriers to attending school.

PTFA Silent Auction

The silent auction has once again been a great success. If you still have purchases to pay for and collect please remember to do so. It looks like over £800 has been raised. All money is used by the PTFA to support enrichment activities for the children, so big thank you to all of you who donated or bid.

Thank you also to the PTFA for organising Elf shopping again. Our very helpful elves ensured that everybody that wanted to get a gift wrapped up and ready to go under the tree.

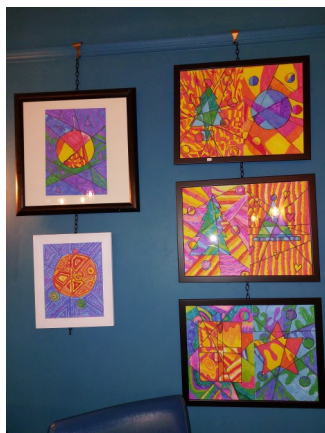


Artwork at Forum Cinema

A selection of children's work from Reception to Year 6 is still on display in the cafe area of the Forum Cinema in Hexham. If you are passing by, you can pop in for a look, even if you are not going to see a film. Resident artist Mike Pinkney appraised the work and gave some lovely feedback. Thanks for your comments Mike.

'This particular Rudolf has a very nice expression and stands out because special care has been given to the way the dark pupils have been placed on the white eyes. They have been set at a consistent angle to the level of the eye which makes the expression believable and friendly.'

The tree is given texture through various shades of green and blue and the 'bauble shapes' and lines create contrast and dynamism. I like the way in which the patterned areas are restricted to the background. This helps the tree 'pop' out of the scene and gives a degree of consideration and control.'



Santa Dash and Santa Visit

After the incredible sight of 120 Santas dashing through the playground last week, we were thrilled to have a visit from the big man himself! After listening to the story of the Polar Express, all of the children had a chance to visit Santa and receive a small, pre-Christmas gift.



West Midlands Theatre Company

The whole school enjoyed a wonderful Snow White pantomime from the West Midlands Theatre Company. Fun and laughter with audience participation made the experience unforgettable. It was a great way to round off 2024 at Allendale Primary School. Many thanks to the PTFA for funding this performance.



Christmas Parties

Christmas parties have been enjoyed by the children this week across the school. Party games, Christmas music and a few little treats were the order of the day for our younger children. Some of the older children enjoyed an outdoor Christmas party, unperturbed by the recent stormy weather!



Family Hubs

For some families, holidays can be a challenging time. If you need support for any reason during the break, you can contact Family Hubs at: <https://www.familyhubsnorthumberland.co.uk/>

Any very urgent matters can still be emailed through to:

admin@allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk

Please mark your email as URGENT.



Dates For Your Diary

20th Dec	End of term
6th Jan	Teacher Training Day
7th Jan	Children return to school
16th Jan	KS2 Football match
30th Jan	Yr5/6 Cross Country
22nd Feb	Half Term