

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2025. Although the time seems to have flown by since September, I think we all feel ready for a restful Christmas break after a busy term. There are lots of Christmas themed activities to report on of course, but many other activities have been happening in school too. We hope you enjoy looking through the pictures. Next term we look forward to welcoming our nursery children into school as Preschool complete their move across to our site. It's sure to be an exciting Spring Term too. Merry Christmas everyone!

Christingle

It was once again absolutely lovely to see lots of our children participating in the Christingle service last month. We had some beautifully confident readers as well as children representing Cubs and Scouts looking very smart in their uniforms. It's a lovely way to mark the start of the festive period.



Christmas Choir

Not only did our Christmas Choir provide harmonies in some of our nativity songs, they also visited Deneholme and Lowgate care homes to bring joy this Christmas. They were warmly welcomed by the residents as they sang the songs from our nativity followed by a rousing chorus of 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch at school was a truly festive occasion with Christmas jumpers, crackers and carols round the piano. We welcomed our new nursery children for the first time too. Finishing off this year, we had a rousing rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas with each table taking a different day and competing for the most enthusiastic singing!



Nativity

Our nativity performances of Superstar were a roaring success. The children put on a fantastic show with enthusiastic singing and dancing, bring festive cheer to all. They worked so hard and can feel enormously proud of what they achieved.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to put it together, including parents who helped children learn lines and provided costumes.

Sale of programmes and donations after the shows raised a fantastic £263 for the Great North Air Ambulance.



Santa Dash

On the same day as our Christmas lunch we also took part in a huge Santa Dash. Our older children led the younger ones on some circuits of the playground before making a Santa conga that wove its way around the playground.



PTFA Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who support the PTFA silent auction again this year. Thank you to everyone who placed a bid, donated a prize or helped with the organisation behind the scenes, which was huge.



A fantastic £786 was raised to support the school. In addition, Elf shopping raised another £312. Well done PTFA and helpers!

Christmas Parties

Lots have children have been enjoying festive parties this week. Some in the sports hall, some in the school hall and some even in the nature garden. What a fun way to finish off the year.



Sport Tynedale Awards

Each year, Sport Tynedale hold an award ceremony to honour the best sporting achievements in the region.

This year, Allendale Primary School received an award in recognition of the continued high profile that sport plays in the school, and came about as a result of us achieving the Sports Mark Platinum award at the end of last year.



Heritage Heroes

Year 5 and 6 have been undertaking a project called Heritage Heroes during this term and will continue into next year. They've been exploring lots of local history with Help from the North Pennines National Landscape Team.



Dates For Your Diary

- 5th Jan Teacher Training Day
- 6th Jan Term Starts**
- 12th Jan Coffee & Chat
- 21st Jan UK Parliament Event (Curlew / Kestrel)
- 26th Jan Coffee & Chat
- 9th Feb Parents' Emotion Coaching Session
- 11th Feb Safer Internet Day
- 16th Feb Half Term Holiday
- 23rd Feb Term Starts**



Attendance

Good attendance at school leads to better academic results as well as enhancing wellbeing through social interaction. This is why attendance remains a high priority for schools across the country.

As we approach the winter and coughs and colds are more common, please remember that unless they are feeling very unwell, you should aim to get your children into school.

Our target for attendance is 96%. The table shows the current attendance levels by year group. Please let us know if you need any support with attendance.

Whole School	95.0%
Reception	95.7%
Year 1	96.1%
Year 2	96.5%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	94.2%
Year 5	91.8%
Year 6	96.9%

Pantomime

This year's pantomime performance in school was Rick Wittington, performed by the West Midlands Theatre Company. Many comments suggested that it was the best yet. A highlight was our very own Joseph stepping in as a very animated cat on stage!



The visiting theatre company was funded with generous support from the PTFA.

Staff News



We are thrilled to announce that Miss Honeyman has given birth to a healthy 6:06lb boy on 18th December.

We all look forward to meeting baby Benjamin in the New Year and wish Miss Honeyman and her family all the very best for a restful Christmas!

From January, Mrs Reed will be teaching Lapwing class in place of Miss Honeyman.

Allstars

Allstars has now relocated to a room in the main school building in order to make way for our new nursery provision from January.

To drop off and collect from Allstars, parents should now come to the blue door by the picnic benches. A doorbell will very shortly be installed.



Governor Vacancy

The school's governing body currently has a vacancy and so are seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to become part of the group. Governors do not need any special qualifications but should be able to work as a team member with other governors, the Headteacher and staff, be supportive of the aims of the school and want the best outcomes for the whole school community. If you think you would be interested or would like to find out more, please see the attached letter and form. Please feel free also to contact school for an informal chat with Mr Vincent or another current governor.

Tree Sculpture Project

We have started work on an exciting new project, working with local sculptor Bill Pierce. This week, children in years 1-6 have worked with Bill to create design ideas for a new sculpture in our playground. Our School Council came up with lots of possible themes and 'Wellbeing' was chosen.

Children who wish to refine their designs are invited to submit them into school during the first week of January. These designs will then be added to those already created in class. Bill will attempt to incorporate as many of the children's ideas as possible into the final work.

Next year, the School Council will be coming up with some fundraising ideas to help to pay for the sculpture so please look out for those and support us if you can.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





EMPOWERING PARENT/CARER PROGRAMME

6 - WEEK GROUP

Support your wellbeing and meet other parents. This is for parents and carers of a child, young person, or adult up to 25 years with additional need and/or disability.

When?

Date: Thursday 8th January

Time: 10-11:30am

Venue: Hexham Family Hub

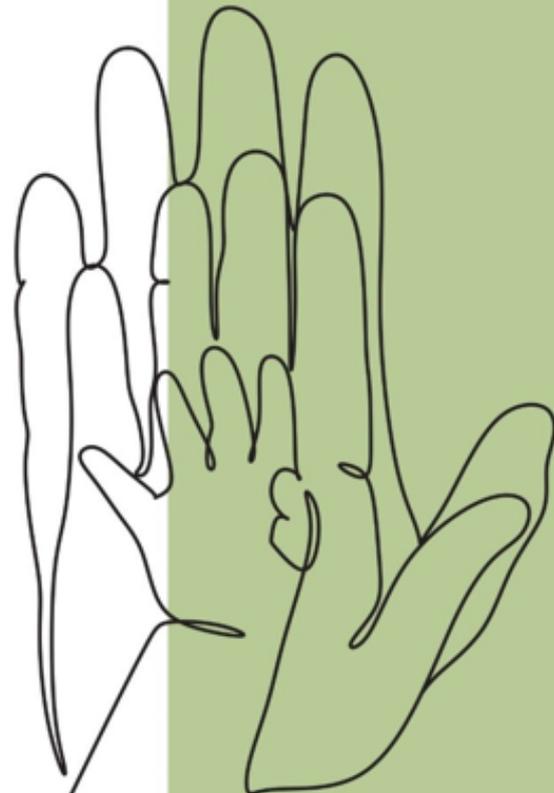
Scan here



membership/request for service form

If you would like to attend, please complete a request for service form by scanning the QR code.

Alternatively, call Hexham Family Hub on 01434 601698



Staying Safe Online



Online safety quiz

Does your child know how to stay safe online? Here's a family quiz you can take together.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/quiz/>