



Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Happy Holidays!

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have worked incredibly hard over the past term (and had lots of fun too!). The Christmas holidays are nearly here and it's time to reflect on the past term – and what a term it's been! We have: handled creatures from Zoo Lab; been inspired to read and write with author visits from Chris Alton and Adam Bushnall; taken part in lots of sporting competitions, which included being victorious in netball, athletics and basketball; worked with coaches and players from Durham Cricket to help develop our cricket skills; taken part in many intra-school competitions; raised money for Children in Need; enjoyed a pantomime at the Glebe Centre; had fun at the Christmas fair; and much, much more! Please read on to find out what else has happened at Ribbon this term...

## Learning Outside the Classroom

At Ribbon Academy, we firmly believe that learning outside the classroom helps put learning into context and provides invaluable opportunities for enquiry across the curriculum. Read on to find out more about our recent trips and visits around the region...

### Nursery



The children have had lots of fun this term in the Woodland Room. They have enjoyed engaging in sensory play in the den area - pressing herbs, petals, and loose parts into the playdough to make faces. In the home area, the children have explored the texture of real foods such as dried pasta, corn, and herbs, then using them to create patterns and make marks. The children have also explored early writing patterns, using Squiglet to support mark making. In the outdoor environment, the children have become very confident when using the climbing equipment and are beginning to be able to successfully navigate the climbing frame! Every Monday, we have been taking part in 'Movement Monday'; learning yoga, dancing with ribbons and exercising along with 'Jumpstart Jonny'. The children in Nursery have also visited the forest each Friday where they have enjoyed toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate around the fire pit, hunting for bugs and making 'Andy Goldsworthy' style art using our natural objects. Roll on the spring term!



### Reception

This term has been a very busy one in Reception! The children have been learning about new rules and routines in school and exploring the Reception environment. They have been reading lots of exciting stories which opened lots of lines of enquiry for learning:

- 'Handa's Surprise' taught the children about different lifestyles, other countries and it also linked to Black History month.
- 'The Colour Monster' helped the children to understand and label feelings and think about how to control or change them.
- 'Whatever Next' took the children on an adventure into space to explore the Solar System and figured out how to create rockets with junk materials.
- 'The Gruffalo' helped the children to explore the forest and be imaginative with natural resources.



The children also enjoyed fundraising for 'Children in Need' and thought about other children and families who aren't as fortunate as them. This helped the children to understand the idea of compassion and equality. Our trip to the Pantomime at the Glebe Centre was so much fun and the children did lots of work around Road Safety in preparation for the journey. The children particularly enjoyed recording their Nativity performance: 'A King is Born'. Our Winter Wonderland was a cold but wonderful event, welcoming families into our garden to celebrate the festive season and the end of Autumn term. Thank you to everyone who came along.



### Year 1



This term, the children have been exploring the school grounds to help support their learning in the classroom. This helped the children develop their understanding of the school grounds, enhance their mapping skills, and use geographical language. During this period, the children developed their understanding of physical and human features whilst exploring the local area of school. We also visited the Independent Methodist Church to develop our understanding of Christianity and Christians' beliefs. Whilst inside the church, we spoke to Minister Kay who explained all about the church and what happens inside. Some children in Year 1 also enjoyed our residential experience which was a Christmas sleepover in the school hall. They enjoyed taking part in team games, meeting 'Elf on the Shelf' and playing outside in the dark.



### Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic Autumn term! The first trip of the term was a fieldtrip around Murton. The children used their excellent map and fieldwork skills, from Geography lessons, to find their way around Murton. The children visited many different locations in the village including: the Post Office, Holy Trinity Church, local shops, and the Cenotaph. The children followed the route on their map brilliantly and could explain where they were located at different points. The next visit took the children to Durham Cathedral, which linked with our RE topic about St. Cuthbert. The children learned about St. Cuthbert's links with Durham Cathedral and his importance to Christianity in our region. A brilliant day was had by all with lots of new knowledge about this very famous saint.



### Year 3



This term, Year 3 followed a map to guide them around Seaham. The children used a compass and pinpointed landmarks in the area. The walk along the coast was stunning and the children compared different human & physical features. Class 11 were lucky enough to see some dolphins enjoying their natural environment! This term, the children also visited The Great North Museum (The Hancock) in Newcastle, where they completed an 'object eye spy', specifically looking for artefacts in the Ice Age to Iron Age Gallery. The children also carried out an 'Elk Investigation'; imagining they were Stone Age hunter gatherers deciding how to use each part of the carcass. While Class 11 were at The Great North Museum, Classes 9 and 10 experienced a virtual 'Ice Age to Iron Age' day – where they asked the experts from Tyne and Wear Museums questions to support their learning.



### Year 4



Year 4 have been developing their knowledge of map skills in Geography and have applied these skills to navigate their way around both Seaham and Hardwick Park. The children really enjoyed their tour around the local area of Seaham and were able to explore different geographical locations, including residential areas, the beach, woodlands, and industrial areas. Whilst visiting Hardwick Park, the children completed a 'scavenger hunt' and took part in 'live art' which reflected their surroundings. Year 4 have made an incredible start to the academic year, and the teaching team are incredibly proud of their progress so far, not to mention how excited we are to kick start Spring term! We know that everyone was disappointed with events at the end of term, but we are so proud of the way the children handled the situation – they are a credit to themselves and our school.



## Year 5



What a great start Year 5 have had! The children started the term with a walk around Durham City; observing the river and the impact that it has had on human and physical features around the city. The children were great geographers, looking at areas of the river and investigating its features. To enhance learning further, specialists from Teesmouth Field Centre visited school. The children learned new geographical vocabulary which helped them to understand the features of local rivers. In November, the children visited Washington Wetland Centre. Here they were inspired by a story about the lifecycles of different animals. The children had a fantastic time and especially loved observing the otters being fed and having a question-and-answer session with the resident experts. In addition to educational visits, the children have all enjoyed weekly trips to Hetton Swimming Baths where all children improved their water confidence, independence, and swimming ability. Throughout the term, Year 5's behaviour has been exemplary. They can't wait to see what Spring holds!



## Year 6



In September, Year 6 children had the opportunity to take part in a 3-day residential at Derwent Hill. The Lake District was the most beautiful backdrop to an action-packed trip! Activities included: canoeing, mountain walking, gorge walking, high ropes courses and much, much more. Later in the term, Year 6 revisited their learning about rivers from Year 5. They visited Durham City to develop their understanding of the physical & human features and how these are used by locals and tourists, by completing a river walk. Children plotted the route on an ordnance survey map and followed the map to explore the centre of Durham. During the trip, they took photos of interesting physical and human features and studied different parts of the River Wear. The children were even complimented on their good behaviour by members of the public! During Autumn 2, the children visited the Beacon of Light in Sunderland to take part in some sporting and PSHE workshops.



## Learning Outside the Classroom – Spring 2022

**Year 1** – Gibside & Discovery Museum, Newcastle

**Year 2** – Grace Darling Museum & Gibside

**Year 3** - Segedunum & Gibside

**Year 4** – Durham Cathedral & Washington Wetlands Centre

**Year 5** – Gibside & Residential (Carlton)

**Year 6** – Seaburn Beach & Gibside

## Residential Experience 2021/22

**Year 1** - Christmas Sleepover in the Hall (Autumn 2)

**Year 2** – Overnight camp on the school field (Summer 2)

**Year 3** – Moor House (Summer 2)

**Year 4** – York (Summer 1)

**Year 5** – Carlton, Cleveland (Spring 2)

**Year 6** – Derwent Hill (Autumn 1)

**Years 4, 5 & 6** – Paris (Summer 2)

As usual our termly trips and visits will continue, please watch out for further information early in the spring term.

## Spring Term Holidays

After the Christmas break, we will publish a comprehensive list of events for the Spring term. In the meantime, here are the holiday dates:

School closes for Christmas - Friday 17th December @ 3.30pm

School reopens – Wednesday 5th January @ 8.45am

School closes for February Half Term – Friday 18th February @ 3.30pm

School reopens – Tuesday 1st March @ 8.45am

**(Please note that teacher training days will take place on Monday 4th January and Monday 28th February 2022).**

## Goodbye, Good Luck and Hello!

This term, we say: 'goodbye and good luck' to Miss Walton (AHT in Early Years), Miss Patterson (Year 6) & Mr Reay (Music Specialist). In the New Year, we say: 'hello' to Mrs Harris (new AHT in Early Years), Mr Dobson (Year 5), Miss Walton (Reception), Mrs Percival (Years 3) and Miss Champley (Year 4).

It only remains for me to say, on behalf of everyone at Ribbon, a **huge thank you** for your unwavering support and encouragement over the past year. We hope that you have an enjoyable Christmas break, and we'll see you in January for the start of the New Year!

Warmest regards,

Mrs A Sheridan (Head teacher), Mr Houghton (Deputy Head teacher) and the Ribbon Team