



WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

We have made a positive start to the new academic year here at Diamond Hall Junior Academy where I am incredibly proud of all our pupils and staff for their hard work, resilience, and determination - let's keep this up!

Over the term, the children have worked hard across the curriculum, producing lots of work to be proud of. Some of this can be viewed on our Facebook page and school website.

In order to improve school attendance, we have introduced a new attendance reward system where the children are very excited to earn their 'Diamond Dollars' each week. Children can spend or save these to earn a range of rewards.

We have also introduced a new behaviour system, 'STARS', where children will continue to earn success points. These will now be totalled up each week with a trophy presented to the winning house in our weekly assembly. The children have been eager to earn points and find out which house has earned the most!

Thank you for all of your support over this term. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families, pupils and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs F Hoare

Mrs F Hoare
Headteacher



Seven stories trip

A group of Year 6 pupils visited the National Centre for Children's Books - Seven Stories - in Newcastle this term for an exciting event with children's author, Lauren Child.

Lauren told our children about her journey to becoming a writer before reading them an extract from her book, *Think like an Elf*, which is also the inspiration for this year's Fenwick's window.

After taking part in a Q&A session with Lauren, the children got crafty and created their own elf bookmark before they were given a gift bag, which included a signed copy of *Think Like an Elf*!

Boogie wonderland

Pupils had a whale of a time at our annual Christmas disco this term.

A big thanks to Mr Pearson and Mr Brown who provided the festive tunes for our children. We loved seeing all your festive outfits and dance moves!



Odd Sock Day 2022

To mark Anti-Bullying Week pupils dug out their craziest socks for Odd Sock Day.

There was a sea of colour in school as pupils wore their socks to celebrate what makes everyone different. Each year group took part in lessons and activities based on bullying, including the importance of not being a bystander and learning how to report bullying correctly. Year 3 even created their own superheroes and learned about the power of kindness!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23 DEC Break up for Christmas

10 JAN Back to school

17 FEB Break up for half term

27 FEB Back to school

31 MAR Break up for Easter

17 APR Back to school

01 MAY May bank holiday

26 MAY Break up for half term

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

www.diamondhalljuniors.co.uk



Singing stars

Our pupils have loved rehearsing for their Christmas concert over the last few weeks.

Pupils have been singing like angels in the classroom, preparing for their big show. We have had so much fun singing along and dancing to all the songs. Bravo!



BRING IT ON

Earlier this term Year 5 and 6 pupils had an electrifying day as they headed over to the Beacon of Light in Sunderland for the annual Bring it On engineering event.

Whether learning about designing cars, programming robots, or even building bridges, our budding engineers got to experience it all.

The trip was a great opportunity to see how learning in maths, science and computing can be applied to real-life work and possible careers when they're older.



Checkmate

This term pupils were very happy with our new giant chess board.

Play times reached new levels of fun as children can now challenge each other to a game on the yard.

One of our pupils said: "I loved playing at break time. Chess really makes you think about how to outwit your opponent!"



3,2,1...BLAST OFF!

Gracie in Year 4 took creativity to a new frontier during Space Week this term.

Using her newfound knowledge of the planets she created this fantastic rocket and solar system model, which now sits proudly on display in Mr Woods' class. Needless to say, Gracie's friends in Year 4 were 'over the moon' with her efforts.



We're social



@DiamondJuniors



facebook.com/
DiamondJuniors

Did you know that our school regularly posts exciting updates on Facebook and Twitter?

Our social media pages are a great way to connect to our online Diamond Hall Junior Academy community. You can find photos, videos and important updates on our pages and see what your little ones are up to in the classroom. If you don't follow our pages already, please give us a like or a follow to stay in the loop!



Table tennis pros

Year 6 found a new hobby this term.

After the success of Chess Club last year, Year 6 took on a new challenge at the start of this term. The children battled it out in a tournament of table tennis during their lunch breaks. Having practised their skills over a number of weeks, Eva was the winner overall.

She was so excited to display her trophy proudly at her desk!

Merry Grinchmas!

Pupils in 4AR have been loving the Grinch this Christmas!

The class created Merry Grinchmas calendars and had an excellent time painting their hands.

Pupils concluded that "maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more!"



CHRISTMAS RECIPE

Why not bake some snowy chocolate crackle biscuits during the holidays?

Don't forget, always get help from a grown-up whilst baking!

What you'll need:

- 200g dark chocolate, chopped
- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 300g soft light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 150g plain flour
- 60g cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2-3 tbsp milk
- 100g icing sugar



Method

STEP 1 - Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water (make sure the base doesn't touch the water), or in a microwave in short bursts. Set aside to cool.

STEP 2 - Beat the butter and sugar together, then beat in the eggs, flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and chocolate. Pour in the milk to make a soft dough, but don't overmix it! Cover and chill for 1 hr.

STEP 3 - Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line one or two baking sheets with parchment. Put the icing sugar in a bowl. Scoop heaped tablespoons of dough and roll each ball in your hands before dropping it into the icing sugar and rolling it around. Put on baking sheets and repeat, spacing the balls apart.

STEP 4 - Bake for about 12-15 mins until the biscuits feel firm when touched. The biscuits should puff up and cracks should open up, too. Leave to cool on the trays, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely. Will keep for up to a week in an airtight container.



North East
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Making the move to teaching is easier than you think...

Did you know you can train to be a teacher in our school? Training to teach in our school with North East SCITT takes less time and is more affordable than many people realise. Our nine-month courses begin every September meaning you could be starting out on a new career before you know it. Many people worry they don't have what

it takes to make the move into teaching, but with training and support from our team of experienced, outstanding teachers who are right beside you from day one, we always prove them wrong. If you have a good degree and the desire to learn new skills and make a difference, then we'd love to talk to you.

Thinking about training to teach?

Come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like with North East SCITT.

19 th	January	2023
8 th	February	2023
10 th	March	2023
18 th	April	2023
19 th	May	2023
8 th	June	2023
27 th	June	2023

Virtual taster days also available. Please check our website for more details.



Newcastle
University