



# NEWSLETTER DEC 2023

## WINTER

### A message from our headteacher...

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of our first term of the academic year. The children have made an excellent start. They have approached this term with resilience, independence, integrity, co-operation and empathy: our school values.

We have made a great start with our attendance and we are currently the highest within the trust. The children continue to earn their Diamond Dollars for every full week they attend and can swap these for rewards and prizes. The children are very proud of this.

Over the term, the children have worked extremely well across the curriculum producing a range of work to be celebrated.

You can see the children's achievements on our Facebook, Twitter and school website. The children love it when they see the amount of likes they get on Facebook for their hard work.

I would like to thank every member of staff for their dedication to our children and the school community. I am so proud of our pupils and their continued hard work. Thank you also for your support of our school. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas. Let's work together to make 2024 an amazing year.

*F Hoare*

**Fiona Hoare**  
Headteacher



### In this issue...



#### 12 days of Christmas

Santa Claus is coming to town, and our staff and pupils have been celebrating in the lead up to the big day!



#### Sporting stars

Our pupils have had another great term of sporting activities!



#### Black History Month

This term we marked Black History Month with a school-wide competition.



#### Looking to the future

Our children looked to the future and began to think about their careers when they grow up.

# In the month of December

By Sienna and Leah

## PACKING PRETTY PRESENTS!

In the month of December,  
It is time to remember Christ and all he gave,  
Christmas is almost here,  
So there will be laughter and there will be cheer,  
Whilst celebrating this glorious day,  
We live, we laugh, we love to say,  
Merry Christmas,  
I hope your Christmas is a fun surprise,  
Merry Christmas,  
You may use your imagination to memorise,  
Festive wrapping paper hiding what is under,  
Santa and elves working while kids still wonder,  
The advent calendars are coming out and  
Christmas trees are up,  
Try not to pout when it is time to clean up,  
All you need to do is open presents in glee,  
But do not be sad when it is time to put down  
the Christmas tree.



## Did you know?

The tradition of putting a silver coin in the Christmas pudding dates back as far as the 1300s!

A silver coin is added into the Christmas pudding mixture and whoever finds the coin in their share of the pudding will have good luck for the next year!



## Me, Myself and I

This term our Year 3 pupils explored the importance of self-worth and talked about different goals that they want to achieve.

The class wrote down an achievement that they were proud of and in turns, read this out to the class and explained why they had chosen it. The group wrapped up the lesson by setting a personal goal for the end of the year.

We hope that everyone succeeds in fulfilling their goal!



## World Mental Health Day

This term we marked World Mental Health by reminding our children to prioritise their mental health.

Year 4 had a very relaxing afternoon completing mindful doodling while listening to peaceful music. Our pupils know the importance of making a moment to unwind and relax to protect their mental health.





# The Santa Claus: A review by 5CC

Rating 9.5/10

This brilliant American Christmas classic focuses in on a modern day family, going through parent separation around Christmas time.

On Christmas Eve, Santa is delivering presents all around the world but when he was delivering Charlie's, he falls off the roof and Scott Calvin and Charlie watch him fall. Scott Calvin reads his identification card then puts on the clothes. He becomes the new Santa and continues his merry journey. He took Charlie, his son, to the North Pole again and got arrested because he wasn't allowed to visit him. The E.L.F.S busted him out of jail and was known as Santa Clause.

# Spookley and the Christmas Kittens: A review by 5CC

The latest Spookley Christmas movie has just landed on Netflix and the kids are going crazy for it.

Well, if your kids have watched early, they are probably questioning why the pumpkin can move? Well, this is one of the bad things about this film because who thought a pumpkin could move?

It is quite like a musical and they say some nonsense things like 'stick together glue friends.'

But it is a joy for kids to watch as they can sing along and have some fun!

**"It is a fantastic film that is aimed at children"**



## Interfaith Week

This term children across school took part in a workshop with Sunderland Inter Faith Forum Co-Chair, Zaf Iqbal.

The session's aim was to increase awareness of the different faiths all around the UK as well as increase the understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Some children even shared their own religious practices, with one child saying a prayer in Arabic.

Great work everyone!



## Kick off!

This term our Diamond Hall football squad got back out on the pitch!

With regular faces from last year's team and some new star signings, the group were chomping at the bit to get out on the field and they look forward to what 2024 bring for them!



# Fun food experiments



In science lessons this term our Year 3 children carried out an experiment where they tested the fat content in different foods.

They smudged an item of food onto a large piece of sugar paper and once dried, if the paper was translucent and let light through it was a positive test for fat. Check out the results below.



## The Grinch: A review by 5JP

Dr Suess' amazing show is heart warming for Christmas lovers because it shows that even though you can be alone one Christmas, don't let it dampen your spirit of Christmas.

This show originated in 1996 and was voiced by Boris Carlof. The 2018 version has 5 main characters. Number 1, a complete grump that hates Christmas and everything to do with it. Number 2, his furry friend or dog Max. Number 3, a jolly reindeer Fred. Last but not least, a cute little girl called Cindy Lou and her mother Donna.

The home of the Grinch (The Grump) is a towering mountain called Mount Crumpet and below it is the town he unfairly hates, Whoville. The Grinch wants to steal Christmas because of his emotional past. He hits a snag, and is caught by Cindy, who wants her mother to rest. One thing that the Grinch didn't understand is that after stealing all the lights, ornaments and baubles is that he didn't steal Christmas because Christmas would always be in people's hearts.

Rating: 4.5/5

# DATES

## FOR YOUR DIARY

20 DEC Break up for Christmas

08 JAN Back to school

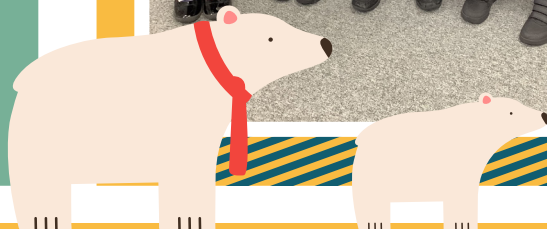
16 FEB Break up for half term

26 FEB Back to school

## Anti-Bullying Week 2023

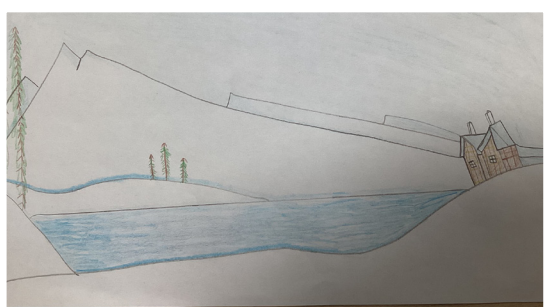
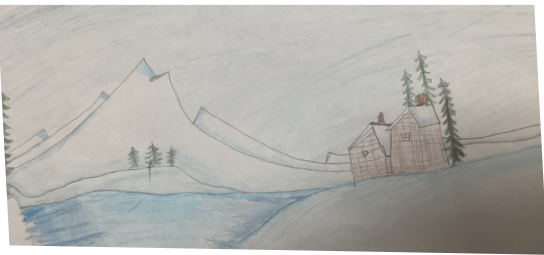
We kicked off Anti Bullying Week this term with a whole school assembly where our children were invited to 'MAKE SOME NOISE!' about bullying.

Our Anti Bullying Team attended and some chose to speak about their thoughts on bullying. Our children also wore odd socks to celebrate our differences and took part in a range of activities across school that linked to their reading, writing and RE lessons. Our school strongly believes that bullying across the world must stop!





# Festive art by Year 3



# A Snowy Day

By Muhammed

Crisp underfoot, with my heavy boots,  
As the sound of the snow sinks in,  
Carefully moving I don't want to slip  
Let the white winter begin!

Snowballs looking like lumps of ice- cream,  
Glittering like stars in the sky,  
Icicles dripping a wintery tune,  
Oh, what a wonderful sight!

Children running and playing in the snow,  
Makes me smile with glee,  
Skating on ice, look how nice,  
Puts a smile on me!



# A winter morning

By Anusha

Crunch underneath my boots spread  
As the balls of snow collapse in.  
A step and a slide as I tried to hide,  
Let the winter games begin

Wintering clouds cuddle the earth below,  
Hugging and squeezing so tight.  
Pouring down rain turns to snow once again,  
As the sun disappears for the night.

Bushes and plants filled with a fluff of snow,  
Shed puffs as a robin flies by.  
As leaves and plants blow,  
The robin looks on from up high





# Black History Month

During Black History Month, our pupils learned why and how we celebrate it and to mark the occasion, we held a competition across the whole school.

We challenged children from Years 3 to 6 to create an informative biography on someone they found influential. We were very impressed with the in-depth and insightful pieces that were submitted. Great job everyone!

# Year 5 look to the future

This term, Year 5 pupils investigated the qualities and skills needed to achieve their career of choice in the future. The class created games to improve their qualities and wrote a CV.



# Diwali 2023

This term Year 6 enjoyed learning all about the festival of Diwali and we were very lucky to have our own resident expert who explained to us how she celebrated the festival with fireworks, as it marks the beginning of New Year for her.

Our children also used their times table knowledge to colour in Rangoli patterns before designing their own.



# Student Leaders

This term we were proud to announce our Student Leader position!

Head Boy - Izzy

Head Girl - Leah

Deputy Head Boy - Jake

Deputy Head Girls - Elsa and Dariola

Ruby House Captains: Phoebe and Asher

Diamond House Captains: Bright and Lilly

Emerald House Captains: Gozirim and Kacey

Sapphire House Captains: Sienna and Shadrach





# The 12 days of Christmas

Santa Claus is coming to town, and to celebrate the lead up to the big day, everyone at Diamond Hall celebrated the 12 days of Christmas.

We enjoyed brilliant Christmas performances, a Christmas fayre, and of course, a Christmas disco! Our children danced and partied to celebrate the festive season and loved showing off their dance moves while enjoying snacks and drinks from the school tuck shop. We even had some of the staff join in for the Cha Cha Slide and Macarena!

Pupils also learned about the meaning of Christingle to Christians around the world. After creating their own Christingles, pupils visited St. Mary Magdalene's Church to lead a service. Bradley said: "I loved singing in the church in front of our families and friends." Jesse added: "Father Andrew lit the candle on my Christingle. A lighted candle symbolises Jesus as being the light of the world."

Back in school, everybody enjoyed more festivities with our annual Christmas lunch. Staff and pupils enjoyed the tasty meal, complete with all the trimmings and read out some very bad Christmas jokes! Everyone had a (bau)ball!

Our classroom door decorating competition was a hit once again this year. So many of you voted for your favourite on Facebook and in the end, the winners were 3CE. What an amazing door - or should we say house?!

