



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



## Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Our pupils and staff have overcome many challenges this term and we are proud of all their achievements. They have all shown resilience and dedication towards their learning and have adapted well to the new school day. I think we have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and I am very proud of everyone!

I'm sure that parents and carers would like to join me in thanking all the staff at Diamond Hall Junior Academy for their commitment and hard work in ensuring pupils were able to access learning in school and from home.

We, as I am sure all our families are also, are looking forward to enjoying the final days of the year in school on the countdown to Christmas then enjoying a well-deserved rest with our families.

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you all back in January 2021!

*Mrs F Hoare*

Mrs F Hoare  
Headteacher



## Pupils mark World Children's Day

This term the children of Diamond Hall marked World Children's Day by adding a hint of blue to their usual uniform!

World Children's Day is a day for children all over the world to understand and recognise their rights, fight for them and fulfil their potential. As a Gold Rights Respecting Award school, we felt this was something vital to promote.





## Anti-Bullying Week 2020

This term saw Anti-Bullying Week in full swing with the theme of 'united against bullying'.

Throughout the week at Diamond Hall, the Anti-Bullying Partnership Team planned a range of activities to help pupils understand that all forms of bullying, whether verbal, physical, online or in-person, have a significant impact on a young person's life.

Our children learned that by challenging our collective power, through shared efforts and ambitions, we can all reduce bullying together. Small, simple changes can break the cycle and create a safe environment for everyone.

To show our support, Diamond Hall joined many other schools across the UK by holding an 'Odd Socks Day', which was a fun opportunity for pupils and staff to express themselves and appreciate their individuality and uniqueness!

## Mathematician of the day!

A big well done to Femi, who won the #Barvemmer maths challenge from White Rose Maths.

Femi, showed off his brilliant maths skills with his fantastic explanation for the Barvemmer problem!

He said: "It was a tricky challenge but I love exploring maths problems!"



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**18 Dec** Break up for Christmas

**5 Jan** Return to school

**12 Feb** Break up for half term

**22 Feb** Return to school

**26 Mar** Break up for Easter

**12 Apr** Return to school

**3 May** May Day bank holiday

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

[www.diamondhalljuniors.co.uk](http://www.diamondhalljuniors.co.uk)

## Femi's Christmas poem

**Pupi, Femi, has been hard at work writing a Christmas poem!**

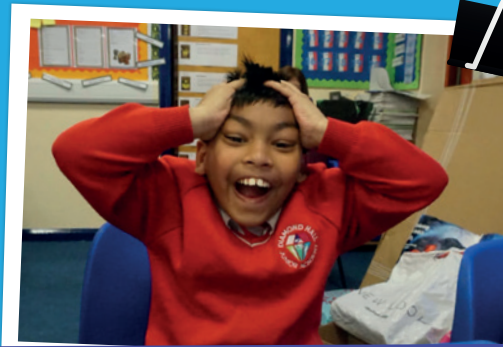
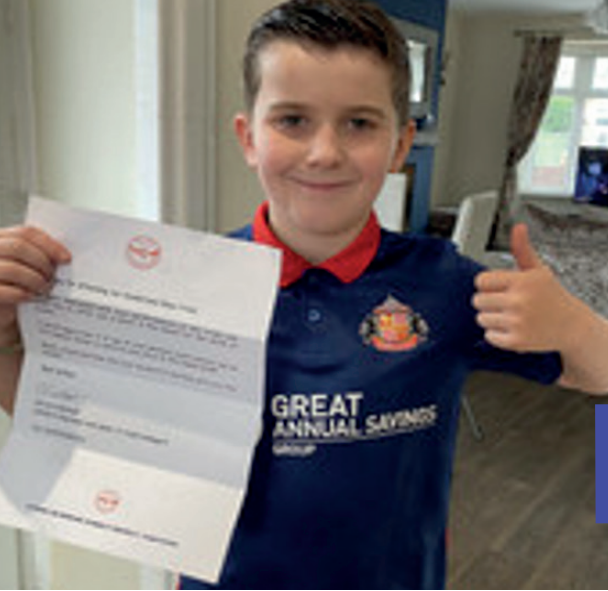
Santa coming down your chimney, not your door,  
Sharing dinner with family and lots more.

Santa saying, 'Ho ho ho!'  
Singing from the birds like robins and crows.

Eating turkey until you're full,  
At Christmas time, nothing is dull.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy Holiday!  
Keep up the Christmas cheer and the Christmas way.





## The Great Choco-plot!

As part of the 37th annual Northern Children's Book Festival, the pupils of Diamond Hall had the opportunity to work with Chris Callaghan, the author of the book, *The Great Choco-plot*.

The children joined an online, virtual session with Chris who read his book before answering questions.

The session was a huge inspiration for the children who used it as a stimulus for their

own writing and fuel for their love for reading.

Check out our pupils' #chocolatepanicface when we heard the world could run out of chocolate!

## Future football star, Jay

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Year 6's Jay who has been successful in his football trials for Sunderland's Under 12s.

Out of the 90 children taking part, Jay was among the 12 successful footballing stars and is the first pupil at Diamond Hall who has been selected in over 13 years.

We are all so proud of Jay and cannot wait to see what the future holds for him!



## Year 5 eat like kings

As part of Year 5's Tudor-based topic 'Off with Her Head', our children attended their very own Tudor banquet!

The children were able to make new foods like gingerbread and pottage that rich and poor people would have eaten in the Tudor era. The children then dressed up like royalty and the working class and tried a range of

different ingredients and foods.

Kaydn said: "It was lovely because you got to see how poor people ate in Tudor Era and I tried food that I had never tried before, like pottage."

## We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@DiamondJuniors



facebook.com/DiamondJuniors





## Pupils support Children in Need

This term, the children of Diamond Hall swapped their usual red uniforms for a splash of yellow to mark Children in Need. Through generous donations from staff and children we raised £346.90

Celebrating Children in Need coincided with World Kindness Day, so our children thought what better time to raise money for such a worthy cause!

Mrs King and Miss Jackson shared a virtual assembly with Year 6 to explain all about acts of kindness and to promote this year's message of 'Make Kindness The Norm'.

## 2020 book wish list

The children here at Diamond Hall love to read! Here are some of the books they have chosen for their 2020 wish list...

**Lola** - *The Naughty Unicorn!* The picture on the cover made me interested and I thought it sounded like it might be a funny story. I also love unicorns!

**Alfie** - *How to Train your Dragon* - I love books from the fantasy genre so this is definitely on my Christmas list!

**Maisie** - *The Great Chocoplot!* because we were lucky to meet the author and the book sounds fantastic!

**Taylor** - Any books by Emma Carroll! We're reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse in class and I love it so far!



## Why Christmas is important to our teachers...

**Mr Calvert** - Christmas time is... slow mornings, duvet days, plenty of hot drinks and making memories with your family.

**Mrs Haydon** - Christmas time is... spending time with my family and eating lots of lovely food. I always wish for snow too.

**Mrs Herron** - Christmas time is... spending time with family, enjoying the cold weather with lots of walks and eating far too much food (especially mince pies and chocolate!) Christmas is the best time of the year.

**Mr Jach** - Christmas time is... a chance to stop and rest and a chance to reflect and be grateful.

**Mr Guthrie** - Christmas time is... going to become magical again after the birth of my daughter!

## CHRISTMAS JOKES

Why does Santa have three gardens at the North Pole?

So he can Ho, Ho, Ho

'Knock Knock'

'Who's there?'

'Interrupting Santa.'

'Interrupting San-'

'Ho ho ho!'