



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



## Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

We have made a brilliant 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!

This term has seen significant developments in our school site - you may have noticed we have building work going ahead on the yard. Soon we will have a sanctuary for pupils to enjoy during breaks and lunchtimes with areas designed to promote personal development. We can't wait until it's complete!

Across school we have celebrated a wide variety of holidays, festivals and national themed days/weeks. This has helped us all develop our spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. Alongside this, we have introduced our very own DHJA values: resilience, independence, integrity, co-operation, and empathy. We have enjoyed celebrating our pupils' successes in displaying these values in our weekly celebration assemblies.

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



## Pupils support Pudsey

**Diamond Hall became a sea of yellow this term to celebrate and raise awareness for Children in Need 2021.**

Thank you to our generous families who donated to the wonderful cause, your generosity makes a real difference to children and young people across the UK.





## Festive breakfasts

Across school, our children have been moving into the Christmas season with extra cheer at breakfast club.

Drinking from Christmas cups and eating on decorated tables, pupils have been rocking around the Christmas tree!

## Goodwill to all...

To mark the arrival of the season of goodwill, some of our Year 6 children have a few thank you messages they would like to deliver...

Maryjane said: "Thank you to my family and to God. They help me to succeed at school and inspire me to try my best."

Hashdeep added: "I would like to say thank you to Adam, my best friend. He has helped me to improve this year and always supports me."

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 17 DEC** Break up for Christmas
- 05 JAN** Return to school
- 18 FEB** Break up for half term
- 28 FEB** Return to school
- 08 APR** Break up for Easter
- 25 APR** Return to school
- 26 MAY** Break up for half term
- 06 JUN** Return to school

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:  
[www.diamondhalljuniors.co.uk](http://www.diamondhalljuniors.co.uk)

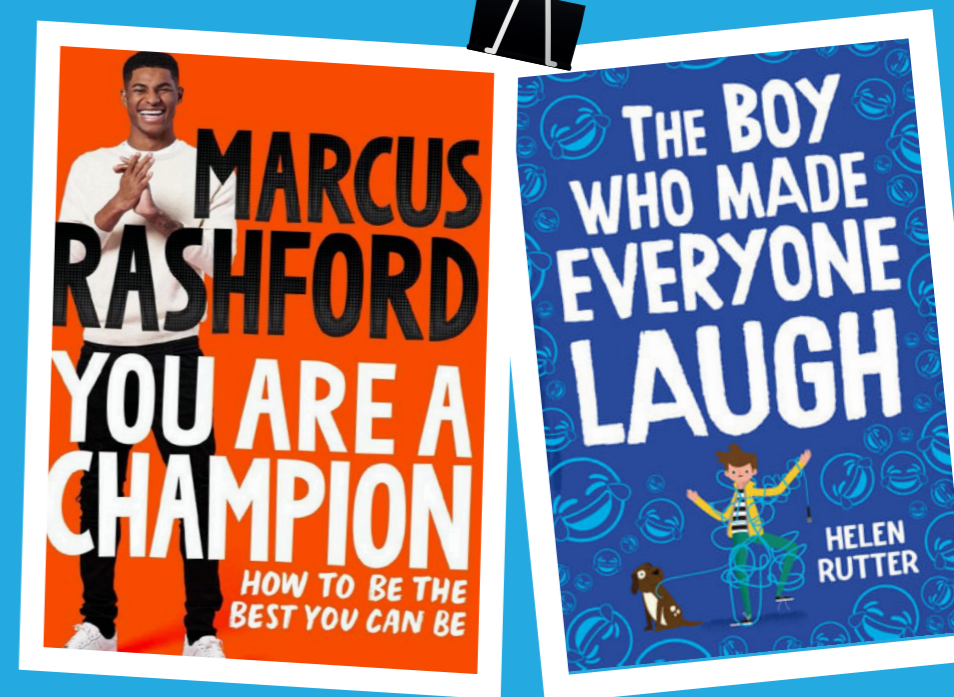
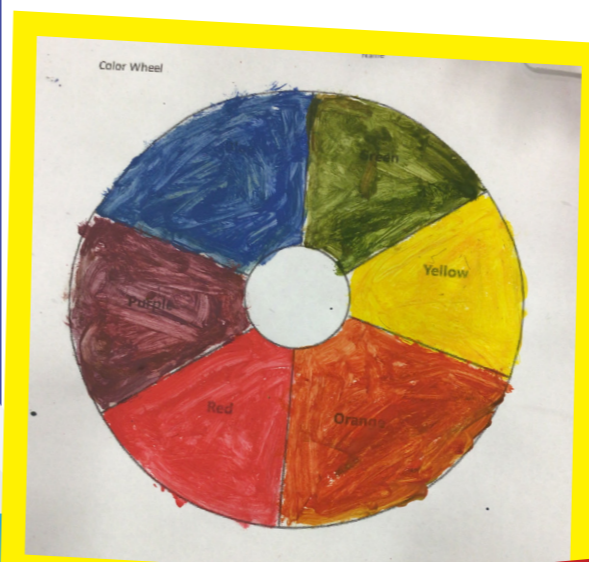
## Winter wonderland

Have a read of Phoebe's Christmas poem...

**SNOWFLAKES DANCING ACROSS THE WINTER SKY,  
SWOOSH GO THE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS IN THE BLINK  
OF AN EYE,  
HOWLING WIND SWEEPS UP THE SHINY CRISP  
SNOW,  
ROARING FIRE WARMS ME UP,  
SIT BACK, RELAX AND PLAY WITH MY PUP,  
IRIDESCENT CHRISTMAS TREE AS TALL AS MOUNT  
EVEREST,  
SPECIAL SANTA, BRINGING MY HAPPY HAPPIER,  
READY FOR CHRISTMAS DAYS.**

## Budding artists

In their art lessons, pupils have been exploring the colour wheel, creating their own and even incorporating it in their own boardgames!



## Christmas book wishlist

We love reading here at Diamond Hall, so, we asked our pupils what books they'd like to find under the tree this Christmas.

Alesha said: "This Christmas, Marcus Rashford's book, You are a Champion, is on my wishlist. We wrote letters to him this term to thank him for his campaigning over the last year. I'd love to read his book!"

Aaron said: "For Christmas this year, I'd love to receive 'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh' by Helen Rutter. We are reading it in class at the moment and I can't wait to find out what happens in the end! It's my new favourite book!"

## We're social

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!

 @DiamondJuniors

 facebook.com/DiamondJuniors





## We love yoga!

This term saw our Year 5 pupils try something new - yoga.

Miss Robinson loved running the yoga club, where our children learnt many yoga poses like downward dog, warrior 2 and 3, conbra post, child's pose.

Weekly, we have watched our children improve and develop their yoga skills as they took on a new yoga sequence, followed by some meditation.

Great work, Year 5!

## 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!'

Quiz answers:

1.	Germany
2.	Four:
3.	Paris
4.	Britain
5.	364
6.	1994
7.	The Polar Express. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
8.	Japan
9.	Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
10.	Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.

## A surprise visitor for Christmas...

Pupils got a big surprise when they walked into the Year 4 area in the lead up to Christmas...

It was a mess, which meant only one thing - the elf was back again! Our naughty elf joined us at the end of term to help us get into the festive spirit. Our children loved seeing what mischief he got up to every day!



## What Christmas means to our teachers...

**Miss Gaydon** - "Spending time with family and friends while being cosy and warm is what Christmas is all about to me."

**Mrs Bendelow** - "It's all about chocolate for breakfast, lunch and dinner!"

**Miss Inkster** - "For me Christmas means I get time to come together with family and share gifts."

**Why not take a moment to reflect on what Christmas mean to you?**

**All of our teachers wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
- In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
- Which country did eggnog originate?
- How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
- What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out?
- In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
- In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
- In the movie Love Actually, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
- How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?



**North East  
SCITT**

**Did you know that our school is a partner of North East SCITT - an organisation that trains new teachers in schools across the north east - including in ours!**

Whether you're a new graduate, in your final year of university or considering a change of career (it's never too late you know!), North East SCITT's high-quality school-based initial teacher training courses can provide you with the best start to a new career in teaching. They are based in the North East Learning Trust's lead school, The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, but training happens in schools all across the region.

The quality of training they offer is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted for both their primary and secondary courses. Along with this they have a proven track record of amazing

results and high employment rates. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn to teach 'on-the-job'. Unlike traditional university courses, you are in the classroom from the outset, interacting with pupils and teachers and learning first hand the knowledge and skills you'll need to become an outstanding teacher.

You will practise in a broad range of schools, gaining experience in different areas including special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour management, English as an additional language, phonics, and maths mastery (for primary only).

You will also be allocated a subject mentor from a team of specialists with vast experience who will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject.

At the end of the 10 month course you'll be a qualified teacher with a PGCE from Durham University.

So if you're thinking of teaching - there is no better place than through our school partners North East SCITT - please get in touch - we know they would love to speak to you!

**Subjects available:**



- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Computing</b>     | <b>Physical education</b>       |
| <b>Design and technology</b> | <b>Religious education</b>      |
| <b>Drama</b>                 | <b>Biology</b>                  |
| <b>English</b>               | <b>Chemistry</b>                |
| <b>History</b>               | <b>Physics</b>                  |
| <b>Geography</b>             | <b>Modern foreign languages</b> |
| <b>Maths</b>                 |                                 |
| <b>Music</b>                 |                                 |

**Try a teacher training taster day...**

If you're thinking about training to teach, you can 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. Find out more and book your place at:

[www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster)



**Apply now for Sept 2022**

**New year, new career?**

**Become a teacher in 2022!**

**Outstanding teacher training in schools across the North East**

**Bursaries of up to £24k available to train in some subjects**

**Find out more at: [www.northeastscitt.co.uk](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk)**