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16th December 2022

Dear Parents /Carers

The highlight of this week has to be the amazing performance of the Christmas Story by all of our children. Whether it was an alien invasion or a Bethlehem Bake Off - the children presented clearly and confidently. It takes real courage to stand on a stage in front of nearly 100 adults and still smile but they made us really proud. They build up to the performance is always full of nervous excitement but they were brilliant and we definitely have some children who could have a career on the stage! Well done to all of our children and thank you so much for coming to watch them. It makes all the hard work worthwhile. We now look forward to seeing you at the Church Service on Tuesday 20th at 10:30am.

I am sure your children will tell you all about our Santa visits today. Nursery - Year 4 children braved the cold and walked up to the Town Hall where the man himself was sitting waiting patiently for us. He asked them many questions and checked whether they had all been good and then gave them a special treat which they will bring home tonight. It was a lovely morning and the excitement was lovely to see. Once again, our children impress us with their behaviour and manners. We are really proud of them and Santa certainly noticed too! Thank you also to the Town Hall for organising Santa’s timetable so he could visit the children of Spennymoor and provide them with an early gift.

**Christmas parties**

On Monday our children will be having their class Christmas parties. They are to come to school wearing their party clothes. Staff will organise the day so they have games, music and plenty of fun. A party lunch will be provided to all children, free of charge. There is no need for children to bring a packed lunch as I am sure they will enjoy the delights we have on offer. You do not need to request a lunch or a ticket for this event - it is all organised and every child is included. It promises to be a very fun day with, yet another, early gift for them all.

**Community events**

St Andrew’s Church are having a carol service. It's at 6pm Sunday 18th, festive favourites old and new, candlelit, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome.

**Parking**

Once again, I need to remind families about inconsiderate parking. This has been a longstanding issue but during a period where we have no crossing patrol, this is even more dangerous. The police will be patrolling again and have confirmed that wardens will be issuing tickets for illegal parking and also police will be issuing fines if they believe driving in the area is considered to be dangerous.

Please help keep the community safe by choosing to park sensibly and not on yellow zig zag lines or double yellow lines.

**A reminder of financial help and support**

We are always looking for ways to help our families and are proud to be more than just a school. Please see this range of information for parents regarding financial help and support; we understand that January in particular can be a difficult time for families:

**Financial help and support for families -**A dedicated web page [Help with your money](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fhelpwithyourmoney&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q%2BHxx%2FZFZQQR7kVg4zA95zAplGrB%2F%2FmoPwsNli1gcSo%3D&reserved=0) has been developed for County Durham residents and contains specific help for families. The page has information on a range of support available including applying for Free School Meals (FSM), debt advice/financial help and help with heating and fuel bills.

**Help with buying items for school including school uniforms** - A dedicated web page has been developed for families to find out about this support [Help with buying items for school - Durham County Council](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooluniform&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lsBaRYu%2FRPh9OAsH%2Fr8l%2BQrdKhgH0e0EeXkreaAcze8%3D&reserved=0). You are also encouraged to make use of the Hub outreach services which can provide uniforms, clothing, household items and food. This will reopen in January.

**The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) -** TBBT collects surplus food and staple goods that often end up going to waste from supermarkets, factories and farms, and distributes it at a discount price through 10 community hubs across County Durham. You will need to become a member to use the service, but this is free to do. For just £7.50, TBBT members' shopping bags can be filled with an average of £35 worth of items made up of quality, nutritious food. Each week members can access three bags of produce, including fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled goods, as well as cupboard staples such as pasta and cereal.     [Bread and Butter Thing: membership](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.breadandbutterthing.org%2Fmembers&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6sElvMB%2FsOZHJJVHNjUk%2BGIWVMr1yHWrC41tD2t27mE%3D&reserved=0)

In addition to this, this website may also be useful:

 [Fighting UK Poverty - Turn2us](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.turn2us.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd36bd99b356246c4fbb608daa6e2118a%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638005787127201868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kGO1L%2Frh7bogsi9NCONoM7FHz9UXJJdkSxssW5BKW2I%3D&reserved=0)

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services – online, by phone and face to face, through partner organisations and our volunteers.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/)

**Warm Spaces scheme**

Warm Spaces are somewhere people can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company. In some you can get refreshments and our Warm Spaces network aims to support residents across County Durham this winter. Warm Spaces are free and will let people stay for as long, or for as short a period as someone needs (within their opening hours).

**How to find a local Warm Space**

Finding a Warm Space is easy. There is a section to Locate, our online directory, allowing residents to connect with local services. So, if someone is cold they can find out where to go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company. Some Warm Spaces also offer refreshments, wi-fi access, parking and baby change facilities.

Find local Warm Spaces and the facilities they can offer on [Locate: Warm Spaces](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durhamlocate.org.uk%2FSearch%3FCategoryId%3D152%26SM%3DServiceSearch%26UDG%3DTrue%26SME%3DTrue&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C94f3fc2058a148e6a3c908dade9f43eb%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638067074444819974%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sJxV7VlXAP5HV1PoAuBUZjyUHF2X0Xlt%2FtRUpETtdNc%3D&reserved=0).

**Flu immunisation nasal spray**

Parents and carers of children who attend primary school who would like their child to receive the flu vaccination can simply ‘drop in’ to a flu vaccination clinic with their child or if they prefer they can contact the School Age Immunisation Team to make an appointment either by phone 03000 032554 or email hdft.sais@nhs.net

The local drop in centres are open for drop in sessions or appointments:

Wednesday 21st December 9.30am- 2.30pm Woodhouse Close family Centre DL146QL

Thursday 22nd December 9.30am -3.30pm Newton Aycliffe Children’s Centre DH57DD

**Diary dates**

Monday 19th December – Christmas parties for all classes

Tuesday 20th December - St Andrew’s Church Service. 10.30am.

School closes at 5:30pm on Tuesday 20th December.

Please note that children return to school **on Thursday 5th January**.

This will be my last newsletter of the Autumn term so we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and, hopefully, we all experience a much healthier 2023. We look forward to seeing you all in January after some well-deserved family time.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher