

FINCHALE FLYER

We see the magic in every child... and help make them sparkle.

Key Dates:

JANUARY

- 5th School Closed for Staff INSET Day
- 6th School Re-opens for Pupils (8:55am)
- 18th World Religion Day
- 19th Energy Saving Week

FEBRUARY

- 6th NSPCC National Number Day
- 9th Children's Mental Health Week
- 11th Safer Internet Day
- 17th Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 21st Reception Chinese New Year Assembly (2.30pm)
- 21st School closes for February half term holiday (3.25pm)

MARCH

- 2nd School Re-opens for Pupils (8:55am)
National Careers Week
- 5th World Book Day
- 9th British Science / STEM Week
- 15th Comic Relief / Red Nose Day
- 16th-20th High Borrans Residential
- 23rd Y4 Brass Concert (2.00pm)
- 25th PTA Spring Disco (TBC)
- WB. 30th Parent/Carer Appointments (TBC)

All dates are subject to change.



Y4 Class Concert

Year 4 put on a fantastic performance showcasing their skills with the mini trombones, glockenspiels, rondo and singing. Thank you to Mrs Norris from the Music Service for helping us!



Festive Fun Run

On 16th December, we put on our tinsel and trainers and headed to the running track for our annual Festive Fun Run. There were snowballs, foam 'snow' and some candy-cane obstacles to contend with!



PTA Christmas Fair

Thanks go out to our wonderful PTA and Y6 Family Helpers for putting on a very successful Christmas Fair on Friday, 28th November. **£812.66** was raised, which will go a big way towards providing future opportunities for our children in school. Thank you to everyone who came and especially to those who organised and ran the stalls. It is much appreciated!



KS2 Swimming Gala

On Tuesday, 9th December, 14 of our Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the annual swimming gala at Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre. They were a credit to our school and demonstrated an excellent attitude, coming in 8th place out of 16 schools overall. Well done!



Christmas Concerts

Finchale sure had talent in both of our Christmas performances. Reception and KS1 retold the traditional story while KS2 showed that 'no-one wraps like an elf!' The singing was beautiful, the acting was very impressive and the shows demonstrated how confident and resilient our children are in the face of unexpected challenges. Everyone sparkled and shone! Thank you to all of our family members who came to watch and support us.



Y5 'Pulse - Tin Arts' Session

On the last school day in November, Year 5 children welcomed some visitors in the form of a local arts group into school to take part in a space-themed dance workshop. They explored how to use movement to express the orbit of the planets before enjoying an amazing performance.



Our Choir in the Community

This month, our choir have been getting the local community in the festive spirit with performances at Framwellgate Community Centre Christmas Fair and at Lindisfarne Newton Hall Care Home. They were a credit to our school and put big smiles on lots of faces!



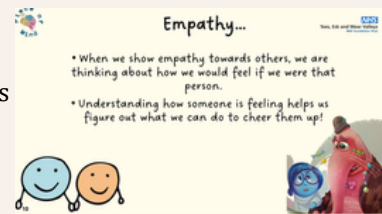
Staffing News

We would like to introduce Abigail Taylor to our school community. Abigail will be joining us in January as a part-time Higher Level Teaching Assistant and comes to us with experience in both England and Australia! We are looking forward to welcoming her as part of our Finchale family.



Spotlight on Safeguarding - Piece of Mind

This month, Maria from the Piece of Mind team has been carrying out sessions within Y6 with a focus on Managing Friendships. They talked about what 'empathy' is, how to be a good friend and positive ways to manage conflict. More information from Piece of Mind regarding how to support your own and your child's mental health can be found at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/familiesmentalhealth>



Recommended Reads

Age 4-7

The Christmas Eve Tree
Author: Delia Huddy
Illustrator: Emily Sutton



Age 7+

Charlie & the Christmas Factory
Inspired by Roald Dahl



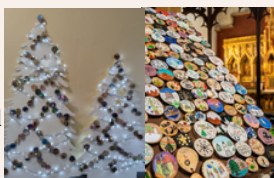
Twinkle & the Kindness Advent

Throughout December, Twinkle the Finchale elf has been setting 'kindness challenges' for our classes across school, such as making thank you cards for members of our community and sharing a story with a younger child. Children who have demonstrated particular kindness have been rewarded with Twinkle's advent prize in the form of a miniature 'Little People, Big Dreams' book.



Ushaw Decorations

We received a thank you from Ushaw, Durham for our contribution to their collaborative artwork with our wooden decorations, this year. These are available to visit before 23rd December and any families with children who receive Free School Meals are eligible for a free annual pass using the code AAP0322 on the website.



Visits to All Saints Church

Both Year 1 and Year 2 children have enjoyed visits to All Saints Church, this month. Year 2 children took part in a special workshop called 'Christmas in a box', learning all about the story of the first Christmas and the people who were involved in it. The children worked on different stations with an adult who explained the significant role each character played in the Christmas story. The children loved it and the adults were super impressed with their Christmas knowledge and understanding.

Party Time!

We've been having lots of fun in the final few days of term at our parties. Singing, dancing, games and party food was enjoyed by all!



Careers-Related Learning Visitors

Children in Reception enjoyed a visit this month from the Fire Service as part of their learning about people who help us. They thoroughly enjoyed getting to sit in the fire engine!



Newton Hall Christmas Tree Fair

Thank you to those families who made and donated decorations for our Christmas Tree at the All Saints Church fair - we won 'Most Festive' tree! Your Finchale-themed decorations now have pride of place on our school tree. We look forward to taking part again, next year.



Very Special Guests...

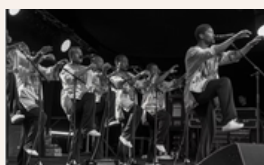
What a way to end a fantastic term - none other than the man himself (yes, Santa!) came to visit us with his elves on the last day of term. He even dropped off an early (and well-deserved) present for everyone. Santa brought with him another special visitor for Reception, this time in the form of Jet, the police dog, and his owner, who told us all about how police help keep us safe.



Musician of the Month



Ladysmith Black Mambazo is a South African vocal group known for their harmonious a cappella singing, traditional Zulu music, and collaboration with Paul Simon on his album "Graceland," introducing their captivating sound to the world.



December Attendance

Reception	97.45%
Year 1	98.55%
Year 2	94.88%
Year 3	95.71%
Year 4	95.19%
Year 5	96.99%
Year 6	89.88%
Whole School	95.35%

Many thanks, as always, for your support.
Miss Ward.