

DATES

DECEMBER

19th am: Y5/Y6 Party
 19th pm: Y3/Y4 Party
 20th 9.10 Family Sing-a-long

JANUARY

7th School Resumes (Tues)
 21st 3.30 & 5pm parents/carers can view children's work in their classrooms

FEBRUARY

3rd - 7th Children's Mental Health Week
 7th Finchale Maths' Day
 11th Safer Internet Day
 W/B 17th Ukulele & Little Fingers Concert for Y1/Y2 Date/time TBC
 20th PTA Spring Disco
 4.30 (KS1) & 6pm (KS2)
 21st 2.30pm Reception Class Assembly
 21st 3.25pm END OF TERM

MARCH

3rd School Resumes
 6th World Book Day
 10th - 14th Science & STEM Week
 14th Comic Relief Day
 17th - 21st High Borran Residential Week
 21st Down Syndrome Day
 24th - 28th Assessment Week
 26th Adam Bushnell in Y3, Y4
 28th Performing Poetry

PTA

20th February Spring Disco

Simply The Nativity!



KS1 lead a fantastic Christmas performance this year called 'Simply the Nativity!' The play followed the traditional Christmas story with Mary and Joseph, the Three Wisemen, the Shepherds, Angels, Innkeepers and not to forget – Donkey! Well done, everyone for such amazing acting, singing and instrument playing. You were absolutely wonderful and this was just super!

Panto Pandemonium



Year 6 (with the help of some Year 5 baddies and the KS2 singers) performed Panto Pandemonium. It was complete pandemonium in Pantoland! Aladdin's lamp, Cinderella's slipper, the goose that lays the golden eggs and the magic cement from the Three Little Pigs were all stolen - and none of the Good Fairy's magic was working. There could only have been one culprit: the Wicked Witch! Six children were drawn into the action and were magically transported into Pantoland in order to search for the missing magic objects and return them to the Good Fairy. Luckily, they succeeded, which meant there were happy endings all around. Everyone performed and sang brilliantly! There was lots of audience participation and laughter throughout, showing just how much everyone enjoyed the show. Well done to all our fabulous staff and pupils for what has been two brilliant productions!

Finchale Choir Go Carol Singing



Our choir have been out entertaining others with their carol singing. A small group were invited to sing at the Governors' Conference at the Durham Leadership Centre,



performing for governors from across the county. The whole choir then performed at Lindisfarne Care Home for the residents. On both occasions, our choir displayed all of our school values, as well as singing beautifully. Well done and thank you to Mrs. Nower who has trained them so well.

Year 5 Mini Police Project



Our Y5 children took part in the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Challenge during a three-week project 'Mini Police'. The children had to complete several tasks which are designed to raise their awareness of keeping themselves and their community safe. The children received a UV pen with which they labelled valuables in their home. Each week the children learned another aspect of how the police operate including the various vehicles they have and the different types of police officers there are. They learned about some anti-social behaviours and how to recognise them. At the end of the project the children received a free bag for participating so well.



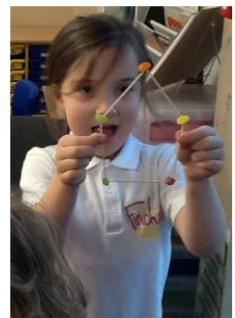
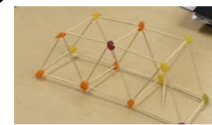
Year 3 Food Technology

Year 3 have been learning about eating seasonally in D&T. They learned about which fruit and vegetables are grown in different seasons, before practising their cutting and peeling skills. Everyone then tasted 8 different winter vegetables: kale, cauliflower, parsnip, Brussel sprouts, carrot, sweetcorn, leek and beetroot, before designing and making their own seasonal tart using some of the vegetables that they had tried. Well done Year 3!



Y4 DT: Building Structures

Year 4 have been looking at Structures, which expands their learning from the Tudor houses they made in Y2. By using sweets and cocktail sweets, and experimenting with different shapes, they found that the triangles were the strongest shape. Year 4 used this information to create their own designs and then made towers, pavilions and structures. Well done, Year 4.



Festive Fun Run Police Dog, Jet



The whole school were feeling very festive recently when they took part in a Festive Fun Run organised by the School Sports Partnership. Each class ran through various Christmas themed obstacles, dressed in their Christmas jumpers and accessories, whilst listening to Christmas tunes, adding to the Christmas spirit. It was a great event!

Our Reception loved meeting Police Officer Claire and Jet, her police dog, as part of their work on People Who Help Us. She told them all about her job, her uniform, her police van and police dogs Jet and Ben. They dressed up as police officers and got to see the lights and siren on the police van in action! The visit really enhanced the children's learning.



Finally, Goodbye! After 19 years as the Headteacher of this amazing school, it is time for me to leave and hand over to your new Headteacher, Miss Ward. I will take with me so many wonderful memories of the school – far too many to list here. For me, the school has always been about the children and my aim has always been to provide the very best we can to ensure each child can sparkle in their own way. But a school is far more than any single person and Finchale would not be the school it is today without our lovely children who are at the heart of our community; our fantastic staff who all go over and above in so many ways; our active governors who provide so much practical help and encouragement; and of course, the families who support us every day. I have described Finchale as my 3rd child and I know I will miss you all. However, as I have said many times, once you are part of our Finchale Family, you will always be part of the Finchale Family. I look forward to hearing how the school goes on to even bigger and better things in the future. Thank you all so much for your support and kindness over the years. It has been a real privilege and an honour to lead this wonderful community. Remember, always, kindness counts!



Our staff would like to thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts this festive season.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Finchale!

