

1st December, 2023

Dear Parents,

Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

What a week it has been! Unexpected snowfall that caused chaos! I understand how frustrating it must be to get a message saying school is closed - it is never an easy decision. On Wednesday morning we were weather watching from 6am and staff tried valiantly to get into school but the roads were just impassable in places. We clearly need 4 by 4s! Sadly if staff can't get in then we can't open. We don't actually have a member of staff that lives in the village - but a very helpful friend of school kept giving us weather updates! Hopefully next week will be back to business as usual! We have loads to cram in, lots of songs and lines to learn, gingerbread houses to make... so we have no time to lose!

The closing date for our headteacher post is today - so I will keep you updated 😊
Enjoy the weekend (possible sledging??) Seems like an excellent weekend to get the Christmas tree up! Enjoy 😊 Mrs Z.

Life at Lealholm

December has arrived and winter really is all around us now, with cold weather and some snowy showers too! Fern Class have been keeping warm and working hard. The children thoroughly enjoyed their Geography lesson this week learning about the weather across the UK. Through the Big Idea of scale, we determined how coastal locations and countries further north are cooler, applying this knowledge to predict the difference in weather forecasts between London and Edinburgh.

Reception have continued to be superstars, just like they have from day 1 of Reception. We have now completed the monumental achievement of teaching phase 2 phonics - the children know now every letter of the alphabet, alongside the common digraphs th, sh, ch, qu, ck, nk and ng. As a result, this week we have seen lots of independent writing. Our expectation over the next three weeks is, now that all three children can orally blend, for them to write any CVC word upon hearing it!

Heather class have worked extremely hard this week and thoroughly enjoyed their lesson in Geography, focusing on where we live. They were learning about Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles and did an excellent job of locating specific countries and cities on their map. We were all fascinated by some of the traditions that other countries have! We are all excited to learn more about the topography of land and where different crops and animals grow.



In RE, we were thinking about what a candle symbolises in Christianity and children were thinking about people who guide them in their lives. It was wonderful to hear about all the people who positively influence their lives and how they have taught them.

Mrs Woods and I were extremely impressed with Isaac, Oliver and Lily's fraction knowledge in maths this week. They were excellent at reasoning and problem solving to work out the answer.

Christmas cards

We are excited that we will be getting the Christmas post box down from attic this week and making school Christmassy with our decorations. Children are welcome to bring Christmas cards for their friends, if they wish this year, and there will also be cards available in school for children to write.

Celebrating 150 years of Lealholm School

Next year marks the 150th year of our special, rural primary school opening in our picturesque village. We are going to put together a video of pupils past and present, to share stories about what it was and is like to attend Lealholm School and we need your help! Please spread the word and ask people to get in touch if they would be happy to tell us their story and/ or any photographs of school through the ages would be gratefully received. We are also asking for ideas from our families' and people in the community for other ways we can commemorate this special occasion.

Triathlon Achievements

It is always wonderful to hear about the children's hobbies and interests beyond the school gates and also hear about their achievements. This week we heard about how well Ivy, Liv, Oliver, Zoey and Rachel did when they competed in Middleton East Pony Club Triathlon. Liv came first with the best swim and throw; Zoey was in Liv's team and she came 3rd individually. Oliver, Rachel and Ivy were not placed but did extremely well and were placed 4th and 5th in their teams. What fantastic achievements by all- well done!

Star of the Week in Fern Class is Fran for completing some amazing home learning on the snow day. Fran drew a Wintery picture to show her knowledge of the seasons and practiced writing all of the alphabet and the digraphs that she knows. Fran - testament to how unbelievably brilliant you are this is your third star of the week in your first 11 weeks at school! 😊



Star of the week in Heather Class is Isaac for his excellent focus in all lessons and working extremely hard. Keep up the fantastic work- well done!

Online Safety

We wanted to update all parents and carers with some useful information about online safety. As a school, we very much understand the importance of teaching children how to use the internet and technology safely for a variety of purposes in a safe and responsible manner.

We love this Parent Guide from the NSPCC about keeping children safe - it is well worth a read to refresh your knowledge. Also, we feel strongly that if your child has access to a phone, they are always using this while an adult is present. All social media apps have an age rating too. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of staff. [Keeping Children Safe Online NSPCC](#)

Swimming Sessions

Please remember swimming costumes and towels for our last swimming session of the autumn term on Tuesday 5th December. We realise parents contributed for a session on 27th November, this session will be carried forward.

Hamper Packing

FOLS have arranged to do the hamper packing on Thursday 14th December. The hampers are then raffled during the school plays and make a great prize. Please send any donations of produce into school by the morning of Thursday 14th December – all donations would be most welcome – Thank you.

FOLS various fund raising activities go towards financing events for the children throughout the school year including our upcoming Ice Skating visit.

Carol Service

On Thursday 21st December we will be singing carols in St. James' Church, Lealholm at 2.00 pm. There will be plenty of traditional carols for everyone to join in. We hope you are able to come and join us.

School Lunch Menu w/c 4th December

Monday: Pizza & diced potatoes with lemon drizzle muffin

Tuesday: Chicken & Tomato Pasta with Fruit Crumble & Custard

Wednesday: Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding with Cheese & Crackers

Thursday: Chicken Korma & Rice with Berry Sponge & Custard

Friday: Fish Fingers & Chips with Chocolate Orange Mouse Cake



[Click here for the Autumn Term Menu](#)

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parkes & Mrs Togwell
Teachers in Charge

Key Dates – Autumn Term

DECEMBER

Tuesday 5 th	Swimming Session
Thursday 7 th	KS2 Athletics at CCW
Friday 8 th	FOLS Christmas Party 5.00 – 7.00 pm
Thursday 14 th	FOLS Hamper Packing
Friday 15 th	Training Day – school closed for children
Monday 18 th	Ice Skating at York
Tuesday 19 th	School Play 2.00 pm Over 60's
Wednesday 20 th	School Play 2.00 pm & 6.00 pm
Thursday 21 st	Carol Concert 2.00 pm
Friday 22 nd	Christmas Dinner & Party

LATER IN THE YEAR

20 th – 22 nd March	Year 3/4 Peat Rigg Visit
13 th – 15 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
10 th – 14 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Week
22 nd July	YEAT Arts Extravaganza

Please avoid booking term time holidays, especially during assessment weeks.



Term Dates 2023-2024

PD Day	Friday 15 th December, 2023
Last Day of Autumn term	Friday 22 nd December 2023
First Day of Spring term	Monday 8 th January 2024
Half term	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February
PD Day	Friday 15 th March, 2024
Last Day of Spring term	Friday 22 nd March 2024
First Day of Summer Term	Monday 8 th April 2024
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Half term	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May
PD Day	Friday 12 th July, 2024
Last Day of Summer Term	Monday 22 nd July

