



## Newsletter – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

*Educating 'for life in all its fullness.'*



Striving for 100%

### Attendance

Week Ending 15/12/23:

Reception	85.7%
Class 1	90.0%
Class 2	96.0%
Class 3	88.3%
Class 4	96.1%
Class 5	90.0%
Class 6	96.7%

Overall **91.8%**

**Attendance Champions:**  
Class 6 - Congratulations

Our school attendance expectation is **97%**. Well done to everyone who achieved this.

### Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT Values for Life

This half term in collective worship we are focusing upon the value of: **FORGIVENESS**

This week's focus will be:  
**FORGIVENESS**

#### 2 Corinthians 3:17

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

*This verse emphasises the importance of kindness and forgiveness, particularly relevant when people are under stress, reminding us to extend understanding and forgiveness to others, as we ourselves are forgiven.*

#### Global Citizenship Thread

This half term our whole school Thread is **VALUES AND PERCEPTIONS**

### Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT \*\*\*Dinner Debate\*\*\*

*This week's question to debate with family and friends at home:*

*'Why is nature important?'*

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of a remarkable autumn term, I'd like to reflect upon the diverse experiences and numerous celebratory moments that we have shared. Our journey included the historic Howard Heritage Day, Melina's enriching visit from Tanzania, the arrival of our new hens, and insightful sessions from the NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe. Programme. Together, we raised an impressive £700 for Macmillan at our coffee morning, fostering a spirit of community and generosity.

Our calendar was filled with meaningful events like the Harvest Festival, World Mental Health Day, and Anti-Bullying Week. The children's excitement during the residential visit, Big Me Day, Holy Communion, pantomime, and Leeds Playhouse visit, along with various sporting events and inspiring pupil-led initiatives, have all significantly enriched our school life. The impact of these initiatives on our school community has been deeply rewarding.

I want to express my sincere thanks for your consistent support throughout this term. Our school community's strength is reflected in our wonderful children, whose attitude, kindness, and resilience are indeed commendable.

A special thank you goes to all our staff for their dedication and hard work, which has been instrumental in navigating this term successfully.

We also bid farewell to Mrs. Davies as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. We extend our best wishes to her for this new chapter.

As this is the final newsletter of 2023, I wish you all a joyful Christmas season. May the upcoming week in school bring delight and happiness to both parents and children.

Growth in MIND,  
BODY, SPIRIT

### Diary Dates



#### December

**Tue 19th** – Christmas Productions (N+R 9:30am / Y1+2 2pm)  
**Wed 20th** – Christmas Productions (Y1+2 9:30am / N+R 2pm)  
**Thu 21st** – Christmas Parties  
**Fri 22nd** – KS2 Carol Concert (St. Cuthbert's 9:45am – KS2 Parents Welcome)  
**Fri 22nd** – School Closes for Christmas

#### January

**Mon 8th** – School Reopens (Spring 1)

**Key Dates 2023-24**



### Christmas Jumper Day

The children enjoyed their Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day on Friday. The aim of the day was to raise an awareness of and raise funds for Save the Children who help children to thrive and build a better future. Thank you for your donations of over £70!

As has become our tradition, we've prepared a delightful gift for our children to bring some extra joy this festive season! You can find the video on our social media channels.



### 'Winter Warriors - Fighting Homelessness with Warmth,'

Join our pupils' 'Winter Warriors' project to aid the homeless this winter. They're collecting warm clothing for those in need. Please donate any unwanted coats, gloves, scarves, or hats by Friday. Let's support this pupil-led effort to make a real difference in our community - Thank you for your contributions!

Recent Letters – [After School Activity Clubs Spring Term](#)



**Kudos to our Ukulele Club!**  
Busking outside school, they  
raised £40 for Tanzania.  
Great job, children!



## Local Issue

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**  
**WF Happy Healthy Holidays**



**WF Happy Healthy Holidays programme provide a winter holiday of free activities and food for school age children (from Reception to year 11) eligible for income – related free school meals throughout the district taking place on the 2nd-5th January. To find out more and book free activities visit**

<https://www.wakefieldfamilies-together.co.uk/community-support/happy-healthy-holidays/>

### Ackworth Schools Christmas Service

It was wonderful to have the local schools back together again for the Ackworth Schools Christmas Service on Friday. Year 5 represented Ackworth Howard and enjoyed singing and sharing prayers. Well done to all of the schools, thank you to Ackworth Parish and a special thank you to the shepherd!!!

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**



### The Enormous Crocodile

Year 2 have created some fantastic watercolour paintings of the characters from The Enormous Crocodile and are enjoying reading in their new book corner.

Growth in **MIND, BODY**



### South America

Year 5 have enjoyed using their Geography learning (South America) to create travel brochures in English! I think we will all want to visit. Thank you to one of our pupils for bringing in some excellent brochure examples!

Growth in **MIND**



### KS1 Football

Year 2 took part in the P.A.T. Games competition at the Football Factory last week and, after a fantastic contribution, took a well deserved third place!

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**



### Class Worship

What an inspiring morning we had in school last Monday! Year 3 children led a beautiful class worship, sharing their reflections and learnings. A big thank you to the parents who joined us for this special occasion. Later, Year 4 wowed the children in school with their ukulele skills, ending with some festive tunes. Such amazing talent on display from our children!

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**



### Computing – Flickering Advent Candles!!!

Growth in **MIND**

In computing, Year 3 coded flickering advent candles on the micro:bit. They used the micro:bit v2's microphone to sense noise, so when they loudly blew on the candle, the flame disappeared!



### Busy, Busy, Busy in Nursery

Growth in **MIND**

Last week, the children in Nursery have been consolidating their maths learning from this term. The children have been sorting presents by colour. Super sorting!



They have also been reading 'Hibernation Station' by Michelle Meadows, where a selection of animals are picked up to hibernate on the train for winter. The children then enjoyed recalling and drawing the different hibernating animals along the train track.



**Babies crying can be extra stress, especially during the festive season**

**Support is here though for anyone**

Visit [bit.ly/ICONWF](http://bit.ly/ICONWF) for coping with crying advice.

**wakefieldcouncil**

### Howard Family Celebration Worship

#### Gathering Together and Encouraging One Another

The following children have been recognised for their:

- Outstanding achievements through the school week:  
Isaac (Rec), Ethan (Y1), Charlotte (Y2), Noah (Y3), Phoebe (Y4), Layla (Y5), Teddy (Y6)
- Living our Christian values:  
Charlotte (Rec), Thomas (Y1), Daisy (Y2), Isabelle (Y3), Toby (Y4), Jenson (Y5), Che (Y6)
- Living our school vision:  
Jessica (Rec), Loretta (Y1), Nell (Y2), Bowen (Y3), Elizabeth (Y4), Ben (Y5), James (Y6)

*A Christmas prayer for our school community...*

Heavenly Father,

As we conclude this term, we pause to reflect on the joy and challenges we have experienced. We are grateful for the learning and growth in mind, body, and spirit, inspired by the Good Shepherd.

Bless us with Your love and peace this Christmas season. May our hearts be filled with gratitude for the fullness of life You offer. Guide us to use the knowledge, strength, and compassion we've gained to serve others and honour You.

In this festive season, let us remember the birth of Jesus and the hope He brings to our world. Help us to share this light with our community and beyond.

Amen.

**On behalf of everyone at Ackworth Howard, may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Mr Michael Walker – Headteacher

**Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School**



**Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)**

