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Headteacher: [Mr Kevin Moloney](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now is about the time I would normally welcome you and your children back to school for the start of a brand new term. As we are all too aware, the times we find ourselves in are anything but 'normal', however we did manage to have one day of schooling for all before this latest national lockdown began. It was so lovely to see the pupils back, albeit it for just one day and the positive comments we had from you were much appreciated. We had around 90% of pupils in on that day, so thank you for your support.

As we are now officially closed, we only have preschool, key worker and vulnerable children in school and we have implemented our remote learning via Google Classroom once again. This should be working well, but if you do have any login issues, please email admin and we will sort you out.

A google form will be emailed out each Friday for you to complete for your child's attendance in school the following week. It is important you complete this on a weekly basis to help us plan and staff for a given week.

For those who are in school, please let us know on the day if your child will be late due to an appointment or absent, due to illness, by emailing admin before the start of the school day.

All communication with the school should be done via the admin email - this is monitored regularly and ensures that messages can be passed on to the relevant person.

Pick up and drop off

It is worth repeating that only **one** adult per family should drop off and collect and we expect all adults to maintain social distancing rules at these times.

Gates will be kept locked at all times, with entry and exit being by the main school entrance.

Our thanks

A big thank you to all of you who took the time to send in cards, chocolates, biscuits, cakes and gifts just before Christmas - it kept all of our spirits up!

Donations

A reminder that we are still collecting donations for the Alnwick District Food Bank. It seems that now more than ever your support is needed - you can drop items into the box just inside the entrance porch. Thank you.



Our newsletter

I hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter - it gives you a flavour of what was happening in school last term. We hope it won't be very long before we can have everyone back and start making such memories again. In the meantime, we would love to see pictures of what you're all doing at home. Please email admin and we will put a selection in our next newsletter.

Kevin Moloney
Headteacher





Remembrance Day

For Remembrance Day back in November, **Etal Class** decorated some glass ramekins with poppy motifs. The pupils decided they would use their ramekin to either store their paper poppy inside or as a candle holder, with the candle being lit in remembrance.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Hilary Waugh for kindly donating the resources for this activity.



As part of thinking about why people might wear poppies at this time of year, **Alnwick Class** read a lovely story 'Where the Poppies Now Grow'. We talked about how things were different in the past, how people are kind and help look after us and why it is important to be kind to have a peaceful world to live in.



As part of our remembrance, we created poppies in a variety of ways - some children chose to colour beautiful poppy pictures, some created abstract poppies in the tough tray and we all made a poppy field mount and a clay 3D poppy. We used different techniques with paper and clay to make our own unique poppy.

What a gorgeous collection of poppies - well done Alnwick Castle Class, they are so beautiful...if the Tower of London would like to make a new commission then Alnwick Castle Class are your creators!

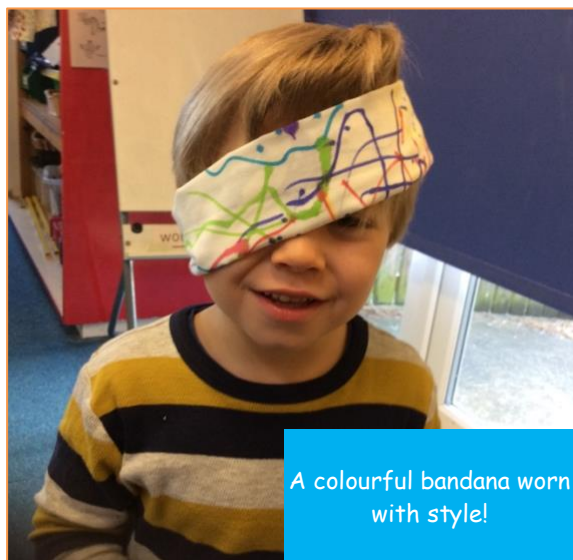


Lest we forget



We all did Pudsey proud...

Wow, what can we say? Children in Need 2020 surpassed all our hopes and expectations – the children had a great day taking part in Pudsey activities and you all smashed our fundraising target, donating £510 for this great cause. Thank you so, so much.



A colourful bandana worn with style!



Keep those knees up, Bamburgh class! Joe Wicks is watching.



Concentrating on getting the colours just right...

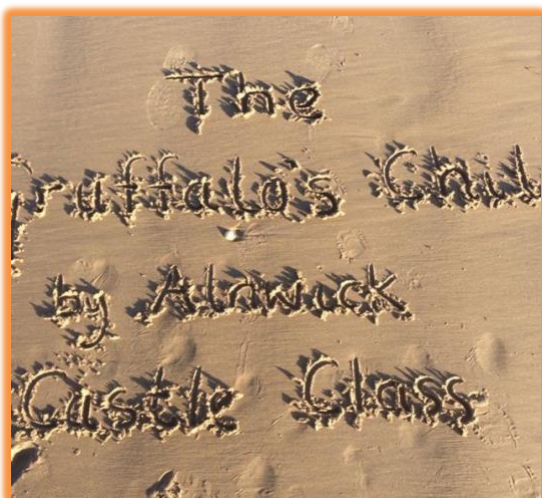


A huge thank you from all of us



Back in December your generosity also helped raise £146 for Christmas Jumper Day – you are officially awesome Hipsburn team!

The Gruffalo's Child – a brilliant beach day!



Wow - what a wonderful beach day to have for the end of term. The weather was perfect and Alnwick Castle Class were pretty perfect too!

The theme this time was The Gruffalo's Child with a bit of extra Christmas fun sprinkled in for good measure. We spotted some stunning wildlife throughout the day...from a nesting thrush, many a robin playing in the gardens and hedgerows, a blackbird eating rose hips, jackdaws playing, a kestrel hunting in the dunes, ducks, herons and seagulls around the estuary, many dogs on the beach and even a horse and finally some Roe deer in the wetlands on the way back to school! We had lots of fun discovering animal homes in the wooded areas then it was onto the beach for some Gruffalo cave making followed by track identifying on the sand. We had a go at making our own tracks, labelling them by writing in the sand.



After lunch (with a little impromptu singing around the Christmas tree) we went to make our own beach Christmas trees - such imagination and beach scavenging. We then did a 'Show and Tell' to the rest of the class about what we had created.

We were super beach adventurers, showed our great manners, worked as a team and, best of all, had lots of fun!

The PTA would like to thank everyone for your generosity over the Christmas period. Combining the Christmas Cards, your support of the JustGiving fund, the generous donation from Tim Mather and his business v360 North East, and the reindeer hunt we raised over £1000! We were really pleased to be able to continue the tradition of helping Santa deliver books for all of the children and now have a fund to help support the school in the New Year.

We hope that you enjoyed the reindeer hunt and are grateful to the Post Office in Alnmouth for their help distributing forms and prizes. If anyone completed the hunt and still needs a prize, they are available in the school office.



A reminder that we have a small number of pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Exposure to nuts and nut products can cause a rapid and serious reaction for these individuals. We ask for your co-operation in not sending any nut product in to school, either as a snack or in your child's packed lunch. Thank you.



As part of our religious education, the pupils in Ford Class have been learning about festivals and celebrations. Diwali (November 14th) gave the children the opportunity to hear the Hindu story of Rama and Sita. It tells how good conquers evil, plus the importance of light for celebrations. We had a great day outdoors - the children learned some Diwali dances and made amazing Rangoli patterns in the environment.



On Monday 16th November, Ford Class had a fantastic, outdoor learning day in the beautiful, autumn sunshine. Mudlarks, who usually take us to Beach School, had planned the day. It involved the children working together in groups, whilst rotating through four learning activity sessions linked to the Ford topic: 7 Worlds One Planet. The class developed their understanding of science and the world around us by doing their own Arctic chemical investigations. Their enquiry was, 'what is ice and why does salt melt it?' Through actions, the class reinforced their knowledge of the 7 continents and the animals that live in them.

The children created their own dreamtime plays inspired by Australian aboriginal culture. We loved watching each group perform! Who knew you could go on an African safari at Hipsburn Primary? The class ran, prowled and stampeded through our own wilderness looking for African mammals hidden in the grass.

The children also created amazing art! The Amazon flowed through miniature rainforests, made using natural objects found in our field. Anacondas, pink river dolphins, orang-utans, butterflies, sloths, parrots and panthers were fashioned from pine cones,



Honesty seed heads, bright leaves and anything else the children could find!

We all enjoyed every minute of the day!