

19th December 2025

Dear Parents,

What a lovely half-term. Christmas is always a special time at school. I am sure that you will agree that children have excelled themselves with their productions. Many thanks to teachers for their efforts with these performances despite lack of hall and rehearsal time!

The choir has also been stunning at Norham High School and also at the Church. Thank you to those of you who were able to share the Church celebration with us. It is so lovely when everyone can come together. Mr. Rush is always in his element when our children sing!

Huge well done to all the families who were able to maintain 96%+ for attendance because we have certainly had some nasty bugs going around. Children who did meet the 96% threshold have had a special Christmas movie time with ice pops... brilliant treat in this cold weather.

Santa had a lovely visit to see all of our wonderful girls and boys and we have enjoyed seeing their jumpers, costumes and pyjamas this week! We had a good dance with Santa.

Reception children have enjoyed visits around the local area visiting the library and also St. Marks Church. Year 4 had a chilly river walk but enjoyed travelling by ferry to South Shields and seeing the mouth of the River Tyne for their River topic. I also greatly enjoyed my weekend in High Borran's with children. We were up mountains, inside caves and paddling in puddles with a bit of rock scrambling thrown in...absolutely brilliant fun.

Older children enjoyed a visit from the Smoothie bike provided by Mellors and Year 2 parents were also treated to a school meal courtesy of Mellors Catering. The curry went down well. Children have done their own catering this half-term and I hope that you have been able to sample some of their tasty treats. I have to be honest that the cheese scones were my favourite.... Hard on the outside and soft on the inside with the cheesy flavour coming through.

I have delivered the training for Northumbria PCGES and BAs around how to manage behaviour well and I have also continued to train Headteachers towards achieving their Headteacher NPQH qualification. By doing these things, it brings in a small amount of money for children.

Thank you to the Spar who have also been fundraising for school and enabled us to buy a few new costumes this year for Christmas. Also, thanks to Elliott's Gardening and Landscaping for our beautiful Christmas tree. It is lovely to see the community behind us. Nursery decorated our tree with some help from some older friends and I think that they did a great job. Our local artist, Lyndon Rutherford, also continued his support for school and sent a beautifully illustrated book for children. We are looking forward to next half-term, when hopefully weather will improve and we may have some of you join us for lessons with your child. We are also hosting a nursery open day so that people considering choosing a nursery can see how fantastic our provision is. We can also now offer extended hours starting at 8.00 a.m. through until 5.45 with our partners at Good Time Childcare. We don't charge for lunch supervision either! Due to low nursery numbers (nationally low birth rate), we are considering whether re-opening our two year olds would be financially viable for us so please get in touch with school if you wish to be added to a waiting list for two year olds in September 26 or for our nursery provision.

I rarely get involved in parents selecting primary or middle schools despite the fact that we feel sad to lose children that we have worked so hard with, however, this year, it is important to me that I do comment because the coast now only have one High School. If you choose to send your child to a Middle School, they will have to return to a two-tier system two years after their peers have made friends.

I want parents to fully understand that the closure of Monkseaton Middle School has, sadly, not gone away. The school have been given an opportunity to try to evidence that they would be viable as a two-form entry school going from Year 5 up to GCSE however, despite further consultation time, the council will have to make the final decision based on a range of factors. Monkseaton High School was not viable and threat of closure affects staffing which affects resourcing. Langley First School are exploring if they can join an academy chain. They will have to consider the implications of this. I am

happy to meet with parents who have questions or concerns and some parents have already approached me about this.

Have a very lovely holiday however you spend it. I am sure that it will pass in the blink of an eye.

Best wishes,
Mrs. Middleton