



...inspired by Cumbria, ready for the world...

Monday 4th December 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

Dear Cumwhinton School Families,

As I pen down our final newsletter of 2023, there's a palpable sense of warmth and nostalgia in the air. The end of the year is upon us, and it's with a heart full of gratitude that we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared together. As we prepare to break for the Christmas break, I would ask you to take a moment to celebrate the achievements, memories, and the collective spirit that makes Cumwhinton School a truly special community during 2023.

Church Service

This week, on both Tuesday and Wednesday, Cumwhinton School had the privilege of hosting our annual Christmas service at St John's Church, a truly enchanting and sacred event. Reverend Isaac, with his unwavering dedication, led the service, guiding us through moments of reflection, joy, and festive spirit. The atmosphere was filled with the angelic voices of our Key Stage 1 and 2 children as they performed heartfelt poetry, eloquently read prayers, delivered poignant passages from the Bible, and serenaded the congregation with an array of festive songs. Witnessing the seamless collaboration of our young performers and the profound engagement of our school community was nothing short of magical. We extend our deepest gratitude to the St John's Church committee for their immense generosity and unwavering support, without which this cherished tradition would not be possible. The Christmas service served as a beautiful testament to the unity and spirit that defines our school community, and we are truly thankful for the shared moments of celebration and reflection.

EYFS Nativity

This week marked a delightful showcase of innocence and joy as our youngest learners from Reception took centre stage in their heart-warming Nativity performances on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The level of maturity and confidence displayed by these young talents was truly commendable, leaving an indelible impression on all who had the pleasure of witnessing their endearing portrayals. The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) staff, whose dedication knows no bounds, played a pivotal role in nurturing and guiding these budding performers. A heartfelt thank you extends to our EYFS team for their unwavering hard work, fostering an environment where our youngest learners could shine brightly in their moment of festive brilliance. The Nativity performances stand as a testament to the nurturing and supportive community we strive to cultivate at Cumwhinton School.

EYFS at Stockwood

This week, our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class embarked on an enriching adventure as they visited Stockwood for a Forest Schools experience. Immersed in the beauty of nature, our young learners had the opportunity to engage in hands-on outdoor activities, fostering a connection with the natural world and promoting holistic development. Under the guidance of our dedicated EYFS educators, the children explored the woodland environment, enhancing their curiosity and understanding of the ecosystem. This Forest Schools visit not only provided a unique learning experience but also contributed to the development of essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and an appreciation for the environment. We extend our sincere appreciation to the EYFS team for organising and facilitating this valuable excursion, creating lasting memories and instilling a love for outdoor learning in our youngest pupils.

Lost property

We would like to inform you that lost property will be made available for retrieval after school tonight and on Monday. The items will be placed under the shelter near the entrance to the school. We kindly ask you to take a moment to check for any belongings that may have been misplaced. Your cooperation in reclaiming lost items is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Activity Day

Get ready for a festive extravaganza as we gear up for our upcoming School Christmas Activity Day on Monday 18th December! This joyous day is set to be filled with Christmas arts and crafts, exciting games, festive biscuit decorating, and even trampolining for an extra dose of Christmas cheer. A special thank you goes out to our dedicated School PTA for their invaluable support in organising this event, ensuring a day brimming with laughter and merriment. A heartfelt appreciation is extended to Miss Temple-Cox, who has worked tirelessly to orchestrate a memorable and delightful day for our school community. Let the festive fun begin!

Christmas lunch

The enchanting aroma of Christmas cheer is filling the air as our school gathers for the much-anticipated annual Christmas lunch. This festive feast, expertly crafted by our fabulous cook, Val, has been a labour of love, with Val tirelessly working in the kitchen since dawn to ensure a culinary celebration to remember. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Val for her dedication and culinary prowess that has transformed our lunchtime into a festive spectacle. Additionally, we express our sincere thanks to Orian for their ongoing support of our school, contributing to the success of this joyous tradition. Here's to a delightful Christmas lunch, fostering a sense of togetherness and gratitude within our school community.

School Choir

It is with immense pride and joy that we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our school's choir this week, as they took centre stage in a public concert at Carlisle Cathedral. With hearts full of holiday spirit, the choir enchanted the audience with a selection of Christmas-inspired songs and hymns that resonated throughout the majestic cathedral. The concert drew an impressive audience of over 100, and it was a truly touching sight as tears were shed by the captivated spectators. The choir represented our school superbly, showcasing not only their musical talents but also the spirit of unity and dedication that defines our school community.

In addition to the Cathedral performance, our choir also spread the gift of joy and happiness at Croftfield Residential Home, where they hosted another heart-warming concert for the residents. The atmosphere was truly magical as the residents joined in with the singing and even danced to the tunes, creating a sense of camaraderie and shared joy. It is moments like these that remind us of the positive impact our school community can have beyond the classroom walls. The choir's performances exemplify the talent, compassion, and community spirit that make our school truly special. A heartfelt congratulations to all the members of our choir for their exceptional performances and for spreading the magic of music and cheer during this festive season.

Ofsted report

We are delighted to share the news of our recently published Ofsted report, which reflects the remarkable achievements and dedication of our school community. Cumwhinton School has been graded as 'Good' overall, with a particularly outstanding recognition for our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). This outstanding grading is a testament to the exceptional efforts of our Early Years educators, staff, and the supportive school community. The report acknowledges the high standards, effective teaching practices, and the nurturing environment provided within our EYFS, creating a solid foundation for our youngest learners. The 'Good' overall rating affirms the collective commitment of all involved in our school's journey, highlighting our continuous pursuit of excellence in education. We are immensely proud of this achievement and look forward to building on this success as we strive for continuous improvement and the best possible outcomes for all our pupils.

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers that school will conclude for the Christmas break at 3:20pm (3.15pm for EYFS) on **Tuesday 19th December**. We hope Christmas brings joy and relaxation to all our families. School will resume for the start of 2024 on **Wednesday 3rd January**.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr Stewart
Headteacher