

THURSDAY NEWS

Where has this year gone: We have already covered so much this term never mind this year that it's hard to know where to start. From all the community donations to both local and national charities, various whole school and community assemblies, numerous educational visits Carol Singing, Church services, Pantomimes, Football tournaments, Christmas Fair...I could go on. Then of course there's all the fantastic work that goes on in the classrooms. Please take a few minute to have a look on our website and leave a comment or two. It means so much to the children and staff when you give feedback for their wonderful work and recognise the school life they are involved in. This term – just since September, we have sent out over 10,000 Marvellous Me messages and badges. Please remember to High Five back so we know you have the message.

At the Christmas Fair, together with the Staff Hamper Raffle, we raised over £600. This is an incredible amount and is directly reflected by your generosity and the hard work of the PTA and other parent helpers who give up their time to be involved with the school. Massive thank you to the current PTA without whom none of this would happen.

Pantomime: I hope your child mentions the Pantomime we had in school today. At first the children couldn't find it; they looked in all of our classrooms, cupboards and yards. It turned out it was behind them! This event was directly paid for by the PTA through their various fundraising activities. Pantomimes do not come cheap and we simply could not do this without theirs and your support – Thank you.

Metrocentre: On Wednesday afternoon we took over the Exhibition stage in the Metrocentre and were joined by the Gateshead Music Service band. The children read and sang and gave a truly magnificent performance. Not only did the people in the Metrocentre comment but... again... BBC Newcastle were so interested they turned up too. Some of our children were interviewed by Anna Foster. They recorded the show and interviewed many children. I'll inform you separately when I find out when it's going to be on. We'd like to say thank you to the Metrocentre for inviting us down.



Reverse Advent Calendar. AGAIN THANK YOU for your generosity. Our collection of food and other items has surpassed our expectations. Alison Dare and Alison Ellis both of whom work for the Salvation Army picked up the items. It was then distributed via themselves and Trinity Methodist Church to support families in crisis in the local community.



And finally – 2017... I've said it before and I'll say it again, Blaydon West is the most wonderful place to work. Belonging to such a strong community and working alongside conscientious dedicated professionals makes this job so worthwhile. The children here are an absolute pleasure to teach and the supportive parents so welcoming. Whatever you're doing over the festive period from me, and on behalf of all the staff, we wish you good cheer and a fruitful new year.