

# Newsletter

## Virtual Pentathlon

We would usually be competing in a range of sporting festivals against local schools at Oxclose Academy. Unfortunately, due to current COVID restrictions, this has not yet been possible so far this year. However, our Year 5 class did enjoy competing in our first 'virtual' pentathlon against some of the other schools in Sunderland. Within our school hall, the children recorded their results in the standing long jump, speed bounce, chest push, high jump and 100m sprint. Well done to Isabelle Haddrick, Mya Okorefe, Emily Beattie, Parneet Bhamra, Cerys Urwin, Jessica Dale, Arthur Ralph, Graysen Sherriff, Joshua Robertson, Layton Hindhaugh, Jack Parkinson and Elliott Halse who had their scores sent away and we are awaiting our final school position.



## Multiplication Tables

The children are doing a great job of learning their multiplication and related division facts. The National Curriculum programme of study indicates that children should "be able to recall and use multiplication and division facts for Multiplication tables up to  $12 \times 12$ " by the end of year 4. Times Tables Rockstarz continues to be popular with the children and they will be set new challenges over the Christmas holidays. The children are also tested weekly and certificates are presented at the end of term when children meet their coloured milestone.

## Attendance

We are delighted that the Autumn term attendance is 97.5%. 103 children across school achieved 100% attendance for the Autumn term. Year 2 won Attendance of the month for November with an amazing 100% attendance for the whole month. Children were rewarded with a movie afternoon and treats. Thank you to all parents/carers for keeping children in school during these challenging times and keeping school fully updated with any absence. We complete a daily report to the Department of Education with reasons for absence—therefore please continue next term to call for advice, report illness to ensure we provide accurate data.

## Additional Support

For those families not in receipt of means tested free school meals, there is a range of other support available in communities over the Christmas period. Information is available on Sunderland City Council's website [www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitychristmas](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitychristmas). There is information about access to food vouchers, food parcels and hampers, support with fuel and heating the home, mental health, wellbeing, support and support for carers as well as festive activities and online events.

# Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



## **Headteacher's Update**

Although very different to our usual celebrations, we have had a fantastic festive season at Blackfell! There are lots of photographs on the class pages of our school website for you to see what all of the children have been up to. These include Christmas activities, Santa run, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties.

Our Year 6 pupils and the school council members have most definitely helped us all to get fit in December. We have all enjoyed our daily workouts and of course, helping Santa to run a half marathon. Thank you all so much for your sponsorship money. We raised the fantastic amount of £2600. This ensured all children enjoyed a virtual traditional pantomime and Christmas party celebrations. In addition, these funds will support whole school outdoor educational activities in the summer term. Further details to follow.

The children have once again been a real credit to us all this term. They have all worked very hard, enjoyed many new learning experiences and contributed so well to the success of our school. Thank you all for your continuing support and contributions. I would also like to thank the staff who all work tirelessly to support the children to be the very best they can be. Our team commitment ensures that we provide a fantastic education for all children and we look forward to building on this next term.

We hope that you all have a lovely family Christmas and everyone at Blackfell wishes you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy 2021.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 following a staff training day.

Julia Watkins  
Headteacher

### Christmas Holiday Packed Lunch Scheme

Washington Community Food Project is proud to be joining local churches, to provide free packed lunches to any primary child, during the school holiday.

St. George's Church, Harraton

Tues, Wed, Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

Tues, Wed, Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

11.30 am – 12.30 pm

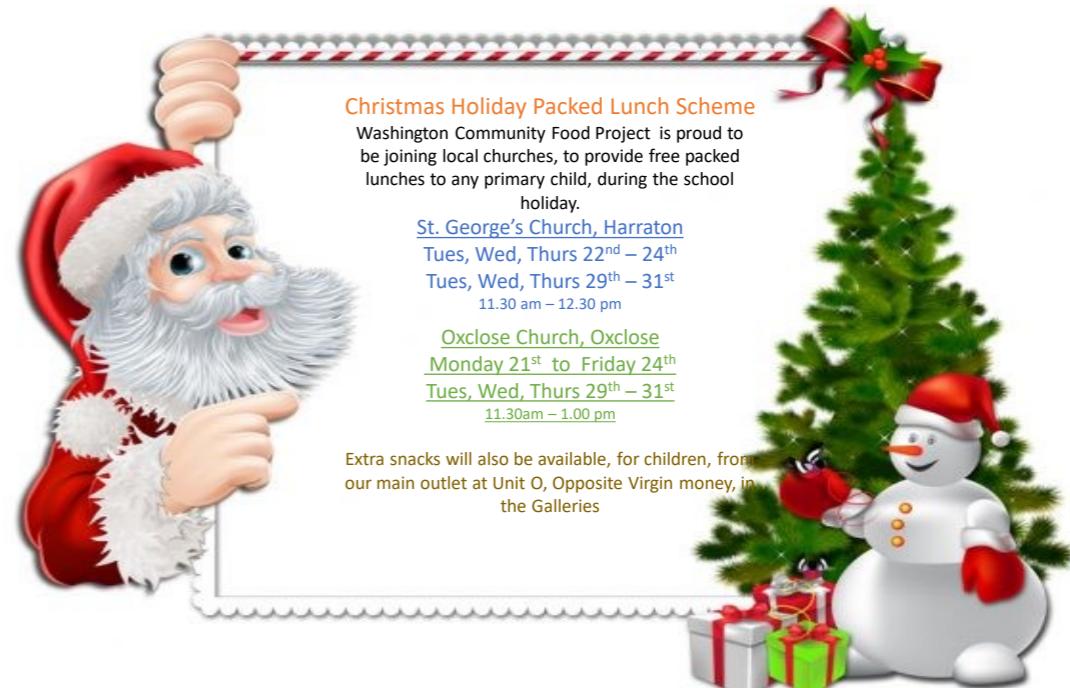
Oxclose Church, Oxclose

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

Tues, Wed, Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

11.30am – 1.00 pm

Extra snacks will also be available, for children, from our main outlet at Unit 0, Opposite Virgin money, in the Galleries



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## Year 3 Winners

We are delighted to announce that Year 3 have won a music session with a famous beatboxer Testiment. Children took part in an online conference looking at antibiotics, viruses and personal hygiene. Children had to create a display of what they had learnt throughout the day and submit their application. We look forward to welcoming Testiment into school in person or via Teams if restrictions are not lifted.



Thank you to Year 6 school council for all their ideas and making the Santa run a huge success. We raised an astonishing amount of £2600. This money will be used in school to give children across school different outdoor experiences. We already have Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre coming into school in January to work with Year 5 and Year 6. Other events are planned for all year groups in Summer. Further details to follow in the New Year.

## Reading Challenge

Well done to all the classes for their excellent efforts during this term's reading challenge. We are delighted that 90% of the school achieved their 10 signatures. These children will receive their certificate and a prize this week. A huge well done to Year 2 and Year 3 who enjoyed a Christmas craft afternoon this week as these classes received 100% for the full term.

## Birthday 'shout outs' for December

- |           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Reception | - Charlie, Jacob      |
| Year 1    | - Alex, Grace, Carter |
| Year 3    | - Lennon              |
| Year 4    | - Neve, Charlee, Lily |
| Year 5    | - Elijah              |
| Year 6    | - Leon, John          |



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## Christmas at Blackfell 2020

