



## What's gone... 23rd - 27th November Star of the Week

Year	Name	Position	Class	😊	😄	Total
Year 1	Kelly Austin	Joint 1st	Y6	3	2	5
Year 2	Mckenzie Gardener	Joint 1st	Y3	3	2	5
Year 3	Connor Bloxham	3rd	Y5	2	2	4
Year 4	Stephanie Peebles	4th	Y1	1	1	2
Year 5	Cameron Robinson	5th	Y2	1		1
Year 6	Kaja Jach	6th	Y4	0		0



**Head Teacher's Award**  
Kacey Ganley



### School Choir:

The choir have had a busy week in the build up to their performance on Monday. Mrs Ireland has had the children singing a range of festive songs at Springtide Cove and the nearby flats as well as at Tesco where over £40 was raised.

The children, as always, were wonderfully well behaved and a credit to school.



### Caring Pupils:

We should not be surprised by how wonderful our children can be but our year 5 children demonstrated their caring nature this week and managed to bring Mrs Champion to tears. Whilst working towards their Christmas Fayre, product talk turned to the terrible floods in Cumbria and the damage to homes and schools. The children wanted to do something to help and decided that they would like to share some of their items to help a Cumbrian school and its pupils. What a wonderful gesture!

### Attendance League Table

We are always striving to improve our whole school attendance. Our latest initiative is to set up competition between each class to see who can achieve the best attendance each term. The attendance league table appeared for the first time on last week's newsletter

This is how it works:

When a class has 100% attendance  for  the week they are awarded a gold smile.

If the class didn't achieve 100% that week but they still had the best attendance, they will be awarded a green smile.

The class with the greatest total each term will receive a treat. If 2 classes have the same total, the number of gold smiles will determine the winner. If both classes have equal numbers of green and gold smiles, they will both get a treat!

### REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

Term time holidays cannot be authorised by school and should be avoided. In certain cases fines may and can be issued.

Dinner money needs to be paid each Monday for the coming week. It can also be paid online, see link on school website.

Please ensure you child has PE or swimming kit at school on the day of their lesson. PE is a statutory subject which requires every child to participate every week. Please support us in achieving this.



**House Point Winners:** Red House were the runaway house point winners for the autumn term. Their treat was certainly an extra special one. Our local community police officers Neil and Jess came along equipped with a full range of police equipment with a full range of police equipment to try and even a police van to have a ride in. The children had a wonderful time and once again our thanks to Neil and Jess.



E-Safety for parents. Keeping children safe in the virtual world is one of the biggest challenges school and parents face today. In many cases our children know far more than we do about the very latest form of social media. In order to help you understand better about ways in which we can keep our children safe we have published a guide on our school website with some useful tips and advice. Please take a moment or two to have a look and consider just how safe your own children are.

Hi we are **Teigan** and **Rebecca** and we had our dancing show on Saturday 5th December. We got this medal for participating in the show in front of lots of people.



**Maddison** has been very successful in her karate competitions. Here she is with one of her trophy's she won recently



**Mary Year 5 and Tim Year 3**

On Thursday we went to Edinburgh to compete in the Scottish National Diving Competition. I had to do 5 drive, 1 on a pool side 2 on a 1 meter and 2 on a 3 meter. I was a little nervous when I completed a mini parade around the pool. My favourite dive is the 3 meter dive as it can be a challenge.



I'm **Nevaeh** and I go to dancing on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday. I won a trophy for the best ballet dancer on a Tuesday. I go to Sophie Donethy dance at the Redby Community Centre.



The Safeguarding designated people are; Mr Williamson, Mrs Maughan and Mrs Burdon. The Anti-Bullying Coordinators for the school are; Mrs Burdon and Mrs Maughan. Please view the Anti-bullying policy on the school website.



# What's on... 14th - 18th December

**Panto:** It's the Panto next Wednesday. Many thanks to Friends of Dame Dorothy for their contribution to help fund this fantastic event. The children will receive an early lunch at school before heading down to the Customs House. The finish time of the panto varies from year to year and often depends on whether they are able to start promptly at 1.15pm. Our best guess is that the children are likely to be back at school for 4:30pm. We will keep you informed with text messages from 4pm onwards as to timings. A couple of important safety points. All the children must go back into school and be dismissed from their class as they would do so on a normal school day. Secondly, please do not park your cars along the street outside the school as this can block the buses getting through and prevent them from parking safely. Your consideration is much appreciated.

**Christingle Service**—Thursday 17th at 10am: We are delighted to be returning to St Peter's church for our annual Christingle service which provides a lovely venue for the singing against the backdrop of lit candles in a darkened church. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us.

**Christmas Concert:** Our Christmas concert is taking place in school on Monday 14th December at 4pm. Tickets are limited to two per person and will be available to buy from the office from Monday, priced £1. The Christmas Concert at Dame Dorothy is always one of the highlights of the school year and we look forward to hearing our choir singing and listening to our instrumentalists play under the guidance of Mr Brown. It should be a lovely evening.

**Newsletter:** It's a very busy time in school, please keep an eye on our facebook page for updates.





# Diary Dates

No afterschool clubs / no PE / no swimming

Christmas Concert: Our Christmas sparkle and shine concert is taking place in school on Monday 14th December at 4pm. Tickets are limited to two per person and will be available to buy from the office priced £1.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> pm Y3 Ice Skating

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> am EYFS Christmas party

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> pm Y1/Y2 Christmas party

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> am Y3/Y4 Christmas Party

Pantomime Trip: Our annual Panto is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> at the Customs House South Shields we will arrive back at approx 4.30pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 10 am Christingle at St Peters Church

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> pm Y5 / Y 6 Christmas party

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> FDD Christmas party 4-5pm tickets £1

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December school closes **2pm**

Monday Jan 4<sup>th</sup> school reopens for all children

Monday 4th January Children Back—**NO INSET day**



# Dame Dorothy Primary School Weekly Newsletter

## Sport special

### Looking back over the previous year.

2014/15 saw more development in how PE was delivered at Dame Dorothy. Following the last general election, schools were given a sports premium of £7000+ to spend on sport in school. Which has resulted in the quality of delivery improving enormously. When we were first given the money we decided to buy into a local authority package of coaches supplied to us to help our staff deliver PE but following that we thought we could do it better and save money at the same time! Through our network of cluster schools and contacts further afield, we managed to secure the services of, what we consider to be, the best sport coaches in the region. Now each class (including reception) now enjoys the quality and support of top football, cricket, swimming, gymnastics, athletics, dance and rugby coaching the town has to offer. Each coach is tasked with raising standards, developing staff and preparing pupils for competition in all sports. Our aim this year is that each and every child in the school will be participating in at least one inter-school competition and have the experience of representing their school against others.



### Competitions

Last year we, as a school, took part in 23 different level 2 competitions (more than the previous year!). Just to be clear, a level 1 competition is one that happens within a school. A level 2 involves inter-school events and level 3 are county level competitions. We had every year group involved from y1 right through to y6 and we had some success! For the fourth year running, we took part in our cluster's (6 different schools) Olympic Day competition at Monkwearmouth Academy. This was a competition involving y1-6 taking part in running, jumping and throwing events. Many of our competitors won a medal at their individual events.

Part of our success in athletics has been the excellent coaching received by a number of year groups by our fabulous athletics coach- Donna Brown. She knows what the children need to do to prepare and makes sure they're ready when the event rolls around each year.

Another competition at MWM saw us defend our Y3 tennis trophy in March. Our coach Steph Eadon, a professional from Boldon Tennis Club prepared the team of 4 boys (all of them in that class!) and 4 girls. We will be looking forward to welcoming Steph back after the Half term holiday to prepare the next group of Y3's to help regain our title of cluster champions.

### Football

For the last 9 years, Dame Dorothy has been involved in the town wide 7-a-side league. From the early days of odd strips and broken goal posts we have come a long way to providing better and better facilities to our players. Pitches are marked professionally, strips are brand new and numbered thanks to our new sponsors Interlex and training is given by a fully qualified FA coach (courtesy of Tesco UK) every week during the periods of the year when fixtures are played. We have had an excellent start by winning both of our opening two fixtures quite comfortably following a great build up of friendlies with HillView's first and second teams. Bad weather has prevented us playing any other fixtures but we can catch up with those once the season begins again after the February half term hols. Keep up to date with football news every week on our newsletter during the season.



When looking through photos for our newsletter, we had a hard time deciding, so thought we would share a few for you today.



One of our diving stars- Mary Ellis or Y5 in a recent national competition



Some of our stronger swimmers tackle the lanes at the Aquatic Centre.



Our splendid gymnastics coach Natalia showing our reception children how to forward roll.



Steph Eadon putting our Y1's through their forehand drills



One of our fantastic Gymnasts competing at last year's Key Steps competition.

### Cricket

This is a relatively new sport to Dame Dorothy- at least in our recent history. Two years ago we made links with Castleview Academy who have their own centre of cricket excellence. They offered us quality coaches- free of charge and use of their facilities and their after school clubs. How could we refuse?

Chris Rainbow takes the sessions and gives the children the benefit of all his experience of playing at club level for many seasons (he currently opens for South Shields CC). His feedback he received from staff last year made him our 'top coach' and his sessions this year seem to be even better! We target Y3, Y4 and Y5 with sessions with a view to making our team as good as it can be come Y6. Our next tournament is in January when our Y4's will be competing against other teams from the area. We're hoping to go one better than our 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish last year. The summer gives Y6 mixed team and Y6 girls opportunities to compete at city level for the coveted title of Primary School champions. Again we are hoping to go one stage better than last year's semi-final.

### Swimming

As you will no doubt know, we take swimming very seriously at DDPS. Every child in KS2 has swimming sessions at The Aquatic Centre- we have in years 3 and 4 alternating with years 5 and 6 every half term. We believe swimming is an essential life skill and our regular sessions over the years means that every child leaving year 6 this year is able to swim 25m or more. The children took part in the annual MWM swimming gala on Tuesday but they couldn't match last year's 2nd place and had to settle for 3rd on this occasion. Our lack of boys in year's 5 and 6 making the job of selecting a winning team extremely difficult. Upcoming competitions include the city wide finals at the Aquatic centre next month where we'll be entering a boys and girls team in the medley and relay races.



### Young Leaders

One of our most important, but less visible, sporting activities is Young Leaders. These are a group of carefully chosen Y5's who attend a full day's training session run by Biddick Academy's head of PE Ian Thom. Their objective is to return to school equipped to organise and deliver playtime activities with younger children. The scheme has been fabulously successful- one glance onto the yard on any break time sees children from many year groups taking part in several different activities- Mr Williamson loves the fact that busy children don't seem to get into trouble!

