

# GIBSIDE NEWSLETTER

20TH DECEMBER 2024



Hello Parents and Carers,  
It's hard to believe we have reached the Christmas holidays already! So much has happened this term and September seems like such a long time ago. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Christmas performances over the last couple of weeks. I really hope you enjoyed watching the children so confident to take part and so engaged in the sensory aspects of the story too. Our class assemblies will be starting again in January; you can find a list of dates for each class on the school website. There are lots of exciting things to look forward to next term and we also look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th January 2025. Until then, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

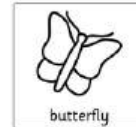
Best wishes,  
*Angela Whistler*  
Headteacher



## Our classes Early Years



bumblebee



butterfly

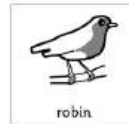


caterpillar



ladybird

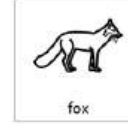
## Orange Corridor



robin



koala



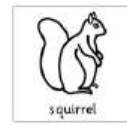
fox



badger



frog



squirrel



dragonfly

## Green Corridor

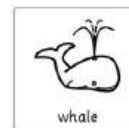


hedgehog



crocodile

## Blue Corridor



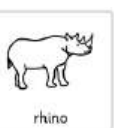
whale



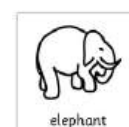
tiger



eagle



rhino



elephant



panda



giraffe

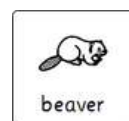


kangaroo

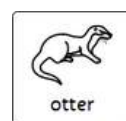


gorilla

## South Street



beaver



otter

# This half term at Gibside School

Badger Class have had a wonderful term, enjoying our topic 'Celebrations' where we have explored lots of different celebrations including Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Children in Need, birthdays, and of course Christmas. We've particularly enjoyed our bonfire night and Christmas sensory stories, our celebrations magic carpet sessions and lots of Christmas crafts and cookery, baking biscuits, edible sparklers, salt dough baubles and peppermint creams.



We hope you all have a great Christmas break.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

This half term Bumblebee Class have been exploring celebrations. We learned about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Halloween, Children in Need, Remembrance and finally Christmas. We have definitely been busy; we've enjoyed sensory sessions and completed some fabulous crafts.



Elephant Class have had a brilliant half term with lots of educational visits on the minibus.

We have been to Northumberlandia, Derwent Reservoir, and Newcastle City Centre where we enjoyed Fenwick's Window. We loved looking at the local history on a walk down to the Quayside too.



Dragonfly Class have thoroughly enjoyed their celebration topic. We learned a lot about Bonfire Night and Diwali through our Makaton sessions; Dragonflies love fireworks! One of our favourite sessions was our magic carpet trip to Lapland where we experienced the sights, sounds, tastes, smells and touch of Christmas. The mince pies were a very popular choice.



We have had a very busy half term in Caterpillar Class celebrating Bonfire Night, Halloween and engaging in our Julia Donaldson topic. The children have particularly enjoyed our music sessions, exploring different instruments and joining in singing nursery rhymes. It was lovely to welcome friends and family into school to share our Grinch sensory story. We hope you all enjoy the Christmas holidays and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Butterfly Class have had a very busy half term, time has flown on our countdown to Christmas! We have been very busy over the last few weeks, working really hard and getting ready for Santa's arrival. We have been making reindeer dust, tree decorations and making our Christmas cards. We also had such fun in our 'The Grinch' Christmas sensory drama. We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. See you all in 2025!



Giraffe class had a wonderful half term, learning through the topic of Celebrations. It was a great way to dress up, eat food and learn through play. We used a Magic Carpet to travel to different places and cultures - Celebrating Diwali on the Magic Carpet was one of our favourite experiences. We celebrated Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and, of course, have been in full swing of celebrating Christmas. We met Santa and thrilled our audience with our amazing Christmas performance. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Crocodile class have really enjoyed exploring different celebrations around the world during our Magic Carpet sessions this half term. We have explored Diwali, Bonfire Night and of course Christmas. We enjoyed making and tasting different foods from each of these celebrations during our sensory cookery sessions. We all really enjoyed our Christmas performance of 'The Grinch who stole Christmas' and making our own Christmas crafts.



Eagle 1 Class have really enjoyed the weeks leading up to Christmas. We had a visit from our classroom elf who sent us a letter and played some funny tricks on us. In English lessons, we looked at the letter we received and wrote our own replies. We visited the post office to post our letters back to the elf and explored different adjectives on a Christmas decoration hunt at Redfox Garden Centre.



# THIS HALF TERM IN PICTURES

It's been another remarkable half term at Gibside! Here are some photographs to show some of the wonderful learning experiences...



# This half term at Gibside School

In Panda Class this half term, we have enjoyed learning about 2D and 3D shapes in maths. Our favourite session has been switching and ICT. We have loved using lots of different switching equipment and toys. We have enjoyed multiple sessions in our outdoor learning space where we focused on instruction following. We have enjoyed the final two weeks where we have been taking part in lots of Christmas activities! We are looking forward to the next half term.



The children in Koala class thoroughly enjoyed their sensory cookery experiences this term. Have a look at the photos below of us making gingerbread people! Merry Christmas from Koala Class.



Frog class have had a great half term and have settled in to their learning really well this year. Our half term topic of Seasons has been a big hit and the children have particularly enjoyed exploring this in context by visiting our forest school area. We've explored all kinds of learning in ICT and focused on our cutting and mixing skills in cooking and nutrition. We're looking forward to our shopping trips next half term most of all and we can't wait to see what else the children achieve!



Eagle 2 have had another very busy but very fun half term. We have been learning all about, and celebrated Bonfire Night, Divali and National Parliament Week. In English we have been writing newspaper articles about the Queen's knickers, and in maths we have been focusing on addition, subtraction and place value. Our topic this half term has been all about the history of the Royal Patrons, we have particularly enjoyed thinking about our own history, looking at old photographs of ourselves and making family trees. Of course, the last couple of weeks have been all about the Christmas celebrations. We have had so much fun joining in with our Christmas Choir, the performance and all of the other fun activities along the way. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from all of us in Eagle 2 Class!



This term, Hedgehog Class have been learning about all things related to darkness, such as UV light, Funny bones, and the Magic Carpet—traveling in the dark. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring various aspects of darkness, including fireworks through the Magic Carpet experience.



Fox Class have had a brilliant half term. We have enjoyed exploring our topic of Celebrations. We have been on magic carpet rides to the Christmas Markets, where we tasted hot chocolate, mince pies and saw some Christmas lights. We have explored different celebrations in PE, dancing to different music which represents the various holidays. Finally, we have had lots of fun exploring our sensory story of Winnie and Wilbur in Winter.



This half term, Gorilla Class have been learning all about the Saxons. As part of our learning, we explored a variety of local sites during our community visits, including Hexham Abbey and Belsay Hall where we visited the castle. The children have thoroughly enjoyed discovering more about Harold Godwinson and the Battle of Hastings. It's been an exciting journey through history!



Kangaroo Class have had a fantastic half term. We have been busy with lots of different events; Diwali, Children in Need and most importantly Christmas! We particularly enjoyed our Christmas visit to Beamish to see Santa. We read our Christmas lists to him and he was very impressed. We have also been doing lots of practices for our Christmas performance of the Grinch. All the boys in Kangaroo are looking forward to a well-deserved break and then we will be ready to start all the fun again in January.



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Ladybird Class have had a very busy half term. We've celebrated Bonfire Night, Diwali, as well as getting ready for Christmas. Our topic this term was Julia Donaldson stories, and we have had lots of sensory stories such as Room on the Broom, The Gruffalo and The Grinch. Ladybird Class have loved having the wind machine out and holding onto our witches' hats before they got blown away. We have been outside in all weathers exploring the wind, frost & snow. We have had trips to the soft play and sensory rooms and have had lots of messy play in the classroom. We hope you have a lovely Christmas, and we will see you in 2025.



Whale Class have had a brilliant half term. We have enjoyed time outside with friends in outdoor learning and have loved creating art based around our 'Celebrations' topic.



We've had such a great half term in Squirrel Class. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about our topic of Celebrations through music and movement, sensory stories, cooking and magic carpet! We've travelled to different countries to explore a variety of celebrations from around the world, some of our favourites include the lantern festival, Diwali, Christmas, carnival, Bonfire Night and many more! Such fantastic engagement and participation from everyone, well done Squirrels!



The boys in Rhino Class have had a busy half term, continuing to build friendships. We have enjoyed learning about Vikings in History, and magnetic forces in Science. We have been working hard on our social communication in PSHE, working on turn taking and respecting personal space. Of course, we have loved all of our Christmas activities that have kept us busy too!



Otter Class have had a fantastic half term. It has been lovely learning all about Celebrations. We have had lovely music and movement lessons with the scarves, the parachute, scooter boards and bubbles. We have also made some wonderful Christmas crafts and the children are looking forward to taking them home. Everyone has also worked so well during their fine motor lessons and completed lots of different activities such as threading and posting. Well done, Otters!



This half term we have been learning about different celebrations. We have learned about Diwali, Eid and Hanukah. In Science we have been carrying out a variety of experiments where we initiated a change in colour of a liquid by adding something to the experiment. In Play and Leisure, we have been practising our turn taking skills and sharing resources with our friends and adults in Tiger Class. We have taken our maths to the sensory room where we used some UV resources to help our counting and number recognition skills. Merry Christmas from everyone in Tiger Class!



We have had a really good half term in Beaver Class. Our topic has been celebrations and we have explored lots of different celebrations including Diwali, Bonfire Night, birthdays, and of course Christmas. We have visited the Alan Shearer Centre and loved exploring the resource rooms. The immersion room was a particular hit. Some of us enjoyed staying after school to join our friends from South Street at their Halloween party. As Christmas has approached, we have all engaged well with Christmas crafts and activities, and enjoyed sharing our sensory story, The Grinch. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and will see you in 2025.

Robin Class have really enjoyed our topic of Celebrations. Our learning has been linked to lots of different celebrations such as Diwali and Bonfire Night. For the last 2 weeks we have focussed on Christmas and have enjoyed looking at Christmas books during our reading sessions, counting down to Christmas with our sensory advent calendar, taking part in our Christmas performance and enjoying Christmas jumper day. We have made peppermint creams in cookery and made lots of different Christmas crafts in our art sessions. We are looking forward to the Christmas party and more Christmas activities in our last week at school. We hope everyone has a lovely Christmas.



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# SAFEGUARDING



## Understanding Film Ratings: A Guide for Parents

Film ratings help parents choose suitable content for their children. Set by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), these ratings provide guidance on whether a film's content is appropriate. While cinemas must follow these age ratings by law, at home, it's up to parents to decide.

Every child is different—what one finds exciting, another might find upsetting. Ratings act as a helpful guide to match films with your child's needs. With so much content available on streaming platforms, understanding ratings like 12A can make choosing films for your family easier and more enjoyable.

## UK Film Ratings Glossary

### Understanding Film Classifications

**U (Universal):** Suitable for all ages, including young children. These films have a positive tone and promote good behaviour, with no strong language or actions that children might copy.

**PG (Parental Guidance):** Generally suitable for all, but some scenes may unsettle younger or sensitive children. PG films may include gentle exploration of heavier topics like bullying or loss.

**12/12A:** Content is not recommended for children under 12. A 12A film allows under-12s in cinemas if accompanied by an adult. These films may include moderate language, mild sex scenes, and some violence.

**15:** Restricted to ages 15 and over. These films may include strong language, mature themes like self-harm, moderate violence, and non-explicit sex scenes. Illegal drug use might be shown but is never promoted.

## NEXT TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School closes Friday 20th December.

School reopens Monday 6th January 2025



# FOGS

Another huge thank you to FOGS for their continued support in 2024.

A special thanks for the Christmas gifts they bought for the children and for their contribution to the performances. Also to all of FOGS who helped with our hugely successful Christmas fair.

Look out for more events in 2025!

