

## Newsletter - Thursday 19th December 2024

*'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they might see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'* Matthew 5v16



As we have begun our journey towards Christmas, we have taken up the invitation of the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award to 'Follow the Star' in our worship. The focus on 'calm and bright' dovetails beautifully with our school vision *'Live together, learn together and shine together in the love of God'*. Your children have been simply wonderful this month- taking action to bring calmness and brightness to our world. They have made peace by saying sorry to someone they have disagreed with; spread joy by bringing a smile to at least 5 people and provided food to donate to Hull Foodbank. We are so privileged to be able to work with your children and we could not do it without you. Thank you so much for all your support and, on behalf of the team, we would like to wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas break.



### December Highlights

We have had a wonderfully busy half term in which music and theatre have featured heavily. Particular highlights of the term are detailed below:



Our **Key Stage 2 Choral Choir** took part in **Gabrieli Roar: A Grand Georgian Christmas** alongside other primary schools. In an event, which has been described as 'spine tingling' by members of staff, the children raised the roof in the most beautiful of settings: Hull Minster.

Our **Year 5 classes** had the wonderful opportunity to learn more about what life was like in World War II when they visited the **Streetlife Museum**. In a 'hands on' two hour workshop, the children were able to discover more about the role of an ARP Warden and their role during wartime in Hull, meeting the character herself. They learned about why children were evacuated from Hull through exploring the contents of an evacuee's suitcase and the foods that were rationed at the time. They were able to get hands-on with original artefacts and documents to explore key aspects of life at the time, including the threat of gas attack and have a go at 'make do and mend'. We are very grateful to Hull Museums Service who provided the opportunity for our children to take part in this session which is only offered to schools and not something that they would usually be able to take part in as a member of the public.

**Foundation Stage, Year One and Two** visited **Hull Truck** to experience the joy of live theatre in their very own private performance of [Rapunzel | HullTruckTheatre](#). The staff have described the delight on the children's faces and the roars of laughter of the children (sometimes at unexpected times). We want to thank Hull Truck for giving us this opportunity again.

**Year Three** visiting **St. Mary's Beverley** to take part in an enchanting performance, filled with joy, warmth and humour, of '**The Lion, the Unicorn and me**'. The children were able to experience the awe and wonder of the Christmas story. They loved '*entering through the gates to heaven*'. As they were led into the manger scene in the crypt, the children were able to experience a time of true spiritual reflection. A member of staff described a time of complete silence and calm while they reflected on what the story may mean for them.

**Year Six** also were able to visit the theatre. The children had a wonderful time watching [The Borrowers | HullTruckTheatre](#).

**Newland St. John's Festival of Music** filled the hall with the sound of Christmas music. It is fabulous to see how accomplished the children are becoming and we would like to thank the families of the musicians for all they do in supporting them to practice. We have approximately 50 children playing instruments at the current time which is just under ¼ of the school!

### **Gold Star Nativity**

The children in Reception and Key Stage One performed the most wonderful nativity. The children delivered their lines beautifully and performed songs and dances with confidence. We are so proud of them all

**Year Five** led us in worship at St. John's Newland on the final day of the term. They showed us the true meaning of Christmas and we would like to thank them for giving us the opportunity to reflect.

### **Parent Governor**

Currently we have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our dedicated local governing committee. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact us at [hello@nsj.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@nsj.hslt.academy) and we will arrange for you to meet with our chair of governors.

### **Free School Meals- A Reminder**

We would like to encourage all families to apply for free school meals- even if your child already receives free school meals in Reception and Key Stage One. Every successful application makes a huge difference to the provision that we can offer to your child. All of those children who are eligible for school meals will receive a £15 shopping voucher for each week of the school holidays from the local council.

Please remember that you can apply at any time if your circumstances change. The quickest and easiest way to apply is to click on the link below:

To apply for Free School Meals click here: [\*\*My School Portal - Sign in\*\*](#)

### **Help for Families - a reminder**

The cost of living crisis is having an impact on all families in our community. We would like to signpost some sources of support that may help.

Food Banks: [Hull Foodbank](#)      [Food Bank - Hull Vineyard Church](#)



# Our Safeguarding Team



**Mrs Brett**

Principal

Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mr Kenningham**

Deputy  
Headteacher

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Miss Jones**

SENCO

Safeguarding  
Officer



**Ms Briggs**

Class  
Teacher

Safeguarding  
Officer



**Mrs Williams**

Wellbeing  
Officer

Safeguarding  
Officer

## What to do if you have a concern about a child:

### During School Hours:

- Contact the school and speak to either Mrs Brett or another member of the safeguarding team, via the main office on 01482 305740.
- Contact the Access and Assessment team for Hull on 01482 448879

### Out of school hours and during school holidays:

- If your concern is urgent and there is an immediate risk of harm, then contact the police via 999

If your concern is less urgent but you are worried about the welfare of the child then contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on 01482 448879 or the Emergency Duty Team 01482 300304 (After 5pm and weekends)

For more information, click on the link: [Worried about a child | Hull](#)

Please remember that if a child discloses anything that is worrying them, we may need to speak to parents and carers. This is part of our duty of care.

## SENCo Spotlight - Miss Jones

Dyslexia Sparks is hosting **Interactive Workshops for Dyslexic and Neurodiverse Students** on **Saturday, 18th January** at **Eastfield Primary School, Hull**. These workshops are free to attend and designed to empower children to overcome challenges, build resilience, and unlock their full potential.

### **Workshops:**

- **Mind Mapping:** Mind Mapping, when used correctly, is one of the most powerful tools that students can use to learn and retain information.
- **Resilience Building:** Turn adversity and setbacks into valuable learning experiences. Learn strategies to handle stress, adapt to challenges and take control of your future.
- **Exam Busters:** Don't be fooled by the name. Exam Busters teaches skills to tackle exams with confidence and clarity that can be used all year round – not just during the stressful exam periods.
- **Super Speed Study Skills:** Always a firm favourite, this workshop will help develop students' retention and recall abilities with fun, practical techniques.

These interactive sessions will equip students with practical tools to become more confident, prepared, and ready to achieve their goals.

Parents/carers can find more information and book here:

[dyslexiasparks.org.uk/events/positively-you](https://dyslexiasparks.org.uk/events/positively-you)

### **Useful contacts:**

- [Hull Local Offer](#) The Hull Local Offer website is where parents, carers, children and young people up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can find information, advice and guidance about support, services and activities that are available to those living in Hull.
- SENDIAS (Special Educational needs Independent Advice Service)  
Telephone: 01482 467 541                      Email: [hullsendiass@kids.org.uk](mailto:hullsendiass@kids.org.uk)

If you have any queries regarding this update, or would like to speak to the SENCo about anything to do with your child, please do not hesitate to email [hello@nsj.hslf.academy](mailto:hello@nsj.hslf.academy) for an appointment.

## Key Dates

Spring Term	
Tuesday 7th January	Children return to school
Monday 13th January	Year 6 SATS and Residential Meeting
Monday 20th January	Year 5: Myth-Busting Ancient Egypt Virtual Visit
Monday 27th January	Year 6: Wicked Weather Watch Arctic Experience Workshop Virtual Visit
Friday 31st January	Stay and Play (Dormice)
Friday 7th February	Year 4: Jorvik Virtual Visit
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th February	School closes for half term
Tuesday 25th February	Consultation Evening
Wednesday 26th February	Consultation Evening
Monday 24th February	Return to school
Monday 24th February - 7th March	Year 4: Swimming 🏊
Friday 28th February	Year 6: Horniman Museum, Benin Virtual Visit
Thursday 13th March	Year 5: Colliderfest Science Festival
Thursday 3rd April	Y3 Easter Service
Friday 4th April	Year 3: Virtual Volcanoes and Earthquakes Virtual Visit
Friday 4th April	School closes to children for Easter

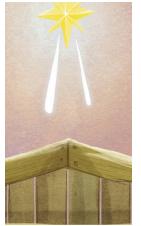
Parents are invited to attend the events highlighted in green

## Reflection

Based on this year's 'Calm and Bright' Advent and Christmas resources, the Church of England have produced a series of Calm and Bright Bedtime Stories which recount the events of the first Christmas from the point of view of four different characters – the Angel Gabriel, Joseph, a Shepherd and Mary. Click on the link below: [Calm and Bright: Bedtime Stories | The Church of England](#)

### A prayer for Christmas

Lord, thank you for all the children who attend our school.  
Thank you that each child is fearfully and wonderfully made.  
We pray that they will be beacons of light over the Christmas break:  
displaying kindness and thoughtfulness.  
We pray that in amongst the busyness there will be moments of calm  
and a time to reflect.  
Amen



**Contact us: 01482 305740** or [hello@nsj.hsft.academy](mailto:hello@nsj.hsft.academy)