



Headteacher: Mrs A Dunn
Deputy Head: Mrs L Drummond

T: 01924 767066
E: office@headlandsce.net
W: <https://www.headlandscofeschool.co.uk>

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe it is the last day of term! The days and weeks have passed so quickly since my first day as Headteacher at Headlands. Whilst I still have many, many names to learn, I have quickly felt like a part of the school family. I am grateful that I have been able to welcome parents into school this term. Inviting parents and carers to coffee mornings, class assemblies, parent consultations', Friends of Headlands meetings and Christmas Concerts has been wonderful. Alongside this, your smiles, encouragement and the overwhelmingly warm welcome I received has helped me to quickly settle in - thank you.

As we reach the end of term I wanted to share some highlights from this half term.

EYFS 1,2,3 Nativity and KS1 Christmas Crisis

Over the past two weeks I have had the privilege of watching our wonderful Early Years pupils tell us the story of the very first Christmas. They did an amazing job sharing this important story with us; their singing, actions and the 'big voices' they used to tell the story were amazing! Well done Nursery and Reception.

Meanwhile, KS1 told us the story of the Christmas Crisis. The audience were very worried when Santa lost his Christmas cheer - Christmas was almost cancelled! But thanks to the elves, their fantastic helpers and a few (terrible) jokes the crisis was avoided and Santa made a full recovery! Again, the acting and singing was amazing and both performances of the Christmas Crisis were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Fantastic work Year 1 and 2.

Spenborough Choir Christmas Concert

Last Tuesday, 7th December, twenty-four children from Headlands School choir joined with seven other Spenborough Trust school choirs to perform a Christmas concert at Dewsbury Town Hall. I was so proud of our children; their singing and overall performance was nothing short of excellent. It was an absolute pleasure to attend the concert and an amazing experience for those children who attended. Huge congratulations to the pupils and a big thank you to Mrs Bradley for writing the songs, teaching the choir and supporting with the organization of the concert. Thank you also to Mrs Cloughton and Miss Pearson for supporting this event.

Generosity

This half term, the Christian value we have been thinking about in school is generosity. We have been learning about the importance of sharing what we can, especially with those in need. You will be aware that we this term we have supported the charities: Jeans for Genes, Macmillan, Children in Need and the British Royal Legion Poppy Appeal. During Advent, the youngest children in school (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) researched some charities which they would like to support. As a result, they decided

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they would like to help the charities UNICEF and Forget Me Not Trust, by donating some of the money they raised through the ticket sales for their Christmas shows.



- £207.76 Jeans for Genes
- £184.98 Macmillan
- £239.35 Children in Need
- £433.35 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- £103.75 UNICEF
- £81.97 Forget Me Not Trust

We have raised a total of £1251.16 for charity this term.

Your support and generosity with these events has had a huge impact upon those in need. Thank you.

Friends of Headlands (FOH)

It has been a busy term for the Friends of Headlands. As a result of the hard work of the friends of Headlands, our children have enjoyed a



Movie Night, Christmas Discos, several after school Tuck Shops and a Christmas Gift Shop experience. The FOH team also sourced some excellent prizes for our Christmas raffle. Raffle tickets were drawn in Collective Worship on Wednesday and all winners have now been invited into school to collect their prizes. Despite the disappointment of the cancellation of the Christmas Fair, the FOH still

managed to persuade Father Christmas to make a special visit to Headlands!

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in planning and staffing these events, but especially to Mrs Cloughton, the Chair of the FOH, who has given an incredible amount of her own time to ensure our children have been able to enjoy these fun events.

Snow Days

We don't often get snow-person building days in West Yorkshire. When we do it's important for the children to experience the delights of playing in snow...and we have a school field which is perfect for doing just that!

If we are lucky enough to get some snow in the Spring Term, it would be wonderful if your child could come to school wearing wellies and a warm coat. This means that they will be able to enjoy the snowy school field during playtime and lunchtime.



Pupil voice

As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, it is extremely important that our children are included in decisions that involve and affect them. One of the ways we encourage pupils to express an opinion is through the development of pupil voice committees and groups (e.g. school council, junior leaders, cyber sheriffs, collective worship committee).



Our 2021-2022 Junior Leadership Team
(in their Christmas party clothes)

After a rigorous recruitment process, we are pleased to introduce you to our **Junior Leadership Team** (eight pupils from Year 6). This is a new initiative at Headlands. It involves pupils, from Year 6, supporting the Senior Leadership Team to live out the vision for our school and support the school to develop and improve. The role of the Junior Leadership Team (JLT) includes, ensuring pupil voice is central to the work of the Senior Leadership Team, monitoring and evaluating the school development plan and

sharing their ideas and opinions about new initiatives.

The JLT have already been tasked with supporting the senior leadership team to develop the school libraries and the use of the outdoor space. We look forward to updating you on the work of the JLT over coming months.

We are also pleased to introduce you to our **Collective Worship Committee**. This group of pupils help to plan, deliver and evaluate our daily collective worship. We have recently been discussing the best way for children to be seated in the hall, so that everyone feels included. The Collective Worship Committee also help to spot and celebrate children who are living out our Christian values.



Our 2021-2022 Collective Worship Committee
(in their Christmas party clothes)

School Vision

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey about our school vision. We have read everything you told us. We have also surveyed children and staff. Since the survey there have been several meetings of staff and governors to draw use this information to write our new school vision. I am delighted to say that I will be writing to you in the first week of the Spring Term with a 'big reveal' of our new school vision! Watch this space...

Staffing Update

An end of term often brings change. This term we are delighted to be preparing to welcome Miss O'Malley back to school in January. Miss O'Malley will join the reception team and will teach Acorns class alongside Mrs Burns.

As we look to the new year I am painfully aware that the challenges we have faced over the past 21 months remain present. I know we will continue to face uncertainty and challenge when we return to school in January; however, I am confident that our school community will work together to navigate these difficult times. I am thankful for a dedicated team of staff and extremely supportive parents. Thank you!

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas, filled with love, peace and joy.

Best wishes,

Ashleigh Dunn
Headteacher

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