



# Harestanes Primary Newsletter

## NOVEMBER 2021



Dear Parent / Carer,

This has been a very quick term indeed and now we find ourselves hurtling towards Christmas! Although it wasn't ideal, I hope you found being able to **review your child's jotters** at home alongside a **telephone call** from their teacher at **Parents' Night** very helpful in discussing your child's learning with them. If you ever have any **specific query** about your child's learning, please contact the school office and we will **arrange for the class teacher to call you back**.

At the end of this term we say sadly **farewell** to one of our teachers. Mrs Killen who is retiring from teaching. She been at **Harestanes Primary for 17 years** and we will be very sorry indeed to see her go.



I am thrilled to share that our school recently achieved the **Digital School Award**. This award recognises the hard work and sheer determination to support our school community in improving digital literacy. Our submission was coordinated by **Ms Kelman- our Digital Leader** – who worked tirelessly through the Lockdowns to ensure we all had the skills to continue to provide remote learning for our children during this very challenging period.

Christmas at Harestanes Primary will look **very different again this year**. We will miss the fun of getting ready for our PTA Christmas Fayre and our annual trip to the Panto! Our staff however are going above and beyond to ensure that our children will not miss out. We have **lots of activities planned** which will hopefully involve the children in the excitement and fun of the season. Details of dates will be at the end of this newsletter.



***Sadly, we will not be encouraging children to bring Christmas cards into school to send to friends this year during this period to avoid any unnecessary risk of transmission. If your child would like to send their classmates Christmas Greetings – why not post on the class Teams page?***

Instead of our weekly Assemblies in the main hall we still meet virtually through **TEAMS at 10am each Friday morning**. We have already all **shared in the learning of P5/6 and P6** who have made fantastic presentations to share with us all. It's **good to be able to meet as a school family** and share news – and birthday celebrations!



We also celebrated the **amazing achievement of P5/6** who **won the EDC Sumdog Maths Competition** – we were so proud of them!



**We have had a busy month in the ELR!** We planned our Halloween party and had great fun playing all the games we created ourselves. The firework pictures we created were very bright and sparkly and reminded us about firework safety. We've been finding out about **St Andrew** listening to stories **in Scots**. **'The Gruffalo's Wean'** was one of our favourites! We have designed tartan and created amazing Scottish themed art.

Primary 4-7 have been looking at ways to look after the planet and designed posters with ways to **'Make the Planet Smile Again'**. Our representatives on the school **Health Committee and Pupil Council** have also been sharing our ideas for keeping healthy and saving energy in school. All the children in the ELR have been using the **Emotion Works** resource to talk about why we feel different emotions and what we can do to help change the way we feel.



talk

***Finally, we are aware that the Christmas period can cause additional stress and anxiety for some families. As a school community we are committed to supporting our families. If you need to access support – financial or otherwise – we may be able to signpost you to a service which may help. Please phone me at school – in the strictest confidence – if you think we can be of any assistance.***

As always, please do not hesitate to speak with us about any aspect of your child's experience at school by making an appointment through the school office.

Best Regards,

Ms. Jackie Gillespie ( Head Teacher)

## Dates for your Diary.....

**3rd December – Whole School Flu Vaccinations**

**10<sup>th</sup> December – Virtual Class Assembly**

**13<sup>th</sup> December – A special visitor is dropping by – on his bike!**

**15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day**

**16<sup>th</sup> December - P4 and P5 Christmas Party**

**17<sup>th</sup> December - P1- P3/ ELR Christmas Party**

**20<sup>th</sup> December - P6 and P7 Christmas Party**

**21<sup>st</sup> December – School Closes at 2.30pm**