



SACRISTON
ACADEMY

WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and once again seen that our pupils love attending and are proud of our school.

The autumn term has been packed full of creativity with excellent work produced in school and at home. We have seen the children celebrate anti-bullying week, learn about parliament and their rights, understand the importance of diversity, and excel in many areas of the curriculum.

Like everyone, pupils and staff have overcome many challenges this term and we are very proud of all their achievements. They have continued to demonstrate resilience and dedication towards their learning, every single day.

I'm sure that parents and carers would like to join me in thanking all the staff at Sacriston Academy for their commitment and hard work.

We, along with each of you I'm sure, are looking forward to enjoying the final days of the year in school on the countdown to Christmas then a well-deserved rest with our families.

I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you all back in January 2022!

Annalei Bartlett

Annalei Bartlett
Headteacher



Children in Need 2021!

This year our Sacriston stars turned into little Pudsey Bears to mark Children in Need 2021...

Pupils and staff had a wonderful day raising money for Children in Need. Our children certainly brightened up school with their wonderful accessories.

Together, we can change the lives of the children and young people that need us most in the UK.





Meet our latest Sacriston stars!

This term, we welcomed Dolly and Harley, our new reading dogs!

Gillian from *Pets as Therapy* brings the pooches to our school every Tuesday for children to read with. We believe every child should leave school with a love of reading and that reading to pets plays a great part in developing this.

Our children have loved welcoming Dolly and Harley into school each week and we can see their reading confidence dramatically increasing with their reading with each visit.

Reading buddies

Our reading buddies have been loving their new roles in school.

Our buddies have been using our reading suitcases to support and encourage reading on the yard and have been listening to our younger pupils read in school.

After listening to feedback from other pupils, reading buddies requested even more new books - they just can't get enough - and have taken delivery of some exciting and diverse new titles.

All the children cannot wait to get read them!

Dates for your diary!

- 17 Dec** Last day of term
- 05 Jan** Back to school
- 18 Feb** Break up for half term
- 28 Feb** Return to school
- 08 Apr** Break up for Easter
- 25 Apr** Return to school
- 26 May** Break up for half term

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:
www.sacristonacademy.co.uk

Caring for our community

Earlier this term our Year 5 superstars spent an afternoon litter picking in order to help reduce the amount of rubbish in and around the streets of Sacriston.

They teamed up with the Sacriston Youth Project and worked in groups to remove litter from the streets and improve our community.

They worked very hard and thoroughly enjoyed their time helping to improve the streets of Sacriston!



One kind word...

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, our pupils thought about the this year's theme, 'One kind word'.

Our youngest pupils learned about random acts of kindness. Nursery thought that helping their friends would be a nice idea, from preparing a snack for them to smiling and waving. Reception have also been talking about the best ways to be a good friend, sorting situation cards into good and bad friends.

All our children in Year 1 and 2 have been showing acts of kindness towards others with many of them completing 30 random acts of kindness!

Year 3 completed a series of activities thinking about what bullying is, what it looks like and how to stop it.

Year 4 talked about what we mean by bullying.

Year 5 took part in a BBC live lesson where they learnt about the importance of being kind and what to do when you think someone is being unkind.

Year 6 focussed on the impact of bullying and after watching 'Wing' - a story of a one-winged creature who is bullied for being different - the children thought about how the character would have felt and the impression we are given of the bullies.

Born in a barn

Our children have been working hard to prepare for this year's nativity and they are naturals in front of the camera.

There's been a good deal of commotion in a Bethlehem stable when the animals realised that there was a baby in the barn!

The cows, sheep, pigs, cat and cockerel all learned about their special baby guest, brought

by the donkey and some additional guests.

As more and more visitors arrived to greet the new king, the animals slowly realised what a privilege it is to share their home with such an important baby...



We're social!

Did you know that Sacriston Academy is on social media!? You can find important information and updates, photos and news across our social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter.

We love to see how proud you all are of your children and relatives in the comment section. If you don't already follow our social media pages, please join our online community.



@SacristonAcad



facebook.com/SacristonAcademy

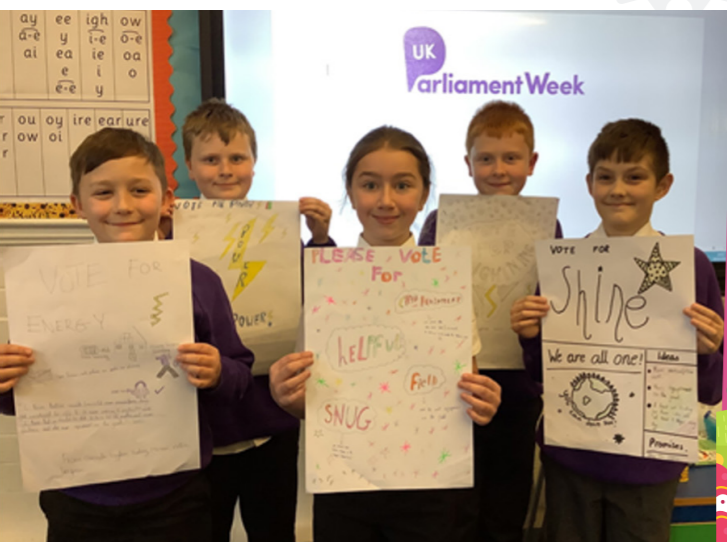


MPs in the making!

This term saw the return of UK Parliament Week!

The week kicked off with an assembly where the children learned all about parliament. Year 6 then got to work creating their own political parties. Children named their party, wrote their own manifestos with election promises, and created promotional posters. The children then went on a campaign trail around school to spread awareness of their parties and try and secure votes. Children shared their ideas for improving school, including more virtual author visits and different lunchtime equipment. After the final count, 'Lightning' were announced the winners. A huge well done to all of Year 6 for their campaigning. Lightning will now get to work on keeping their election promises around school.

Leo said: "I have enjoyed being able to create your own political party to make positive change around school."



Smashing smoothies!

Year 3 had a fantastic time with Nick the Chef this term, learning all about healthy foods and making the right food choices.

Year 3 then had the chance to make their own smoothies. After selecting ingredients from a range of fresh fruits including watermelon, banana and blueberries, the children blended smoothies using Nick's Smoothie Bike!

Abbie said: "It was fun being with Nick in real life instead of on a screen."

Jacob added: "I loved choosing and creating my own smoothie."



Virtual authors inspire pupils

We love to read here at Sacriston Academy and to develop that even further we have been delighted to work alongside famous authors this term.

We were very excited to 'virtually' welcome: Jacqueline Wilson, Rachel Morrisroe, Tamsin Merchant and Steven Lenton. We found out about their latest books and heard some top tips for writing our own stories. In addition, we heard from the illustrator, Rachael Dean, who taught us how to draw some famous characters. We have updated our reading suitcases with some of our very own copies of these new, exciting stories.



Sacriston remembers...

As part of our Remembrance Day activities, we took part in a service in school read the story 'Where The Poppies Grow Now'.

We also joined the nation in a two-minute silence to pay our respects.

Our Year 5 and 6 Rights Respecting Ambassadors represented our school at

church, as well as laying a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of all our pupils, staff and families.

In addition to this, we raised a brilliant £322.12 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal this year.



Harvest time

This term, Year 1 learnt about harvest and how Christians say thank you for all the good things Earth provides at harvest time. The children celebrated harvest by making their own fruit salad! They also collected donations across school for Sacriston Food For Thought Project to help those most in need in our community.

Christmas joke corner!

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

Can you smell carrots?

What do you call father Christmas on the beach?

Sandy Claus!

We're social!

Did you know that our school regularly posts exciting updates on Facebook and Twitter?

Our social media pages are a great way to connect to our online Sacriston Academy community. You can find photos, videos and important updates on our pages and see what your little ones are up to in the classroom. If you don't follow our pages already, please give us a like or a follow to stay in the loop!



@SacristonAcad



facebook.com/SacristonAcademy





**North East
SCITT**

Did you know that our school is a partner of North East SCITT - an organisation that trains new teachers in schools across the north east - including in ours!

Whether you're a new graduate, in your final year of university or considering a change of career (it's never too late you know!), North East SCITT's high-quality school-based initial teacher training courses can provide you with the best start to a new career in teaching. They are based in the North East Learning Trust's lead school, The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, but training happens in schools all across the region.

The quality of training they offer is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted for both their primary and secondary courses. Along with this they have a proven track record of amazing

results and high employment rates. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn to teach 'on-the-job'. Unlike traditional university courses, you are in the classroom from the outset, interacting with pupils and teachers and learning first hand the knowledge and skills you'll need to become an outstanding teacher.

You will practise in a broad range of schools, gaining experience in different areas including special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour management, English as an additional language, phonics, and maths mastery (for primary only).

You will also be allocated a subject mentor from a team of specialists with vast experience who will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject.

At the end of the 10 month course you'll be a qualified teacher with a PGCE from Durham University.

So if you're thinking of teaching - there is no better place than through our school partners North East SCITT - please get in touch - we know they would love to speak to you!

Subjects available:



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary | Physical education |
| Computing | Religious education |
| Design and technology | Biology |
| Drama | Chemistry |
| English | Physics |
| History | Modern foreign languages |
| Geography | |
| Maths | |
| Music | |

Try a teacher training taster day...

If you're thinking about training to teach, you can come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like. Find out more and book your place at:

www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster

Apply now for Sept 2022

New year, new career?

Become a teacher in 2022!

Outstanding teacher training in schools across the North East



Bursaries of up to £24k available to train in some subjects

Find out more at: www.northeastscitt.co.uk