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## Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Federation

The federation consultation closes on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. If you would like to comment please do so before that date.

### Donations

We would like to thank you for sending in your donations for our recent events. This week we have sent cheques to Oxfam for £27.00, Children in Need £58.80 and Friends of Cotherstone School £42.00.

### Christmas Plans

Barbara will be serving Christmas lunch on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Children can wear a Christmas jumper and/or Christmas socks that day, for a donation of £1 per child, which will go to Children North East (please see Miss Lee's report below).



### 'Hope for Christmas'

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, pull your favourite Christmas socks on or wear your Christmas jumper or why not wear both to raise much needed funds for 'The Children of the North East charity'. The North East has seen the country's biggest rise in child poverty since 2014. Almost a quarter of children in the North-East now live in poverty before housing costs have been taken into account, up from 17.3 per cent just four years ago – that's the biggest percentage rise in the country. What's even more shocking is that those figures are from before the Covid-19 outbreak began taking its grim toll on people's health and livelihoods. This disease is hitting those already trapped in deprivation the hardest. But Children North East is working hard to combat the worst effects of child poverty. During this hugely challenging time being faced by so many in the region, Children of the North East have launched their 'Hope for Christmas' campaign to support babies, children, young people and their families to help where it's needed most. We would love your support to help families have a happier festive season, and to offer children in the North East some hope this Christmas so please bring a suggested donation of £1 in to wear your favourite Christmas wear and enjoy your Christmas dinner in school. Thank you for your support.

Miss Lee



## Christmas cards

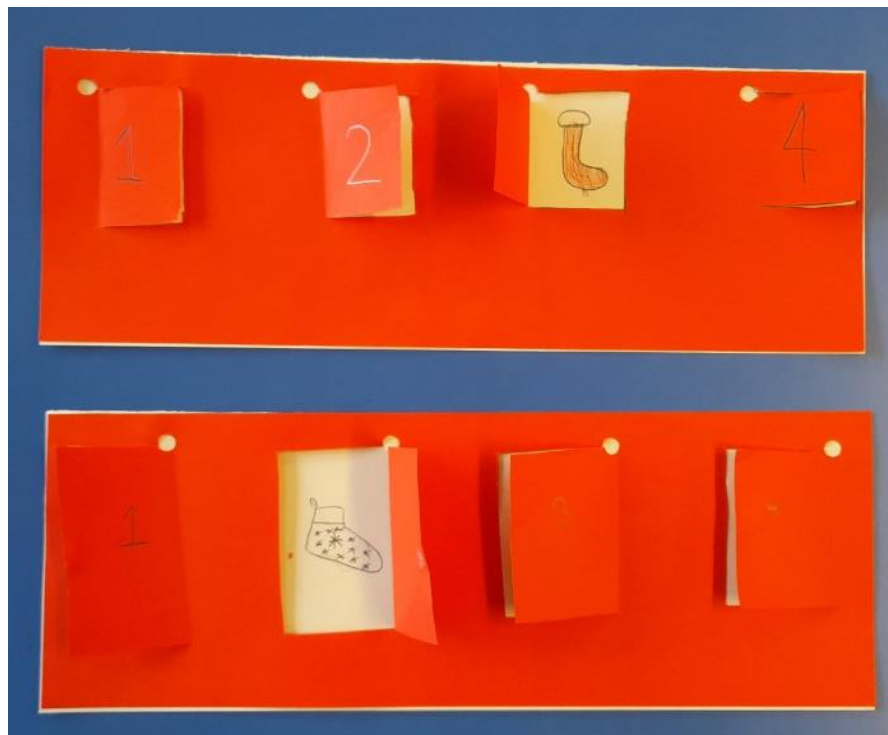
In order to deliver cards safely this year we are suggesting that children bring their cards to school to post in the Christmas post box between Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Cards will be quarantined in the box until the following week and delivered by teachers. Cards must be labelled with the receiving child's name and class number.

## This week in school...

### Advent calendars

By Emmy and Robby

This week, we made advent calendars. We made the windows by cutting them out using the holes to start us off. Then, we drew pictures of Christmassy things in the windows. When we have finished them, we will give them to members of the class to open until Christmas. Everyone enjoyed making the advent calendars!



## Anti-Bullying Week - by Bella F-B, Libby and Bella N

This week is 'Anti-Bullying Week' and in school we have been talking about what bullying is and how we can stop it from happening. We have had lots of assemblies about it which has given us lots of information and we thought they were good and helpful. We decided that Friday would be an odd sock day to show that everyone is different and that it is ok to be different.



### Tip tap for Class 1

This week some pupils from Class 3 kindly built a tip tap in Class 1's garden area. They demonstrated how to use it and answered any questions that Class 1 had about it.

Scarlett said, "I love it when the water comes out the little hole when you put your foot on the stick."

Isabella said, "It's great, you press it with your foot and the water pours out for you to wash your hands."



## Golden Ticket Lunchtime Awards

Golden tickets this week were awarded to:

Lydia - for her mature attitude and kindness to others at lunch time.

Holly - for her lovely manners in the dining room and on the playground.

Finn - for happily settling into the lunchtime routine.

Bella N - for always being polite and waiting patiently for her dinner.



## Thank you

We would like to say a very big thank you to Bella F-B's mum for donating 2 big bags of clay! The children were very excited to see it in the classroom and we look forward to using it over the next couple of weeks.

## After School Club

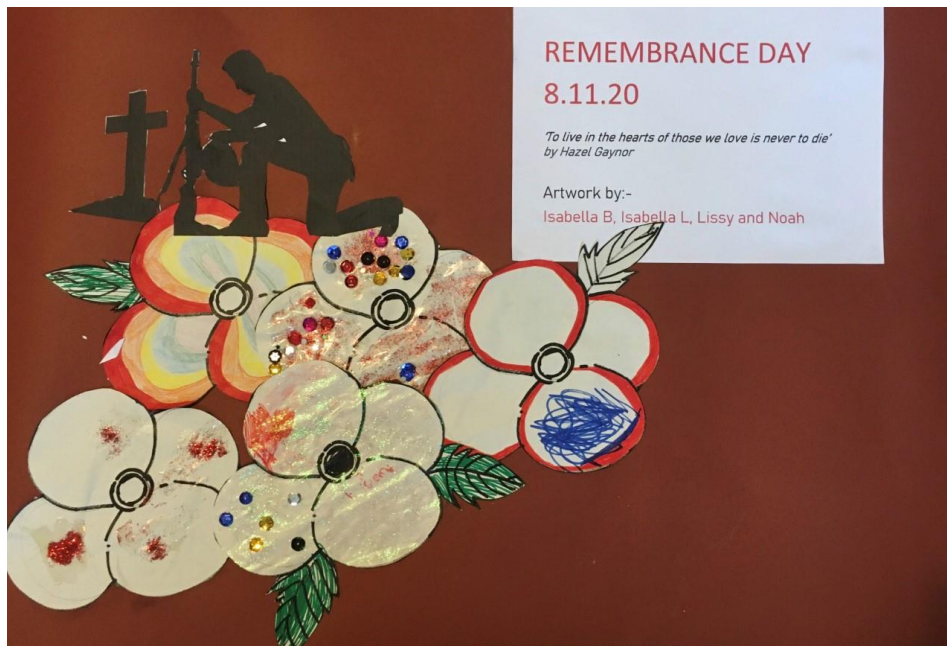
We thought you would like to see this extremely positive affirmation of our after-school club that we have received from a parent this week:

***'My children have attended a few sessions now and each time they have come home so happy and stimulated and full of beans! They have even been asking if they can go every night 😊 This year has been so hard for little ones and with their normal clubs and activities shut it is wonderful to see them going to such a brilliant and activity packed after school club.***

***They will keep coming to club because they enjoy it so much and it feels so important to have these facilities in a small village setting.'***

We currently have places in after school club which can be booked by ringing the school. Children who are in receipt of free school meals are entitled to use the club for 2.5 hours per week.

As the number of children attending club builds so will the range of activities offered. In October the children celebrated Space Week by completing a group project. Earlier this month the club celebrated Remembrance Day by creating a group poppy project. Children are currently enjoying making bird feeders, pizzas and Christmas cards, in addition to playing dodge ball and football outside.



Nevin has created a board, where children can keep up to date with the activities at after school club, it is near the door of Mr B's room.

### Friends of Cotherstone School

#### Christmas cards

Please can Christmas card orders be returned to school by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

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Due to current restrictions, Friends of Cotherstone School are unable to hold their annual Christmas lights switch on this year. We have, however, been thinking about other community activities to get the village involved in Christmas and have decided to adopt a Swedish tradition, a Living Advent Calendar. There are several different formats which all centre around revealing a surprise on each day in the run up to Christmas. For Cotherstone's Living Advent Calendar 2020, FOCS have chosen a format similar to the scarecrow trail. So, we're looking for 24 households (pubs can get involved too), preferably visible from a road/pavement, to decorate a festive window and take it in turns to reveal it on a different day in the run-up to Christmas. Participants will be given a number from 1-24 signifying the day they will reveal their window, ideally at 6:30pm. Villagers can gather to watch the

'switch-on' of the window but should take care to maintain a social distance from others not in their household. The displays stay illuminated until Twelfth Night, and we will produce a map so that people can do a tour of the different windows. If you would like to be involved, please contact Rachel ASAP on 07990687636 and you will be issued a number and further guidance. Any queries should also be directed to Rachel.

Thank you for all your support.

Chris Matthewman and the Cotherstone Team