



High Spen Primary School Newsletter

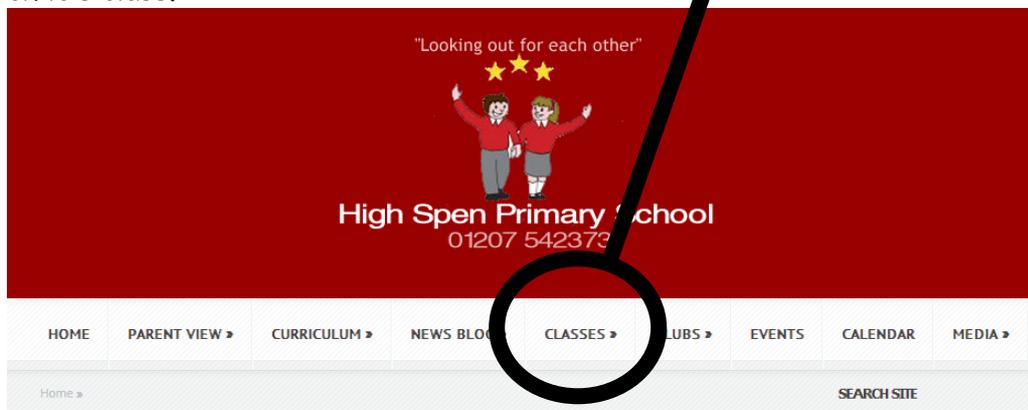
30th November 2012



Blog Buddies

Wednesday evening saw a first for High Spen... children gate crashing the weekly staff meeting! We have ten Y5 pupils who joined us because they are being trained to help other children upload stories to their Class Blogs. You know what this means - we're launching the website (for the 23rd time). Each class now has their own Blog which they will update with images and information about the experiences they have. When they choose to, they can forward their items to the main school page.

To find your child's Class Blog go to the normal school address 'www.highspenprimary.org' where you will see this header, simply click the 'classes' menu and click on the name of your child's class.



Please set aside a minute to comment on what you read. It is great for the children to read what the 'outside world' thinks of their work.

Christmas Fair

Next Friday's Fair is fast approaching! We have had a generous flow of bottles today but have a way to go to match our normal mound of bric-a-brac. Perhaps this weekend would be a good time to look through that pile of 'no longer used' toys etc. It would be great if it can start coming in early next week as the PTFA need time to organise it and they are already giving up Thursday and Friday to decorate the tree and the hall.

If you are able to spare a few hours of your time the PTFA would really appreciate more helpers for the stalls this year as they are short on numbers. Please complete the slip and return to the school office if you can volunteer.

If you have raffle tickets to return it would also be really helpful if they could come back to school as soon as possible.

Christmas treats

To mark our increased use of the outdoors to support our learning we bought into the Nature Detectives website, it has lots of ideas for nature based crafts etc. To mark the start of Advent we will be uploading one of their Winter Craft activities each day. I'm about to do one now so why not check the school website to see what you could have a go at this weekend!

THREE HP for anyone who can prove they have had a go! (What do you mean 'bribery!')

Friends of Red Kites Christmas Card Competition (what a mouthful!)

Class TY entered this competition back in November and we are very proud to announce that Joe Walton's Christmas Card has been Highly Commended. Well done Joe and thank you to all of TY for taking part as this is what really counts!

HOP Garden Event

On Tuesday 4th December, from 6pm until 9pm Muddy Fingers Pottery will be running a 'Make your own raku Christmas decorations' session. The session will be suitable for young and old alike (£10 for three decorations fired on the night). The raku fire should guarantee a warm welcome, as do Marv and Diane, and they will also plan to have hot drinks and wood fired jacket potatoes on sale.

Young Mathematicians Award

Our fabulous team of four have found out this week that they were not successful in reaching in the final of the Young Mathematician's Award. However they retained their 2nd place position in the North East region and we are so very proud of them for representing our school and getting as far as they did. They have set the bar high for next year!

Dates for December

- 7th Christmas Fair - 1.30pm
- 14th School Christmas Lunch
- 17th Dress Rehearsal for School Christmas Performance (toddlers welcome) - 9.30am
- 18th KS1 Christmas Performance (afternoon) - 1.30pm
- 19th KS1 Christmas Performance (morning) - 9.30am
- 19th Christmas Party for EYFS and KS1 (afternoon)
- 20th KS2 Christmas Party (afternoon)
- 21st Christingle in St. Patrick's Church
- 21st Christmas songs in Nursery
- 21st Break up for Christmas Holiday (Phew!)

A letter will be coming home early next week with further details of the parties and performances, but the plan is the same as last year. Rather than children bringing in their own food donations the PTFA will ask for a contribution of £2 from each child. They will then do all the shopping and prep of party food. Tickets for Christmas Performances will be on sale as normal, £1 each.

Enchanted Parks

Wednesday 5th - Sunday 9th December 2012, 4:30pm - 9:30pm.

Join us for an after-dark Victorian fairy tale which will reveal the mysterious and magical secrets of Saltwell Park. Discover atmospheric installations, light, sound and intriguing event for all the family. Tickets still available, book online at www.gateshead.gov.uk For more information please visit www.newcastlegateshead.com/winterfestival

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Helpers

I would like to support the PTFA and can be available to help out at the Christmas School Fair.

Name Childs Name