



There's something of the calm before the storm about school this week. It will be clear from the diary of events in this Newsletter that there's lots happening in school before the end of term—Pantomime, Christmas Fair, concerts, carol service, Christmas Dinner, parties etc., etc.

Lots to look forward to in the next four weeks, including some 'big occasions' such as the Carol Service—our single biggest gathering of the year.



### Parent Consultations

Since the half term break all parents have had, and I'm sure will have taken the opportunity to discuss pupil progress with relevant teachers. I hope you found the dialogue useful and are clear about targets for future improvement. Please let us know if that's not the case.

### Shoe Box Appeal

What a success this has been! For the second year running we've had over 125 boxes donated. These have now been taken to Fellside Methodist Church—the co-ordinators for this locality.

Ian Bell, Minister at Fellside Methodist Church and school governor conveys his thanks on behalf of 125 children world-wide, whose Christmas will be enhanced by your efforts. Well done.



### Maths Homework Games

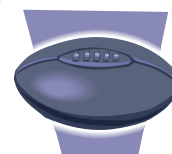
A number of children throughout the school have already taken home our recently purchased maths games for homework. All children will be given the opportunity to take these home.

Initial feedback from parents and children has been very positive.

### Sport

Our tag rugby squad qualified for the finals at Blaydon Rugby Club. Runners up in 2005 and Champions last year ... this year wasn't to be as far as silverware is concerned.

As ever superb teamwork, attitude and behaviour despite the awful weather. Thanks to the children, Mr Machin and parents for transport and support.






In basketball our squad missed out on a place in the final following a shoot out in the semi-final. Third Place ... well done.

Fellside Community Primary School, Fellside Road, Whickham, NE165AY.  
Tel: 0191 4887486  
www.fellsideprimary.co.uk

# Fellside Matters

# Diary of Events to Christmas

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Fab Food Funhouse (Healthy Eating); KS1 am and KS2 pm	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	AM Panto – Sleeping Beauty for Reception to Y6 (this performance is half funded by the Friends of Fellside)	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.30 pm Friends of Fellside Christmas Fair	
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pm	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Am Christmas Concert performances – These will be ticketed events - details to follow.	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pm	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nursery Concerts am/pm	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y5/6 Christmas Party/Disco pm	
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2 pm Carol Service at St Mary’s Church, Whickham  Nursery Christmas Parties am/pm	
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y3/4 Christmas Party pm	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Christmas Party pm	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Last day of term	

## Christmas Concerts

*Following concerns about overcrowding and implications for comfort and safety at concerts in previous years this year's concerts will be entry by ticket only. There will inevitably be a limit on the number of tickets available to families.*

*Details of concert performance times and ticket allocation arrangements will follow shortly.*



## Another Shoe Collection!

We have received a letter from Captain Lyndsey Staerck of the 201 (Northern) Field Hospital (Volunteers), mother of Harry Nichol who left Fellside in July 2006. It looks like an appeal we can support.

201 (Northern) Field Hospital (Volunteers) is currently on Operations in Afghanistan and are nursing a lot of children, it is winter now and extremely cold and the children have no footwear and walk around in their bare feet.

If we could collect any second hand footwear (anything, shoes, sandals, slippers, plimsolls or even wellies) that you have no further use for Captain Staerck will collect them from school and arrange for them to get where they are needed. Even if you have odd shoes lying around please send them as many of the children have amputated limbs.

As we did with the 'Shoe Biz' appeal last year we'll leave a blue bin for contributions under the bike shed.

The time scale for this is quite short—could we have any contributions by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

## Attendance

An impressive number of our children achieve 100% attendance each term, indeed a number were rewarded in July for full attendance all year. Our recent Ofsted report graded attendance as 'outstanding' in line with the grading for all aspects of school.

This judgement was made after careful consideration by our inspector, overall attendance is high at 96.6% but there are a significant number of children with much lower attendance—many in the low nineties and a number in the 80% to 90% range.

Gateshead Local Authority recommends a minimum attendance of 95%. This is, of course for sound educational reasons.

Obviously we recognise that children will be unwell from time to time. Some illness may result in extended absence from school—absolutely understandable.

We are working with our Education Welfare Officer to improve attendance and on the advice of the Local Authority will shortly be writing to the parents of all children whose attendance for the last academic year was below 90% and to the parents of children whose attendance so far this term gives some cause for concern.

### Late arrivals ...

If you are arriving with your child after the lines have come into school please remember to bring them in through the main entrance and not the KS1 side entrance—this lets us get them registered both for attendance and dinner numbers as quickly as possible.



Please remember the Friends of Fellside Christmas Fair on Friday 7th December at 2.30pm.



Always a popular and highly successful event with Local Craft Stalls, Cake Stall, Christmas Stall, Bottle Tombola, Raffle, Refreshments and Games.



All donations can be brought to the main reception desk at school, donations for the cake stall to be brought in on the morning of 7th December (in a named container please).



Anyone who can volunteer help, manning stalls etc. please either see a member of the Friends of Fellside on the yard or give your name to Mrs Tinson or Mrs Hogarth, who will pass it on.

We look forward to seeing you there.

