



# Christmas Newsletter 2021

## A Message from Ms Yeo

Happy Holidays to you all!

I'm pleased to note that there has been some fantastic learning and progress going on since we returned in September – helped of course as a result of an academic year that has so far been less disrupted by the pandemic. I want to start with acknowledgement of the amazing commitment that all our staff have shown since March 2020, and they are still going strong!



I hope you will understand our reason not to hold a school nativity/assembly event this Christmas. With high infection rates in the area as well as a new variant we want to ensure minimal risk of disruption to the Christmas break for children, their families and staff.

A major celebration for us this term has been the opening of our new and much awaited climbing frame – to be honest it felt like Christmas had come early the first day that all the children went out to explore it – a joy to watch.

I'd like to take the opportunity to draw your attention to our new school website which can be found at [www.ns82.northstar-academy.co.uk/](http://www.ns82.northstar-academy.co.uk/). It is still relatively new so may not always appear in Google searches, but this will change with time. If you have suggestions regarding the information available on the site please do let me know as we will look to develop it further.

I can also let you know that the building development of a new North Star Academy Trust school is continuing successfully. This is an Alternative Learning Provision that will be opening in Sea Mills in September 2022.

In January 2022 we will have pleasure in welcoming Mr Chavez (Chestnut) and Miss Baldwin (Aspen) to our staff team. We will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Harrison-Pearce, Mrs Hollow and Mrs Martin and wish them well in future roles. Mrs Garland will be starting her maternity leave, with Miss Wilkinson stepping into her role for her period of absence.

Wishing you all a good Christmas break.

With best wishes

Wendy Yeo



## Dates for your

### Diary

**Wednesday 15th Dec**  
Christmas Dinner

**Friday 17th Dec**  
End of Term

**Tuesday 4th Jan**  
Term 3 Begins

**Monday 31st Jan**  
INSET DAY

**Friday 18th Feb**  
Term 3 Ends

**Monday 28th Feb**  
Term 4 Begins



## School News from Mrs Garland

As 2021 draws to an end, we take a moment to reflect on Terms 1 and 2 and everything that we have achieved here at North Star 82°.

We have been very busy at the beginning of this academic year. Our School Council have been meeting fortnightly since September, looking at different ways they can make a difference to their school community. We have discussed looking after our new play equipment, changes we can make to our Rowan Room and how we can raise money for Children in Need.



Thank you to all of you who contributed to making Children In Need a success this year, including those of you who made cakes. As a school we made £74.45, well done everyone!

As a school we have celebrated many festivals and awareness days including Black History Month, Space Week, Harvest, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Anti-bullying Week. Our pupils have produced some lovely work and contributed well within class discussions around such events. It was brilliant to see so many of our children in Odds Socks for Anti-Bullying Week this year.

At Christmas I will be leaving to have a baby and I will miss all staff and Children at North Star. I will look forward to visiting in the new year to see everyone and then returning after my maternity leave. Ms Wilkinson will be acting as Interim Head of School in my place.

Wishing you all a very happy and magical Christmas.

Jilly Garland

Deputy Head of School



# Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

In Terms 1 and 2 our Anti-Bullying Team have met fortnightly, looking at why we want to be anti-bullying ambassadors and how we can best support those pupils who have experienced bullying behaviours.



The Week of 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 we celebrated 'Anti-Bullying Week' with our theme 'One Kind Word.'

Our Anti-bullying ambassadors held an assembly on the Monday where they spoke to the school about how we can use kind words to spread positivity. We also looked at how we are all different as well as what bullying is.



On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November we held a kindness afternoon where we played some kindness games. Here we discussed acts of kindness that we had experienced throughout the week as well as thanking our classmates for being there for us.

It was so lovely to have such a positive week and for all of our pupils to take part in all activities. Our Anti-bullying ambassadors will complete their Anti-bullying training with the Diana Award on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.





## Hazel Class

This term in Hazel class our topic has been 'Beat, Band, Boogie'. We have been learning about how music has developed and changed through history, thinking about how music makes us feel and using art to express our feelings. We have also linked our English lessons to our topic, learning a story about a dog who wanted to join an orchestra. We then innovated this to include our favourite animals, including zebras and flamingos.

In Maths we have been working hard, using the bar model to add, subtract and find differences, learning about different ways to measure and making graphs.

We have enjoyed Judo every week and earned our yellow belts! We are looking forward to going swimming next term.

Enjoy a well earned break and we look forward to another great term next year.



### Top Tips for E-Safety at Home

This term's top tip: **GET TALKING**

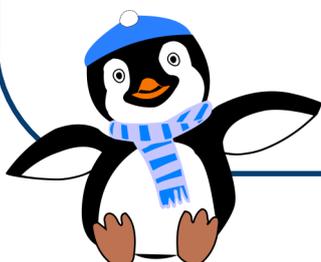
One of the best ways to know what your child is viewing online or who they are communicating with is to talk about it with them. To show an interest, you could:

- ask them to teach you how a game works
- find out about their favourite websites
- talk about the people they chat to

It is really important to listen, involve children in making decisions about their online safety and let them know they can talk to you about anything they are worried about.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>





## Father Christmas Visits North Star 82°



Excitement levels were high as we welcomed a very special visitor on Thursday 16th December to wish all our pupils (and some staff) a very Merry Christmas!



## Aspen Class

Aspen class has had a busy time since September. We have had new people to get to know and new things to learn. As well as our Maths and Literacy we have been swimming every week and doing African drumming, and when we've been very lucky we've also had some Forest School and gardening activities.

Our topics have included Autumn and for this we looked a lot at how different animals adapt for the oncoming winter and made nesting boxes for owls as well as putting out seeds in the garden and taking out binoculars to look at all the birds that make our school site their home. You can look through the news letter for the picture of our wooden spoon owl puppets.

In IT we have been learning how to program a simple robot and how to stay safe using digital devices.

We have enjoyed the arrival of our new outside play equipment and talked a lot about how it was built and were able to speak to the person who designed it and the people who built it.

We are all looking forward to Christmas and wish everyone from North Star a happy holiday.



## Juniper Class

In Juniper class we have had a fantastic time learning about castles and tunnels. The children built a fantastic tunnel out of boxes which they squeezed through and we even made a cardboard castle with a working drawbridge! We have also really enjoyed our music topic and have been making all sorts of unusual noises with our mouths. To get in the mood for writing about music, bands and instruments, we dressed up for a band photoshoot! Juniper class continue to amaze teachers with their enthusiasm and progress.



## Ash Class

It's been an exciting two terms in Ash. Every Tuesday the children have been swimming. They have worked really hard and have learned how to swim a width of the pool in their fronts and backs as well as learning how to breath under water! The children have also had weekly drumming lessons. They have learned two different rhythms and have had a lot of fun playing these rhythms to music in the lessons. In class we have looked at several different topics; the favourites so far have been Transport – when we pretended to get on a plane and fly off to a hot country – and our current topic; Christmas, during which the children got to make and eat Christmas themed biscuits. In Maths, the children have been looking at numbers and have begun to look at measuring and have had lots of fun measuring objects all around the classroom. As always in Ash, the children have enjoyed a wide range of activities during the Active Learning sessions, these are aimed at getting the children to play and interact together and they have formed wonderful friendships along the way!



## Chestnut Class

This term in Chestnut has been varied to say the least! We have looked at so many interesting things, from why a volcano explodes to how the discovery of metals changed Neolithic technology! We have baked bread for the school for Harvest Festival, made our own models to recreate lava flows, excavated the playground looking evidence of archaeology. learnt to draw with an online artist and played lots of fun games in 5starU! We had some amazing outside learning with Forest School, learning how to make fires and shelter, but the best bit was toasting marshmallows over the fire! Phew, what a term! Our class Kindness Jar was overflowing with gems, meaning we had an awesome Pizza Party. In the build up to Christmas, we spent lots of time reflecting on what this special time of year means to us, and thinking of how those less fortunate than us will spend the festive period.



## Beech Class

Over the last two terms Beech have thrived socially and academically. We are currently a small class, which has allowed the students to make a strong bond amongst each other and to welcome new faces into our classroom with ease. This atmosphere created has allowed the academic side take care of itself.

We have covered a variety of Maths units from calculation strategies and place value to graphs and exploring addition and subtraction in more depth. Beech class show a strong passion with Maths and this is backed up with their enthusiasm with their Maths Meetings.

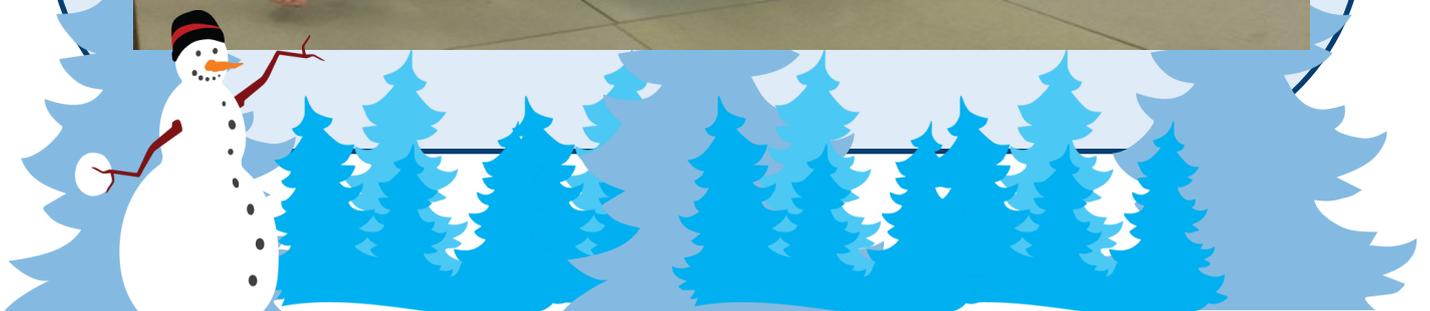
In English, they explore writing a variety of different types of texts. We began with a fictional story regarding a natural disaster where the students were not only able to innovate our current class text but also create some thrilling stories with their own natural disasters. We followed this by creating an instruction style text where the students showed great confidence discussing what they are able to do and could write instructions for "an alien" to follow.

This term, in our extended curriculum, we have had the pleasure of working with a professional Judo instructor to explain the fundamentals of Judo. The students have not only all fully engaged but also taken some of the skills taught on discipline and control and used them across a variety of lessons and playtimes.

I do look forward to the future terms as I know we are creating some fantastic memories in this class.

Kind Regards,

Eoin Gibney



## Oak Class

Oak has had an exciting start to the school year, they have worked well with change and shown some fantastic learning. Term 1 was focused on the topic "Rocks, Relics and Rumbles." The children enjoyed learning all about natural disasters and followed the coverage on the La Palma volcano eruption. Through Term 2, the topic 'Tribal Tales' taught us all about the Stone age, Iron age and Bronze age.

We have enjoyed 5 Star U, learning new games such as Boccia and how to show sportsmanship. We had fun learning some new dances too!

We look forward the new year and seeing what great things Oak do in the coming terms!



## Children in Need



School Council did a fantastic job of fundraising for Children in Need on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. They were keen to try to raise as much money as possible and decided on a Non-Uniform Day where children were to wear something yellow and a bake sale. They were involved in every part of the planning, collecting the money and preparing the bake sale. The whole school showed excellent support for the day and raised a grand total of £74.05! Thank you School Council for all your effort!

## Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day to support 'Save the Children'. It was wonderful to see so many children dressed in fantastic Christmas jumpers and taking part in the design competition. It was a tough decision choosing a winner from the excellent entries, the children really showed their imagination and artistic skills! We raised **£29.70** in total for 'Save the Children'. Well done North Star 82!





We would like to thank The Greggs Foundation again for their generous support of our Breakfast Club and in providing electrical appliances, beds and bedding and food and uniform vouchers to some of our parents / carers.

Not only do they make great cakes and other baked products, but they are generous and supportive in what has been a very difficult year for many people! Their support has been heart-warming.

## SEND Advice and support



## SEND and You

SEND and You was originally set up as a charity in Avon in 1989 by local parents and professionals. They'd realised that better outcomes could be achieved for **children and young people with SEND** by working together.

Today we make sure that children, young people and their parents or carers get the help they need. SEND and You was formerly named Supportive Parents.

SEND and You now delivers the 'SENDIAS' (Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support) service for three local authorities; **Bristol**, **North Somerset** and **South Gloucestershire**. Our office is in Bristol

More information can be found here: <https://www.sendandyou.org.uk/about-us/>



## Food Banks and Food Clubs:

School have information about these.

Please contact SENDCO Lucas Wellington for details.



## Benefits and Financial advice

Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service

### WRAMAS' Services

- Don't know what you may be entitled to?
- Need some help or advice on a benefit related issue?
- Not sure how to fill in a claim form? Having difficulty writing about your problems?
- Want to know how your other benefits may be affected?
- Would like some advice on a new or existing claim for a disability benefit?

Claiming the right benefits or finding information can be hard work and very confusing, but don't give up! WE CAN HELP.

If you need help or advice there is a confidential helpline available:

**T: (0117) 352 1888 E: [welfarerights@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:welfarerights@bristol.gov.uk)**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30 am – 1.00 pm (Wednesday closed all day)

If you prefer not to make a call or email us yourself, you can ask a professional working with you, a friend or relative, to contact us on your behalf.

You can also find advice and information, some of it specific to the coronavirus pandemic, on our website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help>



**Free and independent advice and support**  
For North Bristol and South Gloucestershire

- ▶ Welfare Benefits
- ▶ Universal Credit
- ▶ Debt Advice
- ▶ Appeals and representation
- ▶ Help to Get Online

Enquire using our Advice Tool at [www.northbristoladvice.org.uk](http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk)  
Or call 0117 951 5751



Registered Charity number: 1066921



### Key Numbers:

**Childline:** 08001111

**NSPCC:** 0800 800 5000

**Samaritans:** 116 123

**Next Link Domestic Abuse Telephone Help Line:** 08004700280

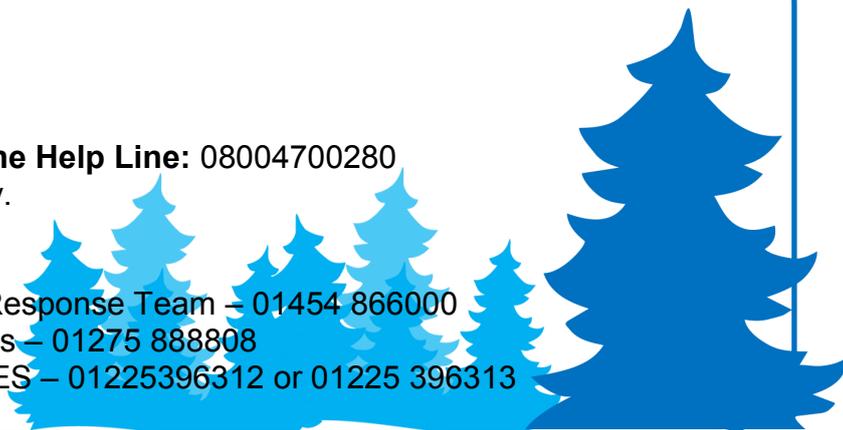
Mon – Fri 8.30-5.30 and 1pm Saturday.

### Social services:

South Gloucestershire – Access and Response Team – 01454 866000

North Somerset- Single Point of Access – 01275 888808

Bath and North East Somerset – BANES – 01225396312 or 01225 396313



# Safeguarding Information

We work hard in school to maintain the safety of all students. Where possible we want to help families and the wider community also be a safe place for our young people to experience. Where help is needed we are keen to sign post young people and families to some of the many resources available:

Please feel welcome to talk to one the safeguarding team within school:

**Ms Wendy Yeo, Head of School, Woodstock**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Mr Lucas Wellington, SENCO**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**



## Safeguarding

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office. Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems. We are especially in need of your email address' as we will now be sending more communications electronically.

We would also encourage people to self-refer to specific agencies for help:

### Online safety

Help setting up parental controls and advice on current issues young people face online and gaming:

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

### Domestic Abuse

24 hour free helpline 0808 2000 247 or visit online at [www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk)

### Mental Health

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> or call: 0300 123 3393 or text: 86463

Childline 0800 1111

Off the Record <https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/>

Kooth [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



# Information from School Office

## School Dinners

School Meals are priced at £2.45 and must be paid for in advance — cash or cheques can be sent in to School Office.

## Uniform

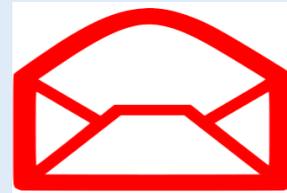
A quick reminder that the uniform consists of

- A sweatshirt with school logo
- A white polo shirt.
- Black trousers - girls are also permitted to wear skirts/pinafore in black
- Black polishable shoes.
- Jewellery – a wristwatch and a single stud in each ear are permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- Hair must be of standard school style with no extremes in colour, cut or styling.

## Trainers are not permitted as part of school uniform

*Sweatshirts and polo shirts are available, with the school logo, from the school office. Prices from £7.00 for polo's and £10.00 for jumpers*

## School Communications



Our main way of communicating with you will now be via **email**. This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce our carbon foot-print as a school.

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the school office.



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## Office information

**Phone number:** 0117 377 2175

**Email:** northstar82@northstar-academy.co.uk

**A reminder of the importance of any forms that are sent home to be filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office, who will be more than happy to help.**

