



Crookhill Community Primary School  
Hexham Old Road  
Ryton  
NE40 3ES

**Head Teacher:**  
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29<sup>TH</sup> November 2024

## FRIDAY LETTER

Dear parents and carers,

### **Parent Consultation Evenings**

Thank you to everyone who came along to school this week, it was wonderful to see so many of you. If you missed your appointment for whatever reason, please speak to your class teacher or contact the school office to make other arrangements.

### **Tree Lighting Ceremony**

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Tree Lighting Ceremony outside Ryton Methodist Church yesterday. This is a lovely community event, bringing schools and residents together in song and celebration. I'm sure you'll agree the lights looked amazing and if you have a chance to call into the church over the coming weeks, the Festival of Trees is on Saturday at 10am and again on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10am, with hot drinks and snacks. Crookhill has displayed its very own tree, see if you can spot it in the festive forest.

### **Author Visit**

Reception Class and Years 1 and 2 had a visitor this morning. The author, Alan Windram came to Crookhill to talk to the children about his book, Kevin the Orange. Alan read the story, and there were singalong action songs, dancing and a drawing workshop. The pupils got lots of ideas to help create their own stories and illustrations and everyone enjoyed the session.

### **Festivals of Light**

There are lots of festivals of light across the diverse cultures of the world and the lighting of lamps or lanterns is a significant part of the celebrations. Today, the children have been discovering a different festival and its origins. Mrs Jordan and the Reception children learnt about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, while Year 1 looked at Advent, the significance of candles and wreaths and the Christmas story. Year 2 looked at the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and made menorah, the nine branched candelabrum. Year 3 also studied Diwali, while Year 4 concentrated on Christingle, named after the little decorated oranges, symbolising the world and holding a burning candle. Year 5 concentrated on Sikhism and Diwali while Year 6 have been learning about the Chinese Lantern Festival, which signals the end of the new year celebrations. A traditional part of this celebration is to write riddles and hang them from lanterns for others to try and solve. Diversity is a great thing, it makes the

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world a much more fascinating place. Mixing with those that are different from us means we get a sense of connection with them. We learn more about the world and ourselves in the process, which helps us grow, accept and respect others.

### **Christmas Fayre**

I'm sure you will all know by now that is our Christmas Fayre next Friday with doors opening at 2.30pm. Santa Claus will be in his grotto with his elves, and he will have a post box on hand in case anyone has a wish list to post. There will be tasty refreshments in the dining hall, and lots of stalls in the main hall including tombola, raffles, face painting, crafts, Guess the Name of the Teddy, Christmas lucky dips and much, much more. Entry to the fayre is free, but we do ask that parents bring plenty of change please. Gates will be open at 2.15pm so that children can be collected from the yards as usual. Please then make your way back to the main entrance for entry to the fayre. Any children not collected will be supervised in school by a member of staff.

### **Christmas Dates**

Fri 6th Dec- Christmas Fayre – 2.30-4.30pm  
Thu 12th Dec- Christmas Dinner Day and Movie Night  
Mon 16th Dec-Reception/Key Stage One Nativity 2pm  
Tue 17th Dec- Reception/Key Stage One Nativity 11am  
Tue 17th Dec- Rec/KS1 Christmas Party afternoon  
Wed 18th Dec- Key Stage Two Carol Service at Holy Cross Church 10am  
Wed 18th Dec- Whole School Christmas Music Workshop 1.15pm  
Thu 19th Dec- KS2 Christmas Party  
Fri 20th Dec- Festive Friday and Winter Jumper Day  
Break up for the end of term holidays  
Return to school on Monday 6th January 2025

The weather has turned colder again this week and there are lots of winter bugs, coughs and colds about. Can we remind parents that children always need a warm coat, hat and gloves during the winter months, to stay cosy for outside playtimes.

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K McCormack  
Head Teacher

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