

Good afternoon everyone!

What a fabulous week!

The Early Years Team 'Nativity' just has to be the highlight of the week! Every year it amazes me how our team along with the 90 strong year group, collaborate together to produce something so special. The feedback we have received has been so kind, supportive and very welcome.

Another wonderful team effort I must mention was our annual Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea Party. This is a marvellous community event in which our School Council, choir and musicians entertain our special guests along with cups of tea and mince pies! Again we received lovely feedback and I quote *'We had come over from Whitby in torrential rain and gale-force winds to get here, but it was certainly worth it! We thought that all the children were charming and very attentive, they all introduced themselves to us and chatted about the school and what they were hoping for at Christmas, all whilst refilling our cups with tea constantly. We should also say how much we enjoyed the choir (which included our grandchildren), the poems, jokes and communal singing. We also enjoyed the superb piano playing by Findlay.'* It was very special to receive such a lovely letter.

Our 'Alternative Advent' continued this week with the key themes of kindness, bullying and discrimination. Next week will continue the debate around discrimination and introduce discussion about charity and tolerance. We sincerely hope by raising all these important topics for healthy discussion and debate, that we are laying some foundations to help our generation to be less judgemental, have more understanding and tolerance of everyone around them and see the importance of building connected communities.

Please see the below links for the 2 video clips we will be using towards the end of next week. The first is a song about difference, that KS1 children will see and discuss the words used in the song which celebrates difference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cv2overLgo>

The second link is for KS2 children to see and discuss - about a very inspiring young man also talking and celebrating difference.

https://www.ted.com/talks/cole_blakeway_we_are_all_different_and_that_s_awesome

I hope the links work or that you can copy them and paste them into a browser.

Next week promises to be just as exciting, with Year 6 visiting Huntington to see their pantomime. Carol Services for Key Stage 2 classes and a very special Christingle Service for Key Stage 1 classes. There will be a number of Christmas parties and a final morning celebrating a variety of talents in our Christmas Talent Factor - I am so delighted that so many children are taking the opportunity to take part within their year groups.

I am going to take this opportunity ahead of our busy last week before the holiday to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and to thank you and our staff team for all your energy, support and hard work this last term. It has felt like a partnership and I hope you all agree that even though nothing is ever perfect we are working hard together for the same goal - a happy, respectful and successful community who know how to keep safe and are always ready to learn.

Have a great weekend and a wonderful Christmas.

Chris Evans