

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

### Hello and welcome...

... to our termly e-newsletter! Don't forget to visit our [website](#) or click any of the many links which will take you directly to the blogs and photos on the website for each event and article.

This term has been super busy as always and on top of all of the learning and special events we were very excited to have our new headteacher, Rik, join us at the start of this term. We've all been getting to know him and he will tell you all about his first Newfield term in this issue!

## TAKEOVER WEEK

As well as new children & staff, we have now got a fortnightly special visitor - Baxter the Pets As Therapy dog - who is joining classes and causing much excitement!

There have been many charity events this term and we were very happy to benefit from our own fundraising along with a generous donation to buy our amazing new minibus!

We were pleased to welcome back the assessor for the [Leading Parent Partnership Award](#) - LPPA - and even more delighted to receive re-

## BRAND NEW HEADTEACHER

accreditation again for our work in partnership with parents.

We are very proud of our children and staff and continually challenge ourselves to improve, as well as reflecting on what has been achieved - the whole Newfield family working together!

Thanks as always for all of your help, commitment and support for school.

Have a wonderful festive season and our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2020!



## Message from the Headteacher, Rik

As we come to the end of my first term as Headteacher and another year, I wish to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your Newfield Family support. It has been a wonderful term for me, getting to know the children, families and all the staff. To witness the hard work and happiness that happens every day with the children has been staggering and I'm very proud to feel part of it.

We now have a brand-new school development plan to build on the already amazing work that happens here. Developed by staff, this has now been shared with Governors and families and I can't wait to get started on all our exciting plans in the new year.

It's been fantastic to see so many already familiar faces around school at the many events that have taken place this term. For those that didn't have the chance last time, I'll be holding another coffee morning in the spring term for families to attend and discuss issues with me and we move forward together. All are welcome to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the staff who all work so hard to make Newfield the magical place it is. The admin team, the premises management team, the teaching teams, the health care teams, the senior leaders and the Governors.

I wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas.

## CHARITY EVENTS

This term we have taken part in number of charity events, raising awareness and money to help others...

In September, we started off the fundraising and awareness raising for genetic conditions, wearing denim to celebrate [Jeans for Genes](#) day and raising £100.

We held 2 [Harvest Assemblies](#) and we collected food donations for the [Blackburn Food Bank](#) and had a great time singing, dancing, reciting poems and creating autumnal artwork! We now collect items for the Foodbank all year round - so if you have anything to donate, please send it into school!

After years of fundraising in school and kind donations from our friends at Stonyhurst, just before half term we received a large donation from EuroGarages, which allowed us to buy a fantastic new [minibus](#) to enjoy going out into the community and beyond!

In November we held 2 special [Remembrance assemblies](#) to think about the men and women who have lost their lives serving to make our world more peaceful. Halls were decorated with fantastic artwork - [peace posters](#) made for a British Lions art competition, and we sold poppies, pencils, wrist bands and stationery to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

In November, [Children in Need](#) day, was enjoyed by all, when we went spotty again, took part in lots of fun events and had a visit from Pudsey! We paid £1 to dress up, staff bought pudsey pie and altogether we raised £282.42 - last year we raised £190.75 - so thank you to everyone for your generosity. We all had a brilliant time and the money will help other children!



Thank you

ALL WHO SERVED, SACRIFICED,  
AND CHANGED OUR WORLD  
1918-2018



## THE BIG CLIMATE FIGHTBACK

At the end of November on a cold, bright day, we [planted a tree](#) in our grounds as part of the Woodland Trust initiative to fight climate change and support the environment. Pupils from the Rights Respecting School steering group wanted to raise awareness of the importance of caring for the planet and playing your part - so we pledged, and then planted our tree!



WOODLAND  
TRUST

#EveryTreeCounts



# WELLBEING FOR ALL

It is very important to us to look after everyone's wellbeing - making sure that pupils, families and staff are physically and mentally as well as possible, so we do lots of things in school to help promote this.

In September we celebrated our brilliant support staff on Teaching Assistant day - for us it was [Education, Health and Care Assistant Appreciation day](#) - and we thanked and spoiled our lovely staff with banners, shout outs, silly photos and cakes!

In October we joined in with [World Mental Health Day](#) with pupils and staff thinking about how they look after themselves and doing things to make them happy including exercise, singing, film club, spa experience and dancing!

[Baxter, the Pets As Therapy dog](#), has now started Newfield - joining us in school for a morning every fortnight. He visits classes & children can learn about caring for an animal, as well as having a cuddle, talking to him & taking him for a walk. He is proving very popular & really improving the wellbeing of everyone - we all look forward to seeing him around school.



# TAKEOVER WEEK



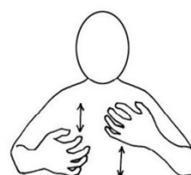
This has now become an annual event at Newfield, and pupils once again had a great time taking over adult roles in school. We had pupils taking over as headteacher, [deputies](#), support staff, swimming teachers, [site team](#),

[kitchen](#) and [office staff](#). They all took their responsibilities very seriously and did a fabulous job - so have a look at the many blog posts showing what we got up to in another very popular [Takeover week](#).

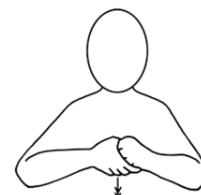


# SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION

Many of our children need help to communicate effectively, so we spend a lot of time working on developing communication skills. We have now introduced a [Makaton](#) sign of the week, to promote the whole school community making use of signing to support understanding. The sign is displayed in school and also on the website, alongside a video demonstration. We are also adding the symbol for the words, so that children have an additional tool to support them to communicate. Please have a look each week and practise it with your friends and family - the BBC have been using [Makaton](#) on 'Strictly...' so you'll be in good company!



Exciting



Friends



Let's talk Makaton



The end of term saw 3 weeks of exciting events in preparation and celebration of Christmas!

There was a [multi-sensory trip](#) to Lapland at the start of the month.

On the 6th December we held our annual [Christmas Fair](#) which was again well attended and had lots of stalls, games, treats and a special visitor! We raised an amazing £1,793 for school.

Then on the 12th December some pupils ran the termly Newfield stall down on [Blackburn Market](#) where they met lots of people & sold things they had made this term, raising over £180.



Pupils also enjoyed [Christmas lunch](#), Christmas parties - including a [visit from Father Christmas](#) - and a [Christmas Carol & Song Concert](#).



Staff took part in a [Christmas quiz!](#)

The whole school had a special collection for [Christmas for the Blackburn Foodbank](#), to think about helping other people at this special time of year.

# Christmas Celebrations

In the run up to Christmas at the end of term, pupils in 2-11 age phase held a traditional [Nativity](#).



The RRSA & choir members visited [Queens Lodge](#) to entertain the residents and staff.

## Christmas Holiday

### School closes:

Friday 20th December 2019

### School re-opens to staff:

Monday 6th January 2020

### School re-opens to pupils:

Wednesday 8th January 2020

## Spring Half Term Holiday

### School closes:

Friday 14th February 2020

### School re-opens:

Monday 24th February 2020

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Newfield

Inspire | Support | Achieve | Together