



*'Growing together in love and learning'*

## Sessay CE Primary School Monthly Newsletter

December 2025...

What a busy, festive month we have had celebrating with numerous school community events.

Sessay Songbirds Riverside Court - December kicked off with a joyful celebration of Christmas songs and fun with our friends at Riverside Court. Sessay Songbirds were an absolute joy! They sang so beautifully, played Christmas bingo and enjoyed a few treats! Many of them said it was the best visit ever and were asking when they can go again! It was a truly wonderful way for all generations to celebrate this special time of the year.



Sessay Community Carol Concert at the Village Hall. A huge thanks to FOSS for hosting a truly festive school community event showing off an abundance of musical talents. We were treated to an evening of carols from our youngest pianists, Sessay Songbirds, mother and daughter duets, family performances, former pupil solos and much more!



On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December we all enjoyed Christmas Jumper Day and our much-loved Christmas Market – as always the KS2 children's games and class stalls were fantastic. Our Christmas fundraising has raised over £1000! Well done everyone and a massive thanks to FOSS and all for your ongoing support. Much of our Christmas festivity fun – Christmas show, crackers and gifts is all possible because of this and extras are going towards a new outdoor 'wobbly bridge piece of play equipment' for all to enjoy. We really are so blessed and grateful to the generosity of our whole school community.



Design A Robe!

To mark inter-faith week, all the children were invited to create an image in response to the question, 'Where do you see God in our school?'



The winner was chosen by Rev'd. Katie at Husthwaite and will be sewn onto the Archbishop of York's Stole and Cope along with another 120 school's entries.

Well done to Rosalie for her amazing winning design.

Byland visit to Riverside Court Care Home - on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December we had our first visit to our friends at Riverside. It was an absolutely wonderful visit, which the residents and children loved. We sang our nativity songs, had a drink and bun, played pass the parcel and ended with some dancing! The children came away with some sweet treats and festive memories. I was incredibly proud of the children, well done to Byland. (Mrs Fielding)



Rev David came in last week to share a Christmas Collective Worship with the whole school about Nativity around the world and the depiction of the nativity scene in Australia, India, Thailand and Cameroon in comparison to the UK. They most certainly were not all our usual stable nativity scene that we know, however many elements remain the same, including Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



On Monday we were treated to a fabulous performance by Byland and Fountains class of 'A King Is Born' at the village hall. Everyone was so impressed with the acting, singing and dancing; it really was a joyful and very professional performance! A lot of hard work went into the performance by all the children and staff. Well done to everyone involved.



We had a very special visitor in school on Monday at the children's Christmas parties! Father Christmas spent time talking to all the classes and every child received a special gift.



On Tuesday we all enjoyed a yummy Christmas Lunch with thanks to Mrs Smith and in the afternoon the Lovell family treated us all to their mobile petting farm visit – Walter the Christmas pony, rabbits and guinea pigs were petted by all.



On Wednesday there was lots of laughs at our Christmas show - *Astro-Norma and the Cosmic Piano!* A fun, intergalactic musical adventure. The story followed Norma, a talented pianist whose skills are truly “out of this world” as she dreams of exploring space. Packed with robots, aliens, and plenty of cosmic puns, it was an imaginative and entertaining show for all and our children thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you again to FOSS for providing another fabulous event for the children.



Yesterday every child in school enjoyed collecting a stocking off the village green tree with thanks to Thirsk Yarn Bombers for this lovely treat. In the afternoon they learnt about the meaning of and made their very own Christingle for our Christingle service later today. A huge thank you to the Spilman family for sponsoring this activity.



### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December Awards

#### Byland, Mrs Tyrka and Mrs Fielding.

**Sessay Acorn Award** – Lucy deserves this award for all the hard work and effort she puts in at school. She is joy to teach; she has lots of fun and is a good friend to everyone. Well done Lucy!

#### Fountains, Mrs Bennison.

**Sessay Acorn Award** – Martha has impressed us with publishing her story this week; she included adjectives, adverbs and exclamation marks! Her writing was super neat too. Well done Martha.  
**Headteacher's sticker** – Ted is such an enthusiastic

<p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> - Gilbert is a pleasure to teach, he is always ready to learn and also has lots of fun with his friends. A well-deserved headteacher award Gilly, well done!</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> - Ollie thoroughly enjoys maths. He is quick to subitise numbers, make a given amount, and talk about his work. He can explain what he is doing and why? Super work Ollie, keep it up!</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Sienna and Struan have both displayed super phonics knowledge when writing words and phrases. They listen carefully for each phoneme and write them down correctly. Keep up the super work!</p>	<p>member of Fountains and always works hard in lessons. He impressed us with his work in Science sorting animals which hibernated, migrated or adapted, over the winter months. Well done Ted.</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> – Fearne has worked hard with recording the properties of 2d shapes this week. Super work Fearne.</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Olivia's handwriting is beautiful, and she has quickly adapted to using the newly introduced cursive script. Well done Olivia – keep it going.</p>
<p><b>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Emily for her super attitude in class; great effort with her work and for being a good friend to her peers, well done!</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> – Ebony for her lovely attitude in class, she is always offering a helping hand and especially at this time of year, it really is appreciated – thank you!</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> – Frankie for being very focused with his maths at the moment, he seems to really be enjoying our work on multiplication and division.</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Teddy for great effort with his writing recently; he is editing his ideas and he produced a super piece of published work last week – keep it up!</p>	<p><b>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Henry for using his taught French knowledge and applying it in his independent writing.</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> - Denver, Stuart and Jack M for staying to the end of the Christmas Market to help with packing away and clearing up. Great community spirit!</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> - Mia for persevering with ordering fractions.</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Billy for his faultless playscript using all the taught features.</p>

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December Awards

<p><b>Byland, Mrs Tyrka and Mrs Fielding.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Gilbert is working so hard in class and having lots of fun! He knows all his tricky words and his handwriting is getting better each week! Keep up the hard work Gilly!</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> - Struan is great to have in Byland class, as he is always so enthusiastic and also very helpful; offering to do jobs and help his friends. Well done Struan!</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> - Sienna is a superstar mathematician! She loves our maths lessons and is confident with numbers to 10. She also loved spotting when Motty mis-counted the corners of a triangle! Well done Sienna!</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Lucy is really embracing writing at the moment, not only in our phonics and writing session, but she also chooses to write during child-initiated learning time. Great attitude Lucy!</p>	<p><b>Fountains, Mrs Bennison.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Genevieve has worked so hard with her postcard from Kenya this week and also in rehearsals for our Nativity. Well done Genevieve.</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> – Henry for his super attitude to his learning. Henry has worked hard with his handwriting and with lines of symmetry in maths this week. Well done Henry.</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> – Daisy for her accurate drawings of 2d shapes and drawing in vertical lines of symmetry. Well done Daisy.</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – James for using a range of conjunctions and adjectives whilst writing his postcard. Etta – Also for her postcard – her writing was so neat and her spellings were accurate. She even used an exclamation mark too! Fabulous work Etta – well done.</p>
<p><b>Bolton, Mrs Sowray and Mr Houghton.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Freddie for his work on volcanoes; he has contributed well to lessons and has shown real enthusiasm in class.</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> – Leila and Elkie for their imagination and expression when performing their Roman group dances.</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> – Cameron for working particularly hard on his times tables, keep up the good work!</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Stanley for his letter describing what happened on the day Mount Vesuvius erupted, he made some good vocabulary choices, well done!</p>	<p><b>Rievaulx, Ms Gauder and Mr Chapman.</b></p> <p><b>Sessay Acorn Award</b> – Olivia for continued and sustained progress with spellings.</p> <p><b>Headteacher's sticker</b> - Jack M for spotting syllable patterns in poetry.</p> <p><b>Mathlete</b> - William N for his incredible progress in times table recall.</p> <p><b>Writer of the week</b> – Cora for her wonderful poem full of creativity based on the theme of 'hope'.</p>

	Class award for attainment.	Class award for progress and effort.	Class award for good manners.
BYLAND	Rec - Sienna	Rec – William	Rec – Struan
FOUNTAINS	Y1 - Ralph Y2 - Joseph	Y1 - Jessica Y2 – Finlay	Y1 - Etta Y2 - Gege
BOLTON	Y3 – Emily Y4 - Cameron	Y3 – Frankie Y4 – Leila	Y3 – Poppie Y4 - Pippa
RIEVAULX	Y5 - Harriet Y6 – Jack Midgely	Y5 - Connie Y6 – Ellie H	Y5 - Alice Y6 - Farrah

#### HEADTEACHER AWARD – Cora.

Cora displays our Christian school values in everything she does – challenge, trust, respect, enjoyment, friendship and responsibility. She is polite and well mannered. She always tries her very best and shows an excellent behaviour for learning. She is always a good role model to all and can be relied upon to carry out many areas of responsibility.

Cora contributes to our school as a whole in many different ways including Spiritual Leader, Sessay Songbird, pianist for collective worship / celebration collective worship and much more! Thank you.

This afternoon you are warmly invited to our **Christingle Service at St Cuthbert's Church at 1.30pm**. Once again we are supporting The Children's Society this year.



We wish all our children and families a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Enjoy the festivities and have a fabulous Christmas holiday!

#### NOTICES:

- Please can we remind all parents and carers that holidays during term time will be unauthorised unless they meet the updated Elevate MAT exceptional circumstances criteria. Please be aware unauthorised absences can result in penalty fines from NYCC. Please see the updated criteria and proforma attached that will be in place from January 2026, available on our website and hard copies from the school office.
- **December online safety newsletter for parents.** Please see the December online safety newsletter to support you in providing your child with a safe online environment. As always we want to promote having a safe online environment for children both at school and at home.
- North Yorkshire Council Winter Healthy Living advice for Families leaflet is attached for your information. This has been sent from NYCC to remind us about eating a healthy diet. Mrs Fielding who is our Federation subject leader for PSHE, was shocked to see how much sugar is in her much loved mince pie!

#### SPRING TERM DIARY DATES:

19 December	Christmas Church Service at St Cuthbert's Church 1.30pm <i>2.30pm School breaks up for Christmas holiday.</i>
5 January 2026	Training Day – School Closed.
6 January 2026	Start of the Spring Term.
9 January 2026	Y5/6 Thirsk Cluster Swimming Gala
12 January 2026	Stay and Play 9am
14 January 2026	Y4/5 Swimming Lessons Start
28 January 2026	Y6 Beauty & The Beast Production at Ampleforth College
30 January 2026	Bag2School Collection
2 February 2026	Stay and Play 9am Y5/6 Newby Wiske Parent Information Meeting on Teams, 5pm
6 February 2026	Curriculum Enrichment Day – Maths and NSPCC Number Day
13 February 2026	School breaks up for half term holidays
23 February 2026	School opens for Spring Term 2