



NEWSLETTER

DEC
2023

WINTER

A message from our headteacher...

Dear Families,

The autumn term has been busy this year as pupils settle into their new classes. We have had a great focus on curriculum recall and children building on prior learning over the last few months. Pupils have astounded me with their knowledge in the foundation subjects where they are able to make links between topics and showcase their learning in discussions and in their books.

Reading, as always has been a focus as we prepare pupils from Reception for a secure reading journey ahead. Amber, our reading dog has been a huge hit amongst our pupils, who enjoy reading to her on a weekly basis. We have also purchased a brand-new library scanning system, to track our most popular reading books and children's reading chronology over time. This will help us when working alongside our School Council to decide on new books we will purchase over time. We are also seeing an increase in pupils' achievement their reading targets and attending our half termly reading party.

A huge well done to all our pupils, but also to our families for supporting us with such a valuable life skill at home. The importance of regular reading can never be underestimated!

In the lead up to Christmas, school has been filled with joy and celebration. Our stars have been working so hard both on their singing and performing skills for their Christmas performances. There really is something quite special about this time of year in school.

As always, I would like to thank families for your continued support with your child's education. We are always blown away by the interest, support and care you give to our lovely school. This is always very much appreciated.

We look forward to another successful term at Browney and hope you have a wonderful Christmas break.

With very best wishes.

C. Harris

Catherine Harris,
Headteacher



In this issue...



Singing for the community

Our choir sang beautifully at the local Christmas light switch on event.



At one with nature

This term a group of our pupils planted bulbs ready for spring in partnership with Friends of Addison park.



Buddies are back

This term our older children paired up with a younger pupil to become buddies.



European Day of Languages

This year we marked the day by getting a flavour of cultures around the world.



Ted lighting up the sky!

Congratulations to Year 3 Ted whose artwork was apart of this year's Lumiere celebration!

Ted was up against over eight hundred other entries in the competition and everyone at our school was delighted to hear that he was one of the winners.

Ted and his family visited the Lumiere to witness his work projected up on Durham Castle in full technicolour - take a look at his masterpiece!

What an honour!



European Day of Languages

To mark European Day of Languages this term, pupils across school explored different languages and delicacies to celebrate the culture and diversity of the countries around us.

Each class focussed on a different European country and then created a food stall based on their specialities. The children were delighted to take their European tokens to the different stalls, learn about different languages and cultures, and of course, try the delicious food!

Absolutely everybody did a fantastic job presenting and performing their new language skills, well done everyone!



Gardening Club

Gardening Club was back with a bang in the new school year. After the holidays, the group's first task was to tidy up the reading garden after not having any TLC for six weeks during the holidays.

The group researched which plants and vegetables grow in the autumn and winter seasons and got straight on the job of planting winter pansies, carrots and chard before discussing how to care for the plants in order for them to grow. We can't wait to see what blooms in the Spring term!



Did you know?

Little Candles' Day, or Día de las Velitas, marks the start of the Christmas season across Colombia.

The tradition sees locals across the country place candles and paper lanterns on show in their windows, balconies and front yards. Over the years the tradition has evolved and now entire towns and cities are lit up around this time of year.



We're going on a bear hunt

Reception's class story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', inspired our explorers to set out on their very own bear hunt.

The group acted out the story before heading outside to hunt for bears and build their own cave. The class drew a map to help the family find their way home!



Hello Amber!

We loved welcoming Amber the therapy dog back into school this term. Our children love to read stories to Amber and give her lots of love!



Friends of Addison Park



In November, a group of our pupils enjoyed a lovely afternoon planting spring bulbs as part of a community afternoon with Friends of Addison Park.

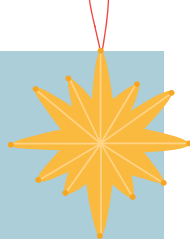
With funding from Durham County Council Civic Pride as part of the 'it's in your neighbourhood' grant, over 4000 bulbs were purchased to plant. Our children didn't let the rain dampen their spirits as they planted tulips, snowdrops, crocus and bluebell bulbs. We can't wait to see them all appear in the springtime!

Staff from Friends of Addison Park said: "We have really enjoyed planning the bulb planting session with Browney Academy so that we can plant the spring bulbs together. The flowers will be ready to make an appearance in the spring and when they do each year, as well as brightening up Addison Park we will be reminded of the efforts of the children who planted them. We want to thank the school and all involved for helping make our park even better for the community and we hope you enjoy seeing the fruits of your labour early next year when you come to play."

A member of Durham County Council's Clean Team said: "I would like to say how wonderfully behaved the children were and a total credit to the school. We could have not done the planting without them."



Back in time



This term our Year 2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed a day at Durham Castle as part of their learning topic, Movers and Shakers.

The children were wowed to learn about the significant people who lived there, especially William the Conqueror and the Prince Bishops, and they enjoyed searching the grounds for the different coats of arms! Everybody learned lots of new interesting facts and topped off the day by creating their own castles.

We certainly have some budding historians among us!



Best buddies

To begin the term, our brilliant buddies spent an afternoon with Reception to get to know each other better whilst enjoying the sun!

Each year, each member of our Reception class is paired up with a pupil in Year 6, who becomes their 'buddy', someone to turn to if they ever need a friend or someone to look up to. They have formed such amazing friendships this term and it's lovely to see them getting along so well.



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

19 DEC - Break up for Christmas

04 JAN - Back to school

16 FEB - Break up for half term

26 FEB - Back to school

Christmas careers

Ski Instructor

When you're a grown up, you may choose to have a sporty career! A ski instructor spends the winter months teaching people how to ski in the mountains across a range of beautiful countries.

Events Manager

Do you like Christmas parties? When you're older, you may like to have a job where you plan lots of parties, including Christmas parties! An Events Manager makes sure events run smoothly, whether they're small events for a small group of people or huge events for thousands of people!

Did you know?

In Germany, every year on the evening of the 5th December, German children leave a boot or a shoe outside their bedroom door.

When they wake up, if they've been good, they'll find their shoe filled with sweets! If not, they'll open their door to find a branch...



Spreading Christmas cheer loud for all to hear



It was a pleasure to have our choir invited to sing at the local Christmas tree switch on event again this year.

The choir did a wonderful job singing a selection of Christmas songs to help everyone get well and truly into the Christmas spirit. Many people from around Browney, Brandon and Meadowfield came to enjoy the event and listen to our pupils' performance.

Well done Choir, and thank you to all who came and supported us!

Christmas performances



In the lead up to Christmas we were thrilled to welcome our families into school to enjoy some wonderful festive performances from our children including Reception's nativity play with a country hoe down twist! Our superstars also performed beautifully during their Christmas concert.



Spook-tacular!

Back in October, some of our pupils took part in a Halloween themed multi-skills festival at Maiden Castle. The group had a great time taking part in the massive range of activities in their wonderfully spooky costumes!

