

The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale Federation

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Usually at this time of year I would be looking back to remind us of our wonderful achievements. This year is no exception. Although it has indeed been an enormously challenging and exhausting year for teachers, parents, carers and our children, the spread of Covid-19 has not deterred us all from giving our absolute best. We have all had a different journey when we reflect upon our experiences regarding the virus and lockdown. However, no matter how we remember 2020 we should all be immensely proud of the way we have supported each other, united, and determined to keep each other safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, parents and carers for their understanding and commitment during the pandemic. The success of our Federation relies upon how well we all work together. During this unprecedented time, we have certainly been provided with a testimony of co-operation and teamwork. My thanks to you all.

Whilst writing to you may I introduce four new members of the governing board.

Foundation Governors:
Mrs Miriam Stanton
Rev. John Ford
Rev. Robert Opala

LA Governor:
Mrs Jayne Tallintyre

We say goodbye to governors, Amanda Beanland, Barbara Milburn, and Amanda Hall. Being a governor has its challenges with commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk, and scrutinising educational outcomes. Our grateful thanks are given for the time and commitment these governors have given, voluntarily, over the years and we wish them every success with their future endeavours.

I hope you will join me in my optimism for 2021. My sincere best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Best wishes,

Bev Workman
Chair of Governors

"... with God all things are possible." Matthew 19: 26



'Believe & Achieve'

Upcoming Events

December 15

Christmas Jumper Day &
Christmas Lunch (Bilsdale)

December 18

Break up for Christmas

January 4

Staff training day

January 5

Children return to school

Reminder

**Early closure of our
schools on 18th
December 2020.**

Governors have agreed that both Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale Midcable schools will close at lunchtime on Friday 18th December 2020. This is to facilitate additional non-contact time so all staff can carry out additional cleaning of resources used in school and attend a training session.

She's done it!

During the first lockdown, Izzy set herself the challenge of reading her height in books. Seven months and over 65 books later, Izzy has achieved it: the book stack is taller than her and she has already started the next book! Fantastic Izzy! Congratulations!

Now it's your turn... be inspired by Izzy. Can you be ankle deep in books that you read over Christmas? When will you be knee high in books? Can you read your own height in books in 2021?



PE

Thank you to all our families who have completed the Autumn Term PE challenges on Tapestry and uploaded your results. A special well done to all our Reception children who participated.

Please can we remind everyone to wear plain black, grey or navy trainers for PE and to bring a pair of school shoes to change into when indoors.

EYFS

After testing out our remote learning at the beginning of the half term the children have enjoyed our topic 'Can we Switch it On?' They have built junk robots, explored solar power, created light circuits, and finally switched on our Christmas lights.

We have had lots of very busy elves in our Christmas workshop, following instruction sheets to build some super toys for Christmas

We are so proud of our resilient children. They have adapted to the circumstances to become film actors for our Nativity story – we are very excited to share it with parents!



Our tree in Faceby Church

Thank you Mrs Howe, it looks fab-ul-ous!



Our theme was 'Angels' reflecting the Forever Angels charity which we are supporting the Christmas

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carltonbilsdaleschools>

Class 3

Do you have a poor memory? Are you in need of extra speed? Would you like to be invisible? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then ask Class 3 as they have the potions for all of these. The ingredients are difficult to source:

- A sprinkle of dried spider eyes (Jovi's shape shifting potion)
- 5 capfuls of glowing stars (Olivia's night vision potion)
- Ash of a fiery phoenix (Alex's immortality potion)

We didn't have all the ingredients but the children loved making potions. They used their scientific knowledge e.g. knowing that vinegar and bicarbonate of soda creates a gas. They remembered their home learning of volcanoes from the Tremors topic during lockdown (well done, parent teachers!). This week we have tried to separate our potions using sieving, filtering and evaporation to see if we can get the original ingredients back. It's been a great topic, lots of learning and connections made between science and stories and memories made with the potion making.

The class love art and our work on love potions with Romeo and Juliet led to heart art. Being inspired by an idea from Picture News, we decided that we would laminate our art work and send it to Allison House Nursing home in Stockton to spread some love and cheer to the residents, all of whom are living with Alzheimer's dementia. The love put into the work shone through. The children took great care creating different designs and patterns using a heart.

We have prepared for Christmas making decorations for our school Christmas tree and for the Christmas tree festival at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Faceby. Our class Christmas service is on Tapestry for you to see.

Keep warm during the holiday, our next topic is a cold one – we are exploring the Polar Regions in our topic Frozen Kingdom.

Merry Christmas

Miss Jeffries



Do Good December: Kindness Calendar

2020 has been a difficult year in so many ways. We have suffered with uncertainty, anxiety, isolation and challenges with our financial situation, health or relationships. One thing that can hold us together and help us get through is kindness. Although we can't change our situation, we can choose to respond to others (and ourselves) with kindness. When we're kind, everything goes better. We help others, we help ourselves and we encourage others to be kinder too.



Here's how you can get involved and make a difference:

Take daily actions using our [calendar](#) and [app](#)

Go deeper & learn more by joining a [local group](#)

Spread the word on social media [#DoGoodDecember](#)

This month's theme is based on Giving: Do things for others which is one of the Ten Keys to Happier Living >> Find out more about the Ten Keys.

Bilsdale School

Bilsdale have had another busy half term. Some of the highlights have been mixing a gas to inflate balloons, creating potions, making bath bombs and generating art work by melting crayons. All of these activities have enabled the children to understand solids, liquids and gases. We have really worked hard to improve our writing this term and the children are really challenging themselves to extend their vocabulary and think carefully about their word choices.

At the moment we are journeying through advent and have lit the second candle on our Advent Wreath. We have learnt what each candle on the wreath represents The first Hope and Prophecy, the second Faith or the Bethlehem candle to remind us of Mary and Joseph's journey. The third candle which is pink on our wreath represents Joy and is sometimes called the Shepherds Candle and the fourth candle or Angel candle represents Love. We have a fifth candle in the middle which is white and represent Jesus who we know is sometimes called the Prince of Peace

All the children have worked really hard to paint an Advent candle and learn a verse about light.



Although Christmas this year is very different we have realised that the key messages remain the same, and we have taken time to look for the light within us all and reflect on what Advent and Christmas mean to us.

Have a peaceful Christmas

Mrs Grundmann

Light

The gift of light
I thankfully hold
And pass to my
neighbour
Its shining gold
That everyone may
Feel its glow,
Receiving and giving
May love and grow
When all our friends
Have lit their light
No more shall continue
The darkness of night:
But joyful all people
The message shall
hear:
The Christ draws near.

Anon



Class 2

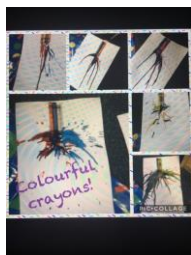
Over the last two weeks, we have enjoyed stepping into Christmas with the arrival of Advent. We have enjoyed sharing our Advent Acts of Kindness Calendar, from sharing smiles to a little kindness phrase with each other. The children are really enjoying having the opportunity to support each other's happiness and well-being.

We are enjoying working on a special Christmas writing unit in English...My Christmas Star ✨ and thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of drama where we had fun acting emotions.

This year, we have our own special posada, which is travelling around the classroom sharing the joy of Christmas.

It has been an exciting half term for us in Class 2. Not only have we become designers and creators of bath bombs but great colourful artists too. The children had great fun following spells to create the most spectacular pink and blue bath bombs! We were all truly amazed with how much they fizzed and all agreed that they were much better than shop bought bath bombs. Our colourful wax crayon creations were also delightful and bright generating lots of discussions on the scientific processes involved when crayons melt.

We are all now enjoying learning our special class Nativity which we are looking forward to sharing with you on Tapestry.

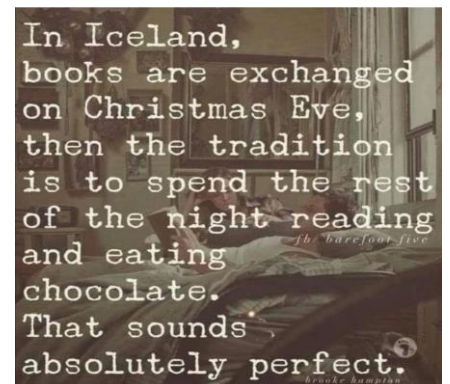


Thank You!

The PFA would like to thank all parents who bought Christmas cards, tags and mugs this year. Your purchases have raised £160 for the PFA fund which is fantastic.

Obviously we are unable to hold our usual PFA Christmas party this year but we are looking forward to safer times next year when we can plan some exciting events!

The PFA wish you all a wonderfully relaxing and fun Christmas!



Staying safe online this Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching, schools, parents and carers across the country are getting ready for the two week break and of course, young people are getting ready for the new toys to play with.

With technology gifts being high on wish lists each year it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new devices.

To help you over the holidays, we've set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online.

Buying technology as gifts?

Learn your way around

Most devices have controls to ensure that children can't access content you don't want them to. These include settings for online searching, "in-app" purchases, as well as screen time allowances. Once you hand over devices on Christmas morning it can be hard to get them back, so it's great to have a go on any devices you buy before handing over on the morning of the 25th! This allows you to set up any restrictions in advance and learn your way around any settings and functionalities in case your child comes to you for help!

Setting-up your tablets in advance

Tablets are really popular with younger children and there are a wide range to choose from, including child-friendly and educational models. When it comes to setting up and using tablets, why not start slowly? Download games and apps you have checked out carefully. Sites such as Net Aware or Common Sense Media provide useful advice.

For mobile phones

If you have older children and are thinking about getting them a new phone for Christmas, this can pose different challenges. The warnings are evolving, having your home computer in a communal place doesn't easily apply to this modern technology. If you think about it - phones are literally mobile computers and have the power of most traditional desktop PCs.

Top tips for phones or tablets over the holidays

- Set boundaries

Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

- Apply Screen Time Limits

Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

- Sleep comes first

We advise that phones or tablets stay out of the bedroom overnight to charge. This avoids those night time distractions.

- Ask for access

If you're concerned about something happening or want to take a look at the games and apps they are on, ask them to allow you access to the phone.

Monitoring vs having a conversation

It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity on devices. This type of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy. Instead why not have a conversation about the types of things they are doing online, and create a family agreement to set out expected behaviour.

The best advice we can give is to talk to your child regularly and openly about behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong.

Parental controls over the holiday

As young people will be spending more time online over the holidays, why not consider setting up parental controls on your Wi-Fi? You can block access to inappropriate or adult content and set time limits which may help rein in those excessive Fortnite sessions. For advice on how to do this, Internet Matters have a great guide on setting up parental controls.

Deciding about gaming

Each year there are so many exciting games and consoles around, there is a good chance you might have one coming into your house.

There are a few different ways to make a judgement about the types of games that are right for your child – but research is key. Downloading and using the game or app yourself is a great idea to experience first-hand what your child may be exposed to. Understandably for some parents, this can seem a little intimidating but it will also mean you're well placed to support your child if you go on to let them use it too.

Alternatively, you can go to **NetAware** or **Common Sense Media** for more information. We have also put together **specific guidance** on how to decide and manage which games your child is allowed to play.

Setting New Year's resolutions

New Year is a great time to make some new resolutions around technology use. From taking a look at your account settings and cleaning up friends lists to getting involved in **Safer Internet Day on February 9th**, why not resolve to make the online world a little kinder in 2021?



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The DfE and Public Health England have agreed a 6-day window after the final day (18th December) of teaching this term, in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

Therefore, we ask that you would contact us via email to BOTH admin@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk and headteacher@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk between 8.30-4.00 to inform us if your child shows symptoms of the virus, up until the end of Christmas Eve (24th December). Please include a telephone number where you can be contacted during those hours by Mrs Martin or myself. Beyond this window, school staff will not be asked to play a role in any contact tracing.

We understand that this information has come rather late in December for us all, however the guidance was only received from the DfE late Tuesday afternoon.

Bilsdale and Carlton & Faceby Schools will re-open to the children on Tuesday 5th January, 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and hope that you all stay safe over the break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McDonald

