Our Willow Wood Newsletter

Autumn 2—December

Welcome to our half termly newsletter where we will share with you the wonderful things we are doing to support the wellbeing of everyone in our Willow Wood family and celebrate amazing reading.

On Friday 8th December, the whole school dressed in festive attire to complete a *Santa Dash* on the school yard.

On the 11th December some of our children made the school very proud by taking part in a *Football Tournament*.

In preparation for the *Skipping Festival* our Year 4 children enjoyed a skipping workshop to learn and develop some key skills.

On the 10th December the children in Year 2 enjoyed *snowtubing*.

In November, children in Nursery made a ***poppy wreath*** and then enjoyed a ***visit to Seaham*** to lay the wreath beside the ***Tommy statue***. They also took time to take notice of the sights and sounds around them with a visit to the beach.

Our Y6 children visited ***London*** in December, it was a jam-packed but amazing day. After getting the train to ***King's Cross*** they visited ***Buckingham Palace*** and ***The Houses of Parliament***.

There were lots of opportunities to connect this half term. The children enjoyed ***Halloween*** and ***Christmas parties*** in school and some children bought tickets and came along to our after school disco. Our EYFS and KS1 children completed their ***annual Christmas performances*** while the children in KS2 enjoyed singing in our ***Christmas Carol Concert***.

The whole school enjoyed ***Christmas dinner*** in the hall– there was festive music, festive jumpers and a delicious Christmas meal cooked by our wonderful Maxine.

We all enjoyed a ***magical afternoon*** with hot chocolate, snow and a ***visit from a reindeer***. Despite the rain, a wonderful and unforgettable afternoon was had by all. The children also enjoyed a ***pantomime*** and our ***Christmas Fayre*** was a huge success!

Children in Nursery and Reception visited ***Red Fox Garden World*** to see Santa—they posted letters, had a ride on his sleigh, walked through a magical wonderland and visited his workshop to spend their magic coin. Children in KS1 visited ***Boldon Lodge*** to see Santa and had fun toasting marshmallows and walking around the forest.

We enjoyed our second ***Textiles Day*** in school where all of the children were given the ***opportunity to make a poppy***. The children enjoyed using felt and wool to make their poppies. While it was an enjoyable experience, there were some difficulties encountered with threading needles and cutting felt—however, our resilient children never gave up and were proud of their creations.

Miss Phillips started her ***craft club*** this half term and the children have been learning different skills and creating some wonderful works of art.

The ***choir performed at Redhouse Community Centre*** on Saturday 2nd December. Mr Henderson and the choir gave time on their weekend to being some festive spirit to the local community.

We ***raised awareness of Children in Need*** and came to school in our pyjamas.

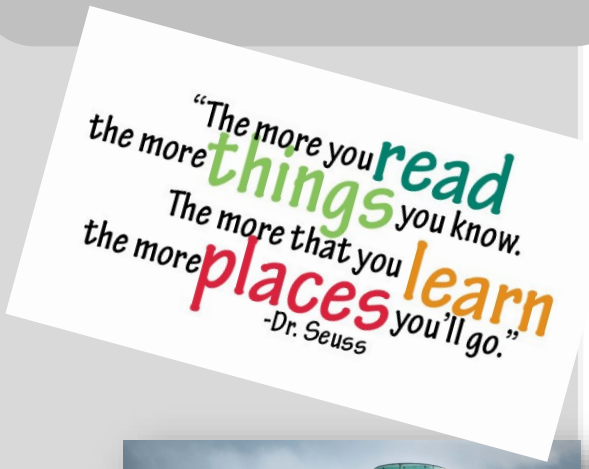
We love to read!

At Willow Wood, we want our children to be engaged with reading; we want our children to be readers! So, this year, we have introduced a new 'reading reward' scheme to celebrate, recognise and reward children in our school who:

- Read at home regularly
- Like to discuss their reading with staff and their friends
- **Show an excitement for and love of reading!**

So, every half term, different pupils will be chosen from different year groups who have impressed staff across the school with their reading to attend 'Seven Stories', which is an exciting museum also known as **The National Children's Centre of Books**! Here, children will get to explore the museum, take part in different workshops and admire different exhibitions. They will then get to browse their library and pick out two books: one for themselves and one for their class! This half-termly trip will take place in school time and is completely free of charge.

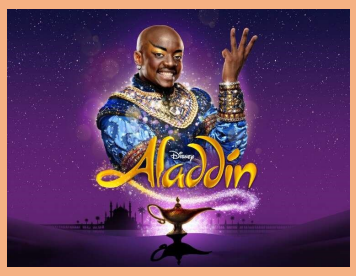
We can't wait to visit **Seven Stories** with the children and watch their excitement and passion for reading grow even more!



Coming soon...

Children's Mental Health Week

Visit to the Sunderland Empire to see Aladdin.



Some exciting new after school clubs.