



Schools newsletter

December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

If I had sent my annual "state of the nation address" twelve months ago predicting the year we would have no one would have believed it. I also suspect if I had said we would manage, albeit battered and bruised no one would have believed that either. The herculean effort that has gone into caring for, support and educating our children has been both moving to watch and see as well as a tribute to the commitment, tenacity and love that you all have all for our family of schools. The sleepless nights, the tears the stress and strain have all taken their toll and that is without the sickness and illness that some have also endured during this period. But now, as people of hope we can hopefully see a glimmer of light.

I always come back to one phrase that is repeated throughout the Gospel;

Do not be afraid, I have called you by your name, you are mine.

Out of the darkness God has constantly called us to be beacons of light. As we close our buildings I hope we can embrace this glimmer of light that we can see spending time with those we love at Christmas. I know the debacle of track and trace will linger until potentially Christmas Eve, but please make time to switch the IT off, take a break from social media and spend time, where you can, with those you love

On a practical level you can still talk to us if you need to. Whilst the office is closed throughout the break; my email will be monitored in the event of any emergencies. As a team we are really conscious of how fragile everyone is so please, if you need someone to talk to, pick up the phone. At this point I would like to publicly thank my team for what they have achieved this year. Liane, Anne, Jo, Caz and Margaret, Eileen, Susie, Michelle, Suzanne and Lisa – I have had so many heartfelt thank you's and positive comments as well as feedback about the support you have been given which I promise I have passed on. This year has been a challenging one for the Church financially and despite those concerns I feel the team have worked above and beyond to support you all for which I am incredibly grateful.

I look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year – the office reopens Monday 4th January but as I have said you know where you are if you need us.

Please take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Paul



*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happy
New Year*



The
Dioceses of Durham
and Newcastle





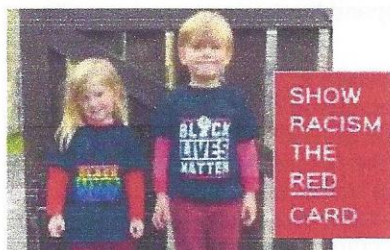
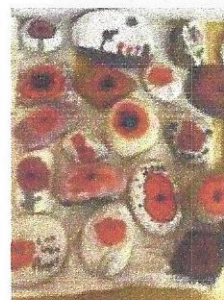
Whittingham put others first



Children from the Early Years Class at Whittingham arranged for a collection to help with the local Food Bank in Alnwick, this was part of their RE topic 'Communities' this half term.



For Remembrance Day - the children decorated stones with various designs to commemorate Remembrance Day instead of their usual paper poppies. The stones were used to decorate the playground, a memorial in the village and outside St Bartholomew's Church memorial as well as the commemorative war grave of, William Lewis a soldier who fought in WW1



Pupils celebrated their similarities and differences and showed racism the red card by wearing red and a variety of colours whilst finding out about Show Racism the Red Card Project and sharing stories such as Rainbow Fish, All are welcome and Mixed.. The children in Years 5 and 6 also enjoyed finding out about important roles in society held by people of all colours and faiths.

Last year Whittingham welcomed a new member off staff to school - Jess the Reading Dog! Due to Covid restrictions Jess is has not been able to go into school and has been greatly missed by the children so Jess and headteacher Belinda Athey listened to readers via Google Meet. This then inspired some of the children learning at home to read to their dogs.

