

Christmas Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest.

Students have worked hard and have made excellent progress, new students have settled in very well and all have achieved so much. We have, however, managed to find the energy to enjoy a host of festive celebrations over the past few days.

- Once again our Fair was a huge success raising £700 for our School Fund.
- Our two Christmas concerts showcased the many talents of our students (we hope that you enjoy watching the DVD attached to this newsletter).
- Christmas lunch was delicious.
- Many students have used their reward points to visit the cinema and local restaurants for lunch.
- Characters from the movie 'Frozen' sang and entertained us all in an excellent concert.
- We also raised over £185 from our 'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' which we have donated to 'Save the Children' fund.

On behalf of everyone at Catcote can I thank you for your continued support at all our events.

May I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday and best wishes for the new year.

Head Teacher - Mr Chapman



Save the Children **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Catcote Academy students and staff have raised £185 for Save the Children Fund by wearing a Christmas Jumper on our Christmas dinner day, and paying £1. Staff have also donated £1 and put a Christmas card to all at Catcote on a special board in the Coffee Shop. Thank you so much for your generosity, it is going to a very good cause. The government have agreed to match fund the money made, which will now mean save the children will receive £370 from Catcote Academy.

Mexico at the Metro Centre!!

Class 9 students visited Chiquitos at the Metro Centre in Gateshead as part of their



topic work. The students are learning about different countries as part of the 'Magic Carpet Topic'. We had a brilliant time, the staff at Chiquitos were very kind and generous and they organised a special Mexican experience with music,

sombreros, special food and even stick on moustaches!!



Some of the students enjoyed a bit of Christmas jumper shopping in preparation for events at school. A

brilliant time was had by all. A big thank you to all of our parents, carers and staff who helped to support the students.

MISFITS

The Misfits Motorcycle Group visited class 9 on Tuesday to deliver their Christmas present. These special friends visit the students in class 9 every Christmas to spend time with the students and bring a cash donation. The Misfits and their many friends have kindly donated a huge sum of £800. The staff and students were amazed by this kind donation from these very special friends. Words cannot say how grateful the staff and students are to all of our friends, parents and carers who donate money which enables the student to participate in special activities and to buy equipment which puts a huge smile on everyone's face. We want to say a big thank you and a very Happy Christmas to the MISFITS and all of our friends.



ZOOLAB

Class 4a students faced their fears when we had a visit from ZooLab. We loved to see and learn about the different creatures face-to-face!



Christmas Fair



The Christmas Fair was a brilliant success. Students, parents, friends and staff really enjoyed the fun and games. We had the famous 'Bottle and Chocolate' tombola, guess the name of the teddy, raffles from Middlesbrough Football Club and Catcote Futures as well as our own Parents and Friends raffle. The students purchased many toys, bric and brac, there was even chocolate snowmen cups from class 7! Our Young Enterprise 'Busy Bugs' company had plenty of lovely products on offer, which went down a storm. Link 6 sold out on the Hot Dog stall and Class 4a sold marshmallow pops. Link 7 had the fun 'Lemon Bob' challenge which proved difficult to complete. Overall we raised over £700 for Parents and Friends projects. Thank you to you all!

Class 4 Assembly Challenge

This was our first trip out of school as a class. Our challenge was to visit a place where there is a shop. We chose Ward Jackson Park's shop 'Place in the Park' and bought a drink and snack. We sat together as a class to enjoy our snack before having a play in the park. Challenge COMPLETE!



Sponsored Sky Dive

In September, Miss McIntosh raised money for Catcote Parents and Friends by doing a sponsored tandem sky dive! She jumped out of a plane from 2.5 miles high at speeds of 131mph. Around £400 was raised which will be going towards creating a sensory garden near class 4a classroom in the Spring.



Link 5 Carvery

As a reward for good behaviour and work this term, Link 5 spent some of their reward points.

As a class we decided, as it was Christmas, we would go to the Toby Carvery for a Christmas lunch and a festive pudding.

Students really enjoyed the whole experience.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students Kirsty Robertson and Alice Crinson have started their Gold Award which should take at least 18 months to complete. Part of this award will be a five day expedition and something new to them, a five day residential with students they don't know.



Forest School

New to the Academy is the forest school programme giving students the experience of outdoor learning. Forest school allows everyone the opportunity to learn through experience within a woodland setting in a hands on manner to develop their self-esteem and confidence. Mr Pounder who will soon become a forest school practitioner, has been taking students to Summerhill country park and with the help from the centre staff, has given the students a different kind of learning outside the classroom .

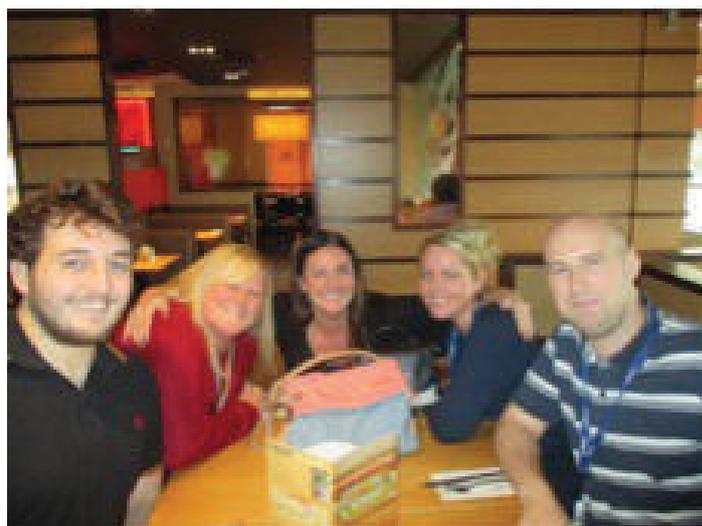


Supporting Macmillan

Students and staff from Link 3 have once again showed their support for Macmillan Cancer Research by helping the school to take part in the “Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning”. This is an annual event for Macmillan and for the school as we have supported the national charity over a number of years. The theme this year was to wear something green. Students swapped their uniforms for something green and donated a £1.00. The coffee morning was very well attended by students, parents and carers and by members of the public who enjoyed delicious treats baked by Catcote students and a refreshing cup of tea or coffee. We are very pleased and proud to announce that the event raised £642.75p. Well done and thank you to all who attended and to all the staff and students who helped to make this happen.



Rewards for hard work



Link 2, 3 and 4 decided to join up together for their reward. A visit to the Vue cinema to see “Get Santa” followed by lunch at Pizza Hut proved to be a great way to demonstrate “Points Make Prizes”.





Christmas Show DVD



Tycoons in Schools

The Peter Jones foundation created by the Dragons Den star, have supported enterprise in Catcote Academy through Tycoons in Schools. The project involved 3 separate companies, who were all loaned £100 each to set up a business and trade from 3rd November through to the 19th December.

Class 1 used the £100 loan to enable them to set up various mini enterprises. Within the class, four teams were set up and the students created a company identity including a company name, logo and mission statement. They conducted market research to find out what their potential customers were interested in and have spent many weeks planning, budgeting and creating products to sell. At the Christmas Fair they had the opportunity to show off their goods and with great success! Students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have developed their entrepreneurial skills!

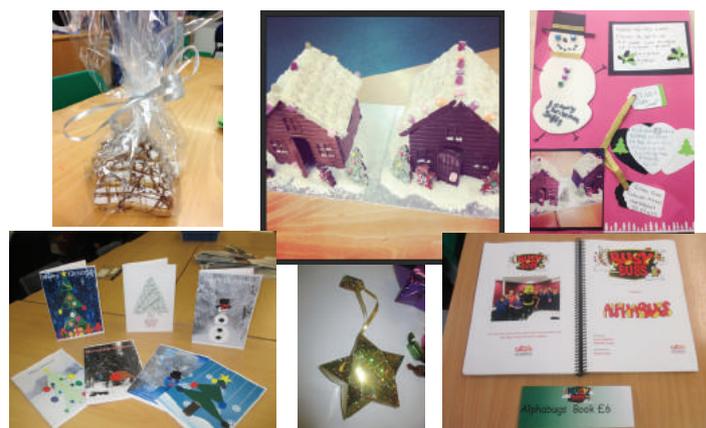


Our **Young Enterprise** company "Busybugs" used the cash to order their first print run of the educational 'Alphabug' book which was written and illustrated by the students. They researched children's books and binding techniques before placing an order of 30 books with Catcote Reprographics. The books proved very popular at the Christmas

Fair and received excellent feedback and even suggestions of having the books published professionally. The books have also been sold during a book signing at Asda and again at the Walkers crisp factory.



The final company was set up with the involvement of **Catcote Reprographics** and **Link 3**. The company designed and printed 7 different kinds of Christmas cards which completely sold out all 130 cards during the Christmas Fair. However the main project for this company was to create bespoke and very distinctive star shaped gift boxes. Students used the money loaned from the Peter Jones foundation to buy a die which could be used to cut out a star box template. The templates were cut out by the students and the folded and fastened together. This unique idea has been popular with customer as a gift box and also as a treat box when filled with sweets. Although trading is still taking place while writing this article, all 3 companies have been very successful making enough money to pay back the original loans and having a profit left over to share with the students.



Class 5 visit Dalton Park

To prepare for Christmas, Class 5 visited Dalton Park where we chose some chocolates to donate to the school fair tombola. We looked for Christmas presents and saw some lovely books. It was a new place for us to visit and of course we found a lovely coffee shop to visit!



Domes

In a trip to the golf domes the Class 5 students learned about taking turns, following rules and waiting for each other. They also accepted some tuition to learn how to use the golf clubs.



Class 7/CF7

Class 7/CF7 have had a busy start to the school year. They have been building a candy cart in preparation for our Christmas fund raising drive. Chris and James have worked tirelessly with John Courtney. John comes in every week to share his excellent wood craft skills with the boys. The candy cart was a major project that initially was too big to get out of the container in which it was built. Lots of head scratching and adjustments later the Cart was ready for our first fair at Hartlepool Special Needs Support Centre in Park Road. We then went straight onto the school fair before finishing off a whirlwind week of fund raising at Warren Roads Fair. As well as raising much needed funds, everyone had a brilliant time. Those building the cart, making the snowman soup and glittering the latte glasses. What a team!



Family and student support

At Catcote Academy, we feel close links between parents, carers, students and the school is very helpful to all. It is important for us to know how the students are getting on at home, especially if this impacts on their wellbeing in school. It also helps us to fully understand the students interests and needs. These close links enable the school to let you



know how well your child is progressing in school.

In addition to being able to contact your child's pastoral

Teacher, you can now contact Miss Lyn

Younger who we appointed last year as Family, Students support officer. Please feel free to contact her on the schools number 264036 if you have any queries or concerns you would like to discuss.

Artistic Talent

Daniel Lyon's artistic skills have been used and reproduced in lots of different ways with the help of our reprographics department. Daniel drew a fantastic picture of students and staff from Catcote Academy as part of our Community Enterprise week. The artwork was used for an invitation and also as a display to help brighten up our reception.

However we thought this was not enough and incorporated the support of the reprographics department to look for other ways we could use the image.

The picture shows Daniel displaying the gifts he has received, all featuring his work as a thank you from the school and Reprographics.



Busybugs

'Busybugs' the Young Enterprise team programme company are in their second year of trading and learning new business skills.

They were invited to Walkers at Peterlee in November, who they work in partnership with. This was to discuss and compare job roles with the Walkers management team. The students were surprised by the similarities of their roles and the Walkers staff were surprised and delighted by how knowledgeable the students have become.

This month Busybugs have had a BUSY time making products to sell to the public. Busybugs were invited to Asda on 4th December, the school fair on 5th December and Walkers factory at Peterlee on 11th December. This gave the students the opportunity to launch the new Alphabug book and book signings took place. The month of December has seen the sales of products which totals £258.80.



Class 6 Autumn Term 2014

This term has been a wonderful term for Class 6. We have welcomed 3 new students into our class, Sriti, Liam and Paige and all have settled in very nicely, we are very proud!

We have also had 4 new staff members join our team. Sam, Nicola, Ann and Louise has stepped in to cover Miss l'Anson's maternity leave, for which we wish her very good luck!

Our focus this term has been on 'Seasons'. We have been exploring and experiencing the changes of the seasons in our literacy, PSHE and community lessons.

We have enjoyed trips out to parks and shops and a visit from Zoo Lab where we got to meet lots of interesting and different animals.

We have lots to look forward to in 2015 – particularly a residential trip to an inclusive adventure holiday at the Calvert Trust in the Lake District.

Well done to all of our students – you've all done very well adapting to the changes to our new class and made some great progress this term. It has been very fun to teach you and I can't wait for next year. From Mr Kitson and all Class 6 Staff.



SEMHD Department

Pupils from Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMHD) have been attending Summerhill this term on a Tuesday afternoon to participate in new and challenging activities.

These have included high ropes, den building, indoor climbing, boulder climbing, mountain biking, orienteering, habitat managing and archery. All pupils have had a good time and enjoyed the challenges (even when it was cold!) We are all looking forward to some more challenges and the opportunity to practice working together next year.



International Links

International studies has taken a huge step forward this year with the formation of links between four new partner schools from Germany, Sweden, Turkey and Italy. Link classes have been developing their global citizenship by building relationships with international students as they explore their cultural and social differences. Students have already shared Catcote passports with Sweden, Turkey, Germany and Italy and will continue to work on joint partnership projects throughout the year.

At Christmas we would like to wish,



Students from our partner school in Turkey

Once upon a Christmas

One time of year there's a marvellous sight.
When chances, sparkles and magic takes flight.

Each home fills with joy on this grand holiday.
With enchanting thoughts in a magical way.
The rooms are all covered with decorations for you to inspire.

Hung on the mantelpiece are stockings by the fire.

Lights twinkle and glow then bells brightly chime,
the moments arrived it's here,
Christmas time.

Three precious gifts lay under this tree, what secrets they hold lets look and we'll see.

The first tells a story for us all to hear.
About love, laughter and those we hold dear.
We love Christmas so much and want it to stay.

But what if we wished it was here everyday.

By Charlie Anderson



Catcote
Academy
working together, achieving success