



## Dear Parent/Carers

Another busy term is nearly over here at Carr Hill. Supported by excellent staff, the children have been working hard to develop their reading, writing, spelling and mathematics skills alongside all the other areas of development that Carr Hill excels in - art, sports, music and much much more.

Some of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils went to Chopwell Woods at the beginning of December to collect the schools Christmas tree. Mrs Chandler managed to 'haggle' a decent price for the tree which will be donated to St. Alban's Church on Friday, as is our tradition. This is always an amusing sight as the tree is pulled out of the mini bus and baubles scatter down Windy Nook bank!

I will have the opportunity to see some of you at the Christmas Performances this week, and I will be joining the children when they have their Christmas lunch on Thursday.

School closes for the Christmas and New Year period this **Friday (18<sup>th</sup> December)**. Children return for the beginning of the Spring term on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

The festive season which is upon us is a time to take a break from the day to day work in school, relax and spend time with those we love. It is a time to cherish those we hold dear, remember those we have lost and put our faith in those yet to come.

Regardless of your beliefs I want to wish you all a very festive holiday and a Happy New Year.

I hope to see you next term.

Jeanne Pratt  
Chair of Governors

## Carr Hill's Olympic Legacy

Our pupils continue to ensure the Olympic Legacy lives on at Carr Hill, by taking part in the following events:

Sportsbility, Sportshall Athletics, Year 4 & 5 Girls' Football, Year 5 & 6 Gateshead Football League, Rugby Festival, Year 5 Tag Rugby, Year 3, 4 and 5 swimming, Year 5 & 6 Rowing Regatta, KS1 Indoor Athletics and Year 6 Mini Basketball.

The Sportsability team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and will go on to represent the school at county level in January 2016.

The Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics Team competed in a Gateshead Final.

Well done everyone who took part!

## Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday this week. The quality of food is superb and the atmosphere, with the Gateshead Music Service Orchestra playing traditional carols, is magic.

Most children have our Christmas lunch but if your child doesn't normally have a school meal, and wants the Christmas lunch, can you let our office know by Wednesday morning and a meal will be ordered. Lunches cost **£2.00**.



**Remember, you can wear your Christmas Jumper on this day.**

## Educational Visits

We have continued to enrich the school curriculum for our children, with a wide variety of extra curricula activities. The following visits have taken place this term:

- Our Early Years children have been to Saltwell Park to take part in an autumn walk and to collect autumn leaves and seeds to make art collages back at school.
- Children in our Reception class also went to Gateshead Library to take part in workshops, developing the love of reading. The children really enjoyed these visits and the books they were able to borrow.
- Years 1 and 2 went to Gateshead Quayside to develop an understanding of the landmarks associated with our local community.
- Years 3 and 4 visited the Tyne Theatre to watch the Aladdin Pantomime, thus supporting their English work this term on play scripts.
- Years 5 and Year 6 took part in workshops based on the Ancient Greeks, at the Hancock Museum. They also visited Saltwell Park on the Monday before Armistice Day to pay their respects at the Field of Remembrance. The children recited the poem "In Flanders Field" before composing their own WWI poems back in school.



We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent in donations to Children in Need - a total of **£558** was collected and donated to the charity.

Since 1980 the charity has raised over £600 million - this is used to change the lives of many children and young people across the UK.

### Roots of Empathy Programme

We have started our third year of the highly successful Roots of Empathy Programme. This programme aims to reduce anger, aggression and bullying by allowing pupils to become more emotionally literate as they follow the growth and development of a baby over the first nine months of its life.

This year we have children from Mrs Hall's Reception, Mrs Oliver's Year 3/4 and Miss Henry's Year 3 classes taking part. The school's trained instructors, Mrs Drummond, Miss Dixon and Mr Fowler are coaching the pupils to recognise the changes in the development of the baby in their class.

The babies we have welcomed into School this year are Baby Sandro, Baby Penelope and Baby Lily.



### Dinner Money Payments

As you can no doubt appreciate, the administration involved in chasing up non-payment of dinner monies is very time consuming.

**In line with the majority of schools in Gateshead, and indeed throughout the whole of the UK, Governors are asking parents/carers to pay their child's dinner money on a Monday morning, for that week.**

Parents/carers will be reminded by text message, during the week, if payment has not been received.

Please work with us to help this system work and therefore reduce any extra burden on admin staff and any extra cost to the school to chase up non-payments.

### Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

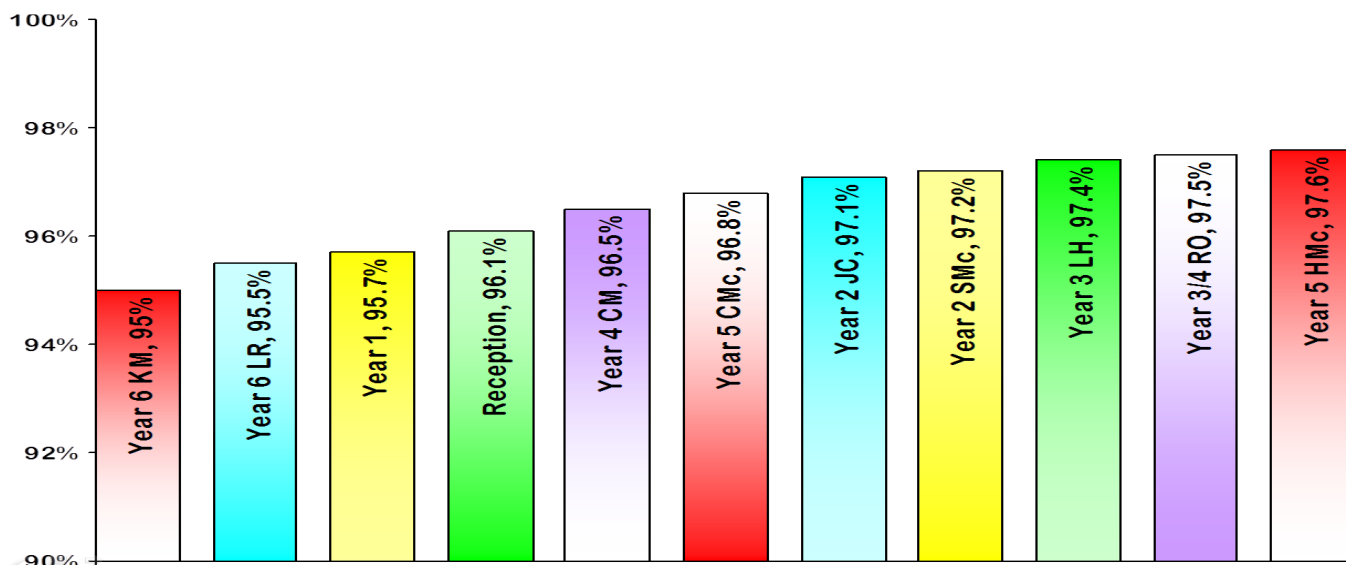
Our Breakfast Club will restart after the Christmas break on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

There will be no after school clubs during this first week back, these will start the week beginning **11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**.

### Attendance – Autumn term 2015/16

The whole school percentage attendance for this term, up until 11<sup>th</sup> December, is **96.5** and we have 98 pupils who have 100% attendance - a brilliant effort and hopefully one that we can keep up during the rest of the school year.

Here is the attendance data by class or year group. Congratulations to Mrs McClean's Year 5 children who have the highest attendance this term, at a fantastic **97.6%**!



### SCHOOL TERM DATES 2015/2016

<b>Spring Term</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan until <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016</b>	<i>Half term: 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February</i>
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April until Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	<i>Bank holiday: 2<sup>nd</sup> May</i> <i>Staff Training Day: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</i> <i>Half term: 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June</i> <i>Occasional Day: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June</i> <i>Staff Training Day: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</i>