

# Unity Centre Newsletter

## PARENT, GRANDPARENT AND CARERS GROUP

We were delighted that so many of you could attend our parent group this week.

We do know it can be difficult to attend - some work, have younger children to care for or difficulties with transport and if anyone would like to attend but does have reasons why attending is difficult then do speak to Mr Jackson or your child's keyworker and we will see what we can do to help.

At this half termly group, parents were treated to a live performance of the 'Ready, Steady Cook' show which was excellent - well done to all those involved!

Mr Jackson informed the group about our plans for a 'Sibling Café' where brothers and sisters of children with autism can meet informally and have access to information and support from staff.

Mr Jackson and Mr Stone then spoke to parents about plans for our students to take part in a pilot of the SPARK scheme. Exercise has been proven to benefit academic progress and emotional wellbeing, as well as the obvious health benefits. Initial levels of fitness will be measured and progress recorded. Pupils will take part in an exercise session before school for 3 days a week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEKS LEARNING	2
CHANGE TO KEYWORKERS	2
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS	3
CAROL SERVICE	3
FUNDRAISING	3
UNITY CENTRE TRIP	3
FRIDAY REWARD TIME	3
PUPIL OF THE WEEK	4

*This week in the Unity Centre we put up our Christmas tree and it is looking fabulous!*



## THIS WEEK'S LEARNING IN THE UNITY CENTRE...

We finished our Superhero topic with a grand finale of a show! 'Ready, Steady Cook' was performed live to parents, staff and Mrs Ford, our new Chairman of Governors.

Mr Wilkinson was asked to be part of the show by the children themselves who decided that he was a real life hero -

'cool', (Sean) 'fantastic' (Emma), 'handsome' (Connor) and 'good' (Callum)!

This week the children have spent time finishing their props and rehearsing their lines. We always say this but we were so proud of how well they did - and in front of a crowd!

*Reminder: after Christmas could your child please come to school wearing their PE kit on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. They will be taking part in the SPARK scheme and exercising before lessons on these days. Please send school uniform to change into afterwards.*

## NEXT TERM'S KEYWORKER ARRANGEMENTS:

Mr Jackson explained at the Parent, Grandparent and Carer Group that after Christmas your child's Key Workers will be changing. This is so that the children do not become dependent on one individual member of staff. However as we are all about within the Unity Centre, they are very familiar with us all anyway and vice versa - all staff members in the Unity Centre know all of our children very well!

The children who have Opening Minds lessons in the Unity Centre work closely with both Mrs Peet and Mrs March in their lessons - they are also in the same Science, DT and Maths groups (and often the same PE groups ) so shouldn't find the change too much of a difference.

Likewise, the children who spend most of their day in mainstream lessons are used to some overlap with Miss Marshall , Miss Harmer and Mrs Metcalf so they are already familiar with their new Keyworker.

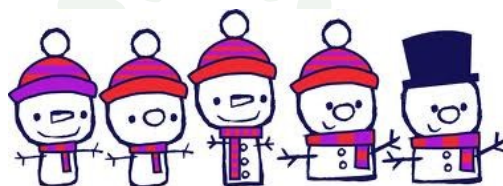
Mrs March will now be Sean and Connor's Keyworker

Miss Harmer will be Keiran and Mason's Keyworker

Miss Marshall will be Keiran Hennessey's Keyworker

Mrs Metcalf will be Christopher and Matthew's Keyworker

Mrs Peet will be Emma and Callum's Keyworker



All of the Keyworkers have said how fond they are of their current students and how they have enjoyed working with them and supporting them in their transition to Biddick School. The change does not mean that a particular worker won't work with that child again in future!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

We have been making some lovely Christmassy items during lunch and break times - everyone enjoyed making snowflakes with beads and wire forms and we have began to think about making some felt decorations and a calendar.



## CHURCH SERVICES

Next Thursday morning, students will be attending a Carol service in Church with the rest of their year. They will either travel in buses or staff cars and Unity Centre



## FUNDRAISING

We have been trying to raise some money for the children in the Unity Centre by selling bead snowflakes, felt decorations and cones of sweets. Money raised will benefit your child directly and would be used for special treats such as trips or toys / sensory items within the Unity Centre. So far we have raised nearly £30!

An order form for decorations and snowflakes will be attached to the newsletter if anyone was unable to attend the parent group but there is no obligation to buy!

## TRIP TO HERRINGTON COUNTRY PARK - TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER

We are having a Unity Centre visit to Herrington Country Park and will visit McDonalds afterwards. A letter has been sent home in the children's folders with details of what to bring and wear. Please let us know if you have not received this.

### **WORDS OF THE WEEK:**

### ***'Celebrating Successes'***

*Mr Jackson will be spending time with individual pupils this week to reflect upon the many positives of this first term at Biddick School.*



### FRIDAY REWARD TIME

We are not cooking on the very last day (16th December) but will be having an enjoyable and hopefully calm (!) afternoon carrying out some Christmas activities.

**PUPIL OF THE WEEK:  
CONNOR FRANCIS**

Connor shows an exceptionally good attitude in school. He is attentive in lessons, always prepared with the right equipment, or to help and support other pupils.

His manners are always impeccable and his enthusiasm for learning is a credit to him.

Connor is a pleasure to have within the Unity Centre and we are very proud of him!

Well done Connor!



*We would also like to commend Mason, Keiran  
and Connor for independently deciding to take  
turns to support another pupil!  
A great attitude from all three boys  
demonstrating our 'one family' outlook - well  
done !*

*Unity Centre*

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**Part of Student Support at Biddick School**