



**Message from Mrs Riley**

What a busy week! Christmas parties, two Christingle services and a visit from Father Christmas too!

I am so pleased that the children have taken part in so many Christmas activities this term but it has also been so disappointing not to have been able to involve you, parents, carers and extended families, particularly with our church services and performances at this time of year. Our Nativity has been recorded and shared with Class Swale parents and will be uploaded to our website so that we can all share the performance; the children from Class Swale were truly delightful! Fingers crossed that for our summer production we have a real live audience!

Travelling to Lapland-well virtually!

Many pupils and their families have been walking, jogging, running and biking to see if we could get to Lapland Well we got there! Our mileage up until 13<sup>th</sup> December was 2, 258.1 miles. A tremendous effort!

Leaping Lions 804,5 miles    Fantastic Foxes 549 miles    Dizzy Dogs 503 miles    Cool Cats 401.6 miles

Well done to all who took part and a huge round of applause for Leaping Lions who must have some super fit families!

Although I have been working here as Acting Headteacher since 2017 it gives me great pleasure to inform you that following interview this week I have now been appointed on a permanent basis. I am pleased this offers the school the stability it needs going forward into what are still uncertain times.

Many thanks for all of your kind gifts and presents sent through to school. We really do not expect anything but we now have a staff room full of delicious treats. The extra sugar has certainly given staff the energy needed to work with over 80 excitable children!

**Covid Update**

**Reporting symptoms after the school closes for Christmas Holidays**

Our school will close on December 18<sup>th</sup>. If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus you must book a test. **If your child develops symptoms up to and including December 20<sup>th</sup> which result in a positive test up to 24<sup>th</sup> December you must inform the school** via email at [gainford@durhamlearning.net](mailto:gainford@durhamlearning.net) or by phoning the school mobile number 07425 615874.

Please include the name of your child, their class or teacher name and the date that their symptoms started, as well as your own contact details.

**From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

If your child develops coronavirus symptoms from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December onwards, they must be tested and, if positive, follow the advice of Test and Trace. You do not need to inform the school of any symptoms which occur after the 20<sup>th</sup> December

[The guidance](#) for close contact isolation has been updated from 14 days to 10 days as of the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Please click on the link if you need further information.

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### Attendance for this week

(absence due to Covid measures is not included)

Our Minimum Target is **96%**

Well done to all classes who have all achieved attendance above our minimum target.

A special well done to **Classes Wear and Tees** for attendance that was the best out of the entire school.

Class	Attendance %
Swale	95
Wear	100
Tees	100

### Headteacher's Awards

Every Friday we have our Celebration Collective Worship, currently in two Bubbles!

This week the theme was **Christmas Activities**

These are the children who have received the award this week.

<b>Class Swale</b>	All of Class Swale
<b>Class Wear</b>	All of Class Wear
<b>Class Tees</b>	George - advent star work Ava - retelling of a Christmas story Joe – Christingle work

### Dates for your Diary

**Carol and Crib Service – the village green** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm

**Return to school** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Friends of Gainford School (FOGS)

#### EasyFundraising

Why not raise extra funds for school when shopping online by going through EasyFundraising [Friends of Gainford School Easyfundraising](#)

There are no catches or hidden charges, and we will be really grateful for your donations. Its free to sign up.

### House Team News

How many times has each team won this term?

Leaping Lions 4	Dizzy Dogs 4
Cool Cats 1	Fantastic Fox 3

Who will win the trophy at the end of the school year?

### **Fun Christmas Facts**

The use of the term 'Xmas' dates back to the 16th century. The 'X' in the word Xmas comes from the ancient Greek language. In Greek, Christ begins with the letter X. So, Xmas simply means Christmas.