

# Sports News



## Inter Schools Football Tournament

Antonio and Paul recently took part in an inter-school football tournament along with other students from the school. Everyone played their part in representing the school and making the tournament a huge success. They all showed great sportsmanship and determination to do their best. However, it was Paul and Antonio who stood out on the day and received acknowledgement with trophies for best player (Antonio) and best effort (Paul). Antonio said 'I have been to the tournament twice now and I have enjoyed it a lot. There were some really good players there but I managed to save lots of goals. When I wasn't in goal I scored two goals against another school team who wore red strips. I was very impressed and surprised when I was awarded my trophy. It is my first one because last time I went I won a medal. I am looking forward to going again in the new year and playing for Sir Charles Parsons School!'



Over the past five or six weeks we have had a man called Sam coming into our PE lessons every Monday. Sam is from Newcastle United and has been helping us to improve our skills. We have been doing lots of different football skills like catching and throwing the balls like the goalkeepers do. We have also been practising running with the ball like other players. At the end of the practising we have a game of football where we choose different teams and play against each other.

The hardest thing has been dribbling the ball. Sam says we have to keep your head up and not look down. The best bit has been playing football and choosing the names of the teams that we wanted to be.

- Richard and Mcarahlee, 8A



Mcarahlee and Andrew practice their passing skills

Many thanks to West End business Madina Food Store for discounts on Eastern snacks sold at our Christmas Coffee Morning.



Advert designed by Antonio, 10M



# School News

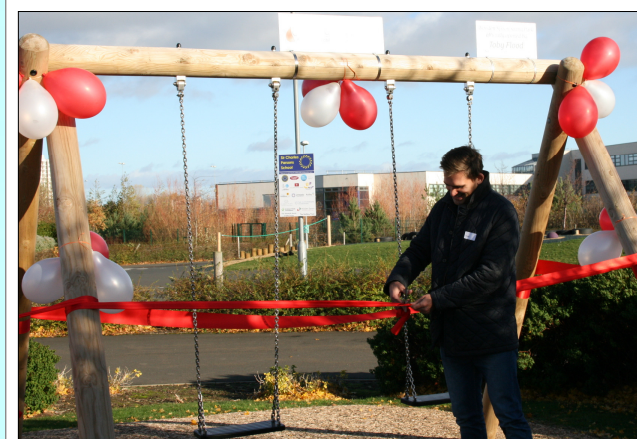


Contact us on — Tel: 0191 2952280 email: admin@scp.newcastle.sch.uk

Winter 2018

## PLAYGROUND OPENING DAY

On 13th November we held an official ceremony to celebrate the opening of our outdoor play equipment. We invited many guests who represent companies and charities who have donated to this fundraising initiative. Newcastle Falcons and England rugby player Toby Flood was our special guest and 'cut the ribbon'. He is the patron for The Wooden Spoon children's charity who supported us with funding for the swing park, which includes two standard swings and one wheelchair accessible swing.



The ceremony began with a performance by Sir Charles Parsons Drum Band followed by a whole school presentation to show how each and every one of our students enjoy, learn and achieve whilst outdoors using the equipment. Following the presentation, our students and guests spent time playing on the swings, trim trail, zipwire, eagles nest, tyre park, roundabout, sensory area and outdoor gym, showing off their much improved agility and confidence. 'The Friends of...' charity has benefitted not only from grants awarded by outside charities but by the tremendous amount of hard work by all of our volunteers, parents, carers, committee members, school staff, students and wider community.



Over the Christmas period there can often be a lot of change to technology in the household, with adults and young people receiving new devices as gifts or passed on from other family members. Technology is a great opportunity for the young people to extend their skills, however, it is important to ensure some of the basic settings are in place, and in some cases have a shared agreement on the usage of the device. Whilst ensuring our young people cannot access inappropriate web content is a priority, it is also very important that they do not have excessive screen time. Many studies have reported that too much time on technological devices (whether it be mobile phones, games consoles, tablets or laptops) can have a very detrimental effect on health and wellbeing.



Some parents and carers have benefitted from installing the app 'ScreenTime' on mobile devices and

tablets. This app allows you to limit the amount of time the user can spend on a device, as well as monitoring the sites or apps which are being accessed. For more information on installing and using this free app visit the following website: [screentimelabs.com](http://screentimelabs.com) As well as this app, parents and carers have also reported that using a child friendly search engine has significantly reduced the amount of inappropriate content being displayed. 'SafeSearch' and 'Swiggle' which can be set as a

[swiggle.org.uk](http://swiggle.org.uk)

homepage replacing more common search engines such as 'Google' and 'Bing'. For any more information

about this or any other E-Safety matter contact Jo Anderson via the school office.

**Sir Charles  
Parsons  
School**





## Forest School

Sir Charles Parsons School are involved in a research project with Newcastle University and Scotswood Natural Community Garden, exploring the benefits of nature and being outdoors on emotional wellbeing and engagement in education. Students attend weekly sessions, where they follow Forest School principles to engage successfully with the environment.

Every Friday we go to Forest School in Scotswood with Mrs Whincup, Tom and Stephen. When we get to Forest School, Harriet, the leader goes over the rules with us about looking after nature. We all have to wear warm clothes and sensible footwear as we are outside all day. We play some mini games when we get there to warm up like 'tag', 'stuck in the mud' and 'Eagle Eyes.' Eagle eyes is a game where when someone is on you are standing with sticks around you and you say "eagle eye are closing for...9.8.7.6.5.4.3.2.1" seconds then you have to try and make it to that person and tap their hand and say your name then you have to hide before the person say eagle eyes are opening. It's a lot like hide and seek. We do something called 'My Project' we can choose anything from wood carving, making a fire, building dens and putting a hammock up. I chose to make a fire and Demi made Christmas decorations from clay. We have to work together when we do the projects and when we tidy up at the end of the day. Demi says it's good practice for when she goes camping next April. I think it is good for learning new skills that might help when you go walking or camping.

- James 8W



James used a forest steel, cotton wool and some tinder he collected from the woods

## ZUMBA! ZUMBA! ZUMBA!

The sensory curriculum has grown this year and a new element has been added. Weekly 'Zumba' sessions cater for our students who have significant learning difficulties and follow the green, blue and indigo pathways. The main aims of the session are to develop communication skills, co-operation, confidence and independence through familiar songs that focus on movement. Boyd, Zain, Saarah, Katie, Bobby and Imogen have worked on communication skills and have learned have been able to learn all of the dance and activity routines through repetition whilst having great fun!



Sit up and put your hands in the air

Move the circle round and around



Boyd chose who to pass the ball to his friends



Friends of Sir Parsons School News ...

We have had another successful term fundraising for our school charity. With the play equipment now being all installed or awaiting installation early February, we have now launched our brand new fundraising initiative which is to buy a new school minibus to replace our oldest bus which is a whopping 18 years old!!! Whilst it is roadworthy it is costing a lot of money to keep it safe so we have decided to set ourselves a new challenge of raising £16,000 towards the cost of a brand new bus. This term we have had three big fundraising events. In September we had a committed group of twenty friends (both adults and children) who volunteered to run the Mini,

Junior and Great North Runs. Their efforts managed to raise over £2,300 so far. More recently, students were invited to carol sing at Asda at the Fossway for the third year running. Generous shoppers donated £300. Finally our Christmas Coffee Morning was extremely well attended. Parents and carers enjoyed catching up. This event raised a record breaking £2104.13 Thank you for all of your support in helping us to help our very special young people.



St. Gabriel's church in Heaton were remembering people who died in the First World War. They were doing it for Remembrance Day which is the 11th of November. They made it special by putting poppies around the font and inside the font. We use poppies because they remind us of soldiers who died. They asked people and community groups and our school to



make poppies with all different designs and textures. There were some made of tissue paper or just with paper and some people had knitted some. We went to see the poppies and we could see the ones that people from our school had done. It actually looked really good. It was a nice church to visit as well. - Lukas 10M and Molly 10S



On a Thursday I have trumpet lessons in school. John is my trumpet teacher. He teaches Holly, Tom, Michael and me. When we first started the lessons we had to learn how to hold and blow the trumpet. Now we are learning how to play the notes E, C and B by changing our fingers on the valves. I am having fun doing trumpet lessons. Trumpet is the best instrument. I really like playing the trumpet. I'm looking forward to playing in a concert. - Rebecca, 10G



## Noisy Questions!

In September we had six new members of staff join SCPS team..

Bailey from 10M was our roving reporter and came up with some interesting questions for 60 second interviews to help us get to know a little more about them:

Mr Perry - Humanities teacher and 8CW pastoral



Do you have any pets? Yes I have a rabbit  
 What's your favourite food? Pizza  
 What's your favourite film? Caddyshack  
 What do you like about school? The students  
 What football team do you support? Sunderland  
 Cheryl - LSA year 8  
 What's your favourite time of year? Summer  
 Do you like the film 'Pitch Perfect'? Yes  
 Where would you like to go on a school residential trip? Beadnell  
 What do you like to buy? Clothes  
 What's your favourite shop? H&M  
 Miss Clark - Literacy and English teacher, 6C pastoral  
 How long does it take you to get to school? 20 minutes  
 Where would be your favourite place for a holiday? America  
 Do you have any pets? A dog  
 What's your favourite colour? Pink  
 Do you like our school? Love it!  
 Jonelle - LSA year 7  
 What's an unusual fact about you not many people know? I have metal in my back  
 What food do you not like? Sausages  
 What's your best friends name? Stacey  
 What's your favourite TV show? Emmerdale  
 What do you like to do in your spare time? Relaxing  
 Lyndsey - LSA year 7  
 What was your favourite thing at the Christmas Coffee Morning? Cake  
 What kind of car do you have? Silver Ford Fusion  
 What kind of music do you like? Pink  
 What's your favourite drink? Tea  
 Do you like swimming? No  
 Esme - LSA year 7  
 Do you have any children? Yes  
 What's your favourite chocolate bar? I don't like chocolate  
 Are you good with technology? Yes  
 What do you want for Christmas? Earrings  
 What's your favourite pizza? Hawaiian



## Festive Season

at Sir Charles Parsons

This term can often be one of the school's busiest with lots of events happening in school. We thought it would be nice to give you a round up of some of them so you can see what the students have been enjoying.

### Carol Singing

On Thursday 6th December our singing signers were invited back to our local Asda superstore to entertain the public. Tom, Jennifer, Mason, Libby, Russell, Holly, Amber, Rene, David, Sadie and Imogen did a great job singing favourites such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'Little Drummer Boy' whilst also raising money for our charity and awareness for our school.



### Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch is always a favourite on the school calendar. The kitchen staff, as always, did a sterling job in preparing and serving lunch to over 200 guests at the same time.



### Coffee Morning

This year's coffee morning was the best yet. We had lots of parents, carers and members of the wider community who came along. It was lovely to see everyone getting on so well.

There was some new stalls, like 'Twizzler Bingo', as well as old favourites like 'Guess the Name' and 'Play Your Cards Right'. Once again, local companies have been extremely supportive in their kind donations of raffle prizes and food items for us to sell.



### Carol Service

Parents and carers came into school to take part in our Christmas Carol Concert and to watch our year 7 students act out the nativity.



## The Dr. Seuss GRINCH

### A Christmas film review by year 11

As part of their enrichment programme this term a group of year 11 students have been learning to write a film review. We recently visited the cinema to see 'The Grinch' and have written a review.

The Grinch is a film about someone who hates Christmas and wants to ruin it for all the people in Whoville. What the students thought about the film:

'I liked it when the Grinch went to the little girls house for Christmas Dinner' *Natasha*

'I liked it. It's a good film for all the family to enjoy' *Abbie*

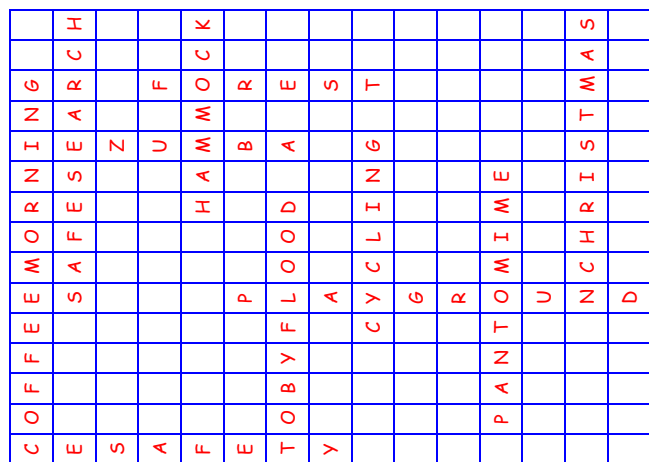
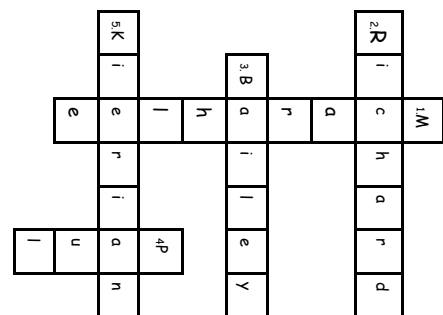
'I liked the reindeer, he was funny' *Thomas*

'I thought it was funny, especially when the reindeer put the cream up his nose' *Holly*

They all agreed it was a good film and would recommend it to families to go and see over the Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas from Year 11!



### Kids Zone Answers



## WITCHCRAFT & WIZARDRY

10M decided as a class that they would like to visit the 'Witchcraft and Wizardry' Escape Room in Newcastle as their Christmas Trip. They knew there would be lots of puzzles to solve and had to work as a team to 'beat the room' by releasing themselves in under one hour. Once the hour is up, the game is over whether you have completed all of the puzzles or not.

The class were split into two groups to try to beat the room. In one group were Amy, Antonio, Ava and Miss McMeekin. In the other group were Rebecca, Connor, Mohammed, Dakota and Tracy. Luckily, group one were able to escape the room in just under the hour and were the winners! Unfortunately, Group two were unable to finish the game but had a great time working together.

*Amy said 'We had to do maths with the numbers to unlock the locks. I liked the coloured numbers to unlock them. We found books when we opened something with a key. We had to push the fireplace. There were letters on the wall that were rainbow colour and lots of colours everywhere. There was a wand we had to trace round the wall. It was fun and I enjoyed it. I would like to visit with my family.'*

*Antonio said 'It was fun. We had to find lots of numbers. They were codes, they were so hard! There were different coloured numbers on the glass, which opened the locks. We found the cloaks and a suitcase. There was puzzles with dragons on - we had to put in order and I pushed the door! There was a secret key in the door and we also had to use the portraits on the wall. I think I'm going to go again with my parents probably! At the end, the man showed us other rooms. One was called 'The Cabin' it was dark, I would want to do this one too.'*



**cafébeam** Huge congratulations to Smile for Life

opportunity • skills • community

Children's Charity on relocating 'Café Beam' to larger premises in Gosforth. Both the charity and the café have supported many of our students after leaving Sir



Charles Parsons in providing work opportunities. Ex-students Amber, Ross & Lewis look very happy in their new workplace.

## Letter from the Head



Dear Parents & Carers ,

Writing my bit for the newsletter is always a great chance to look back over the term, a chance to remember all the events and activities which have taken place. At this part of the year it's sometimes hard to remember back to those lovely warm September days when we got to make really good use of the outdoor play equipment. Another activity which benefitted from the mild weather in September was forest school, a new addition to the curriculum this year. This gives students the chance to learn in an outdoor environment, building confidence, resilience and problem solving. It is a year round activity and continues in all weathers - sunshine, showers and snow!

We are constantly looking at ways to improve and develop the curriculum and provide better learning opportunities for everyone. The Friends of Sir Charles Parsons have provided funding to purchase specialised seating and standing equipment to support students with complex needs to better access learning and we will be looking to further develop the range of sensory based equipment in school during the rest of the year. This will be greatly helped by the fantastic fundraising efforts made by everyone at events such as the coffee morning which I think this year may have beaten all records for raising the most money. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The last few weeks of the autumn term are always a fantastic time of year in school, epitomising everything that makes Sir Charles Parsons a special place to be. It is easy to see students enjoying their time in school and if you look a little deeper you can see that underneath all the Christmas fun there is still a lot of learning and achieving happening. It is fantastic to see the students socialising and engaging with each other at the different events, building their confidence and independence. Growing and building their sense of community and sharing that with parents, carers and the increasing network of people who help and support our school. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our school community this year,

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Karen Hamilton

Head Teacher





I have been a part of the *Twisting Ducks Theatre Company* for about a year. I enjoy acting and dancing, but my favourite thing to do is singing. I took part in the Christmas show (*Mary and Josephine's Christmas Miracle*) at the Alphabetti Theatre. I was part of the "Wyze Crew" - a group of rappers who got through to the final of North East's Got Talent. It was great fun to be on stage with my friends, but it was hard work to learn my words and all of the songs. We had **lots** of practices! My favourite bit was when I saw my teacher and whole class come to see me in the show. They clapped a lot and thought the show was great. They were very proud of me. - Sam 6G



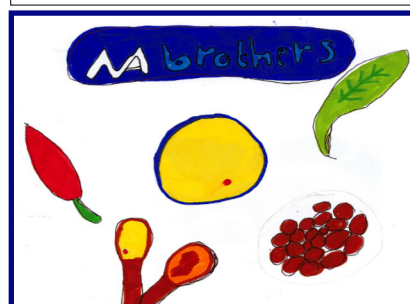
Over the last 10 years, The Twisting Ducks have built a community in the North East for people with learning disabilities and autism to explore and celebrate their creative talents, and to develop art that represents their lived experiences. For more information on the company contact:  
Phone: 07925167775  
Email: [info@thetwistingducks.co.uk](mailto:info@thetwistingducks.co.uk)

**BRITISH CYCLING**

This term the Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh students have had the opportunity to work with Adam and Melissa from British Cycling. They have learnt many new skills including how to get off their bikes while moving and how to move on their bikes safely, in a very small area. All students involved now have a good awareness of how to be safe on their bikes, but also the correct checks to do before taking their bikes out on a ride. The students were extremely keen to learn new skills and Adam and Melissa were very impressed with their enthusiasm and ability to listen to instructions. Well done to the Year 11 students involved Dylan, Richard, Leon, Paul, Tahir, Jack and Kieran.



Kieran said 'On Wednesday mornings Melissa and Adam from British Cycling have been coming to school to run a cycling course. They have shown us different cycling styles and have brought different types of bikes along for us to use. We have learnt about mountain biking and how to ride up and down hills and around cones at top speed. There was speedway cycling where it is important to keep your body pushed forward and your back straight. We also learned about BMX and road cycling. For road cycling we had to stay in a straight line near the kerb to stay safe. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know Melissa and Adam. I couldn't ride a bike very well before doing this course but now I am much more confident and brave when I ride a bike. My favourite bit has been learning about mountain biking and I would like to try this more at different places like the forest or a mountain.'



Advert designed by Jack, 11W

Many thanks to West End business MA Brothers for the very kind donation of 'Carrot and Coriander Soup' ingredients to make our recipe bags which were sold at the coffee morning.



### FIND THE 'NEWS' WORDSEARCH!

TOBYFLOOD  
PLAYGROUND  
ESAFETY  
SAFESEARCH  
FOREST  
HAMMOCK  
PANTOMIME  
COFFEEMORNING  
CYCLING  
ZUMBA  
CHRISTMAS

C	O	F	F	E	E	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	U	Z
E	M	B	R	T	S	A	F	E	S	E	A	R	C	H
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T	E	J	U	L	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
I	E	S	A	M	D	S	G	U	A	S	R	A	Y	C



*Knock, knock...*  
Who's there?  
*Arthur!*  
Arthur who?  
*Arthur any mince pies left?*

*What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with a iPad?*  
A pineapple.

*What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?*  
Frostbite!

*What do you call a reindeer with earmuffs?*  
Anything you want, he can't hear you.

Online Christmas Games - Try visiting these websites for festive fun and games.



[coolmathgames.com](http://coolmathgames.com)



[bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games](http://bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games)

### NEWSHOUNDS!

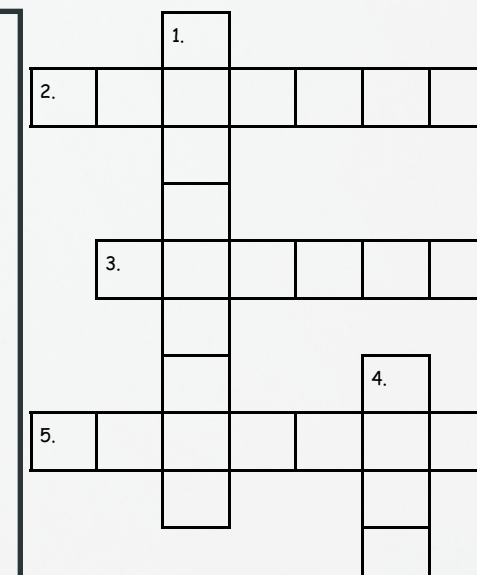
Can you find the names of our student reporters in School News?

#### Across

- Improved his skills with the best football team EVER?
- Questions, questions?
- Can ride on two wheels?

#### Down

- Football skills with NUFC?
- Best effort?



Answers on page 6