

Sports News



Since March we have tried to spend a lot more time outdoors for our learning. We thought this was important so that there was plenty of fresh air and vitamin D (when the weather was sunnier). We have been able to work in whole year groups because we have more space outside.



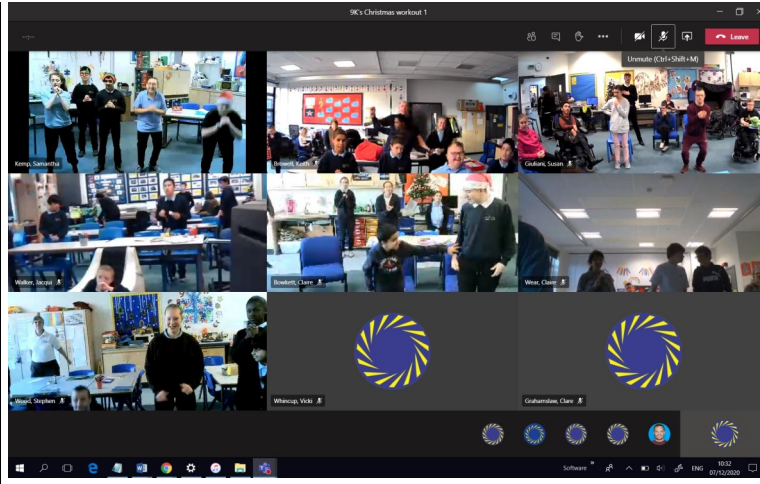
...and he smashes a 6!

We have been outside learning about many fun games with Mrs Kemp this year. My favourite game has been cricket. I really like batting the ball. I like playing cricket with my friends. We have lots of fun. I am proud of the special award I got at school for playing excellent cricket. I also play cricket at the cricket field near my home with my family.
- Rupinder, 9K

PE has been different since September because we have been outside more. Every Tuesday afternoon we go out with Mrs Kemp's and Mr Wood's class, so that's all of year 9. We have played rounders and cricket. We always start with a warm-up which is to walk, jog or run one mile. This is roughly 12 laps around the 'eye' on the yard. Andrew in my class has made up a new game called 'Corona Tag'. The rules are the student who is on wears a bib and they have to try and catch the other players. Whoever gets tagged has to go into the hospital isolation zone which is in the middle of the cones. The last person tagged is on next. I think it's a really good game. My favourite game though has been 'Rounders' and I have got very good at batting the ball for miles and because I like being on a team and cheering on my team mates. I like PE outside more because it's good for you to be out in the fresh air. - Mason, 9G



'Corona Tag'



In May, when more students started to return to school, we started to use Microsoft Teams with all together so that we could still see friends in other year groups. As well as having whole school assemblies over Teams, we had regular workouts led by the PE department.



In our PE lessons we sometimes do it on the big screen in the classroom. Usually Mrs Kemp or Mr Wood lead the workout but then we can see everyone in school doing it as well. I like doing it like that because it's fun. The workouts have been happening in the morning and they make me feel happy and warmed up and awake for the rest of the day...although sometimes if they're very hard I get a bit sleepy! - TJ, 8B
When we do our outside PE, we do jumping and skipping and running at the beginning to warm up. After that we've done games and circuits. I liked the circuit because there were different things you had to do. Like there was a trampette that we had to jump on and on another bit of the circuit there was some cones that we had to run between.
- Javid, 8B



School News



Winter 2020

Our Very Own Fenwick Window

Usually at this time of year students go out for a Christmas class trip and lots of classes go to the Fenwick's Window. People can't go this year because we've been staying in school a lot in our bubbles, to keep ourselves safe.

We watched the opening of Fenwick's Window in class on the big screen when they did their virtual reveal. After that we decided to do our own window with six panels. We all had different ideas, mine was Disney. But we decided in the end on doing 'Santa Who Came to Tea' which is like the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' but with an special guest!

We wanted it to be a surprise for the Year 7's but Mr Perry kept trying to have a look because we kept pinching his glue. So we came up with a plan to put newspaper on the door and a notice saying 'No Mr Perry'. Then because there was a sign up everyone wanted to know so we kept having to 'shoo' them away.

We have made a fireplace with tissue paper and we put stockings on. There is a red stocking for Sophie and I had to sew her name on with black wool. There was another stocking for the tiger which was tiger fur. We also made some sweet mince pies for Santa Claus and some carrots.

As we got busy making the windows we decided that we should have an opening ceremony like Fenwick's big reveal. We thought we should make it special for all the students so we wrote to Fenwick's to tell them all about our window and our hard work on it. We asked them if they would like to give us some sweet mince pies for the students to have after seeing the window.

We were so excited when the store manager replied. He said he would LOVE to help us out. We had our big unveil on Thursday the 10th of December and we got such a surprise when Ernie the Elf from Fenwick arrived to cut the ribbon. He brought some iced Christmas tree biscuits and some mince pies for us to share with all of the students in school. The students in 7D really loved it and sent us a message to say 'thank you'. The students in Year 11 gave us a round of applause when they were outside which we could hear from inside our classroom.

Every class came along in their bubble to see the window and they all said they really liked it and could see that we had worked very hard. -Macarahlee, 10A



Ernie cutting the beautiful red ribbon to open our Fenwick's Window.



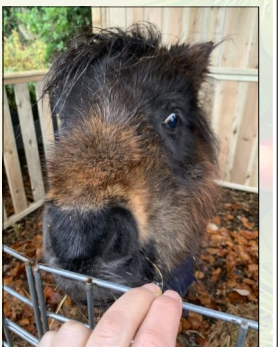
Oh! Christmas Tree



Callum, Shabby & Souza at the nursery

7S were the first class to enjoy a visit out of school this term in the minibus. They were invited to go along to Jack and Jo's Garden Centre in Blaydon to pick a Christmas tree for our yard. They also got a special treat when they met 'Norman' the donkey!

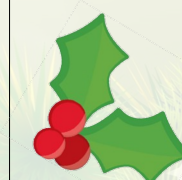
Souza said, "We had to pick a big tree and I wanted to bring Norman back to school!" Once the tree arrived at school students from sixth form set to work decorating it. They wrapped parcels to be displayed around it and made a 'fireplace' to create a 'grotto feel'. The students have enjoyed lots of 'role play' opportunities during break and lunchtimes, by decorating the tree and pretending to light the fire use an old fashioned pump, as well as playing Guess the Present.



Norman the Donkey



Students in Year 8 show off their Christmas jumpers around the tree



Sir Charles
Parsons
School





Though we may not have been out and about singing carols, bucket collecting, holding social events and of course, having our mini, junior and full Great North Run volunteers able to support us we have still been keeping busy!

During May, year nine teacher, Stephen Wood set himself the challenge of

running 120 miles with a target of raising £200 for our charity. Not only did he complete this challenge, but he smashed his target.... clocking up a staggering 156 miles and raising £525!

Continuing over the summer term, we participated in our ongoing 'Rag Bag' textile donation scheme which saw us receive £120 with a further £68 this term. Please keep those bags of old clothes coming in!

In September, we were presented with a cheque for £400 from Jacksons Women's darts team. The mother of Jake in 9W plays for the team and they choose a charity to support each darts season. We were very grateful as this year they chose us.

In October we launched this years 100+ Club. We received unprecedented returns with an amazing 127 numbers currently sold. So far we have had two lucky winners, Rhonda (year nine LSA) and Gemma (parent) each receiving 50% - £63.50 and FOSCPS gaining 50% in total - £127, so far. If any other parents, carers or friends would still like to join our 100+ Club for the remainder of the year, please contact the school office who can give you details on how to do so.

This month we tried something different from our usual annual Christmas Coffee Morning. We decided to hold a 'Virtual Christmas Fair' to showcase the crafting skills of our amazing students, staff and volunteers. Our brochure was a huge hit and orders were soon flooding in for items! We also held a Christmas raffle and again, everybody has been extremely generous in buying tickets for this event. Well done to all our lucky winners and thanks to everybody who supported these two initiatives, we raised over £1,250.

Bike news - Here in school the majority of our young people are able to access one of our bikes, trikes, or go carts as well as the duet tandem cycle. Our bikes and trikes are extremely well used and provide the opportunity for our young people to socialise, as well as developing gross motor skills, or enjoying the sensory experience. Some students have even gone on to complete their cycling proficiency course. To complete our fleet, and ensure that every child in school is able to access this worthwhile experience, we have been successful in fundraising for a VeloPlus Bike. This cycle is designed for transporting young people, who can remain seated in their own wheelchair. The cost of the bike is £8,000 which has been jointly met by a grant awarded for £5000 and the remainder from FOSCPS funds. The bike is currently on route from Holland and should be here in school in January.

Friends of Sir Charles Parsons School would like to give a huge thank you everybody for the continued support to our charity over the last two terms.

Don't forget to follow 'The Friends of Sir Charles Parsons' on Facebook to find out all of our current news.



Getting Crafty

My class decorated glass jars with white acrylic paint, snowflakes and silhouette pictures to make luminaire light up decorations. I helped paint the jars, Ibrahim glued the pictures and snowflakes on and Mason helped put the string around the tops. They look absolutely lovely with candles inside to light them up. - Andrew, 9G



Andrew & Ibrahim getting busy making up orders



Our School Business Manager, Ann Taylor, will be leaving us at the end of January when she retires. Emma from 6M found out about her plans for the future..

What does it mean when you retire? **Retiring means you don't have to work any more and can relax at home every day.**

Why are you retiring? **I am retiring because I have worked for many years and I am old now.**

How long have you worked here? **I have worked here since Sir Charles Parsons School opened in 1999 - so when I retire I will have worked here for almost 22 years.**

Have you got a holiday booked? **Yes I have a holiday booked in August 2021 to Kos in the Greek islands.** What's the best thing about working here? **All the staff and students - the staff are great to work with and the students are all lovely and I will miss everyone very much when I retire in January.**

Will you come back and visit us? **Yes I will come back and visit you all when there is a coffee morning.**

Goodbye Ann, we will all miss you! xxx



Ann back in the good old days



I Like to Ride my Bicycle..

When I first started year 8 I couldn't ride a bike but I could ride a trike which is a bike but with three wheels. Because we have started using the bikes and trikes a lot more with being outside more often I got the urge to learn to ride a two wheeler. I talked to my dad about it and he thought it was an amazing idea to help me. So, I came into school and told the staff this is what I wanted to learn. Me and Mrs Coughtrie found the black bike was the best one to start with. I began with my legs out to the sides of the bike and slowly got the motivation over the next couple of weeks to get my feet on the peddles and off I went. I ride the red bike now which is a bit bigger. There you go, I could finally ride a bike! That's basically the end of my journey learning to ride but now it's Aliya's turn, Good Luck and don't be nervous! - Emma, 8W



Well Done Emma! Free wheeling and learning to balance and then off around the school yard



Daniel, 9K, (above) has recently begun riding a trike in school and has impressed his pastoral staff and friends with his speed and stamina.

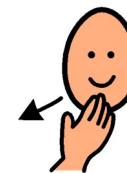


Christien, 7Gi, (top right) has worked hard learning to peddle the trike he has managed up to 10 laps of the school yard.



Joseph's mum, 8C, was amazed when he decided to 'just get on a bike and ride' as he has never ever been on a bike before or shown any interest!

A big thank you to our cook Diane and her team Tracey and Jan. Diane has worked everyday during lockdown, providing us with hot and cold dinners. Not only that, but she has gone the extra mile to make things a bit more fun in the dining room. She provided decorations and props at Halloween, specially decorated muffins for Children in Need, and as always our delicious Christmas lunch. Due to staying in bubbles, Diane and her team had to cook Christmas lunch for THREE days running so that all the students in school got to enjoy the festive tradition.



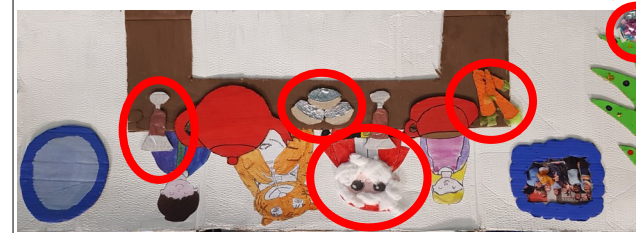
Looking festive.....Diane, Jan and Tracey

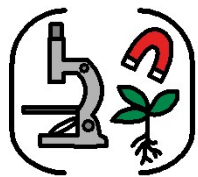
Kids Zone Puzzle Answers

Christmas News Crossword

Christmas Sudoku

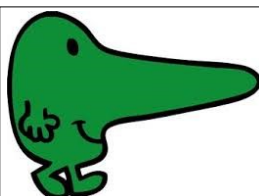
Find it!
Holly found on pages: 1,2,3,4,6 and 8





In science we have been learning about plants and living things. We all had a partner and I worked with

Callum. Our job was to see if we could match a picture of the part of a plant, to the actual living plant. We went in to the garden to look at the plants and trees for this work. Some of the trees and plants look different due to the changes in the weather because it is now Autumn.
- Brandon, 7S



This term we have had three new Learning Support Assistants join our team. Brenden & Ryan from 8W caught up Nick, Catherine & Marsha to ask some nosey questions.....

Katherine

Where are you from? Derby.
What's your favourite food? Pizza.
Where would you go on holiday if you won the lottery? Italy.
What's your favourite Christmas movie? The Grinch.



Marsha



Can you ride a bike? Yes.
Where do you go food shopping? Asda.
What's the last thing you bought from Amazon? A guitar strap.
What's your favourite chocolate? Kinder Bueno Bar.

Nick

Do you have any brothers and sisters? Three sisters and two brothers.
Have you got any pets? Yes, a hamster.
Have you worked in any other schools? Yes, Trinity school.
What present would you really like for Christmas? PlayStation 4.



Keeping out the Rain..

Since September there has been no ICT club, football in the hall or chill time in the heart at break and lunchtimes with friends. Everybody goes outside now even if it is cold and wet. At first we weren't looking forward to this because we all liked doing the clubs we had chose to do and because we thought we would be freezing. And we would get soaked. But now we don't have to worry if it is because we have three special canopies which are a bit like marquees with no sides. Year 11 usually play on the yard or in the sensory area. I usually play football and I like it better because we're all just playing for fun not trying really hard to beat each other. Lots of us who usually used to stay inside have started to use the play equipment as well and have really enjoyed it. - Stephen & Josh, 11BK



Romeo and Juliet

In English lessons we have been doing Romeo and Juliet. We have been watching the movie and have also been reading the book. The book we have read is a bit different to the movie because it isn't as long. We have also been acting it out each part that we have watched. We joined up with the other Year 10 class (10P) and we all had parts. I was Lord Capulet who is Juliet's dad. We had to act out being in the market place and having a fight with the Montagues.



Lord Capulet telling his nephew Tybalt off for fighting with the Montagues

The Prince of Verona came and told us if we didn't stop we would all be executed. David H in my class was Romeo. He went really out of his comfort zone because usually he is quite quiet and shy and you have to encourage him to say stuff. But when he was Romeo he really put effort in to it and I'm pretty sure ever since then he has been a bit more chatty in class. - Shah, 10A



Boyd and Saarah, 10P, at the Montague banquet choosing their party food

I was Romeo and I put the ring on Mcarahlee's hand because she was Juliet. I liked filming the party. There was food on the table, like a big banquet, and I did my best sidestep dance move. - David H, 10A

OUTDOOR



Nyle (above) & Callum (below) toasting marshmallows



LEARNING

On some Friday mornings, our class has joined up with 7G for some fun learning outside. We have been to a campfire which is at the bottom of the sensory garden bit. Staff helped us to make the fire and then light it. We all sat around it. We took turns to toast our marshmallows over the flames. We had to wear special safety gloves to make sure we didn't get burnt. When the marshmallows were done we put them between two chocolate Hobnobs. These are called 's'mores'. We ate our 's'mores' sitting round the fire. Some people had drinks as well, you could have hot chocolate if you wanted it. Once everyone had finished we helped pour water on the fire to put it out. I enjoyed doing this...and also eating the 's'mores' for breakfast. - Nyle, 7D



Santa and his Elf, (miss) Parker, meet the students



Elf Taylor.. exploring some 'post-retirement' options

We had a very special visitor in school during the run up to Christmas. Santa came along to give presents out to all of the students and left more for our students who aren't able to be in school at the moment which will be here for them when they return in January. On hand to give Santa some help and support, were Elf Taylor accompanied by Elf Parker.

A big thank you to Liam & Tim from Vision Education.



A Letter from the Head



What a strange year it's been! I don't think many of us will have experienced anything like this before. It has been hard for everyone, and there have been many challenges and difficulties to navigate our way through. The partial closure of the school in spring and summer was incredibly hard for students and families. I think everyone was at least a little anxious about how things would be in school this term. It's certainly been different, but sometimes different can be good.

Being based in pastoral classes all of the time has meant that students haven't been able to access specialist learning in the way they usually would, but it has opened up opportunities for different kinds of learning.

We have made full use this term, of the school's extensive outdoor spaces. It has been great to see students outdoors at break and lunch using all the outdoor equipment and every space the school has to offer. There has been more outdoor teaching during lesson times too and the bikes and trikes have been used so much the tyres have been worn out! Some students have been able to develop new skills and it has been fantastic to see the pride and excitement in those who have learned to ride a bike for the first time.

Indoors, we have made full use of technology to ensure that students - and staff - stay in touch with each other while limiting physical contact. Assemblies are held remotely with all classes joining in from their own classroom - we even have whole school exercise sessions using video link - could be useful in January for working off all those mince pies!

Staff have been incredibly creative in the ways that they have ensured that students continue to enjoy, learn and achieve. The usual Christmas events have taken place too, in a slightly different format, but we have had a Christmas carol concert, whole school film afternoon, whole school panto and we will even have the traditional Christmas disco - all without leaving our classrooms! Thank you to all of you who supported our virtual Christmas Fair. We missed the chance to see you and catch up over a coffee, but hopefully we will see you all back in school next year.

Until then, thank you once again for your support for the school. Thank you also to the staff for all their hard work and dedication to the school and the students - you really have gone above and beyond this year. Lastly - thank you to the students - thank you for your energy, your enthusiasm, your individuality and most importantly, for being yourselves and making us smile - you are all wonderful!

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas and let's look forward to a brighter New Year.

Karen Hamilton,
Headteacher

TRICK OR TREAT

Students in sixth form did some Halloween activities in the week before half term. We made lots of different decorations and put them in our breakout space to decorate it for our Halloween party.

We used paper plates and a needle and thread to make a spider web decoration. It was a bit tricky to start with but it was good practise using our hands to do fiddly jobs. We also made some spiders from different arts and crafts stuff like pipe cleaners and rope. We all had a pumpkin each as well. We could choose to carve it or paint it. Most people decided to paint theirs because we usually cut them at home. Hanifa did a pumpkin that she painted black and then put white stars on. Each 6th form class has a winner. In 6M Zain won, he did Bella from the 'Tweenies' because it's his favourite person on there. In 6G Katie won, she did a hedgehog which was painted brown with leaves stuck on. In 6N Robert won, his was like a pumpkin eating a pumpkin. I did carve my pumpkin instead of painting it and made it look like it was being sick! Lot's of us got dressed up for the party. - Letalia 6N



Witch Holly



Everybody worked hard creating individual masterpieces!



Ava made her pumpkin vomit by mixing up some green poster paint and porridge..

YUK!



DAY OF THE DEAD!



Students designed 'skull' pizzas

In our Lifeskills lessons we have been learning about different cultures around the world and their celebrations. We decided to learn about 'The Day of the Dead' and why it is an important celebration. We found out that it is celebrated in Mexico and it's a way for people to remember family, friends and loved ones who have passed away. It is a happy day with lots of food, costumes and masks. In 6th form, we had our own celebration with food, drinks and decorations that we had made ourselves and we even had a Piñata that we had to hit to get all the sweets out. We had lots of fun and enjoyed expecting a different culture for the day. - Class 6N

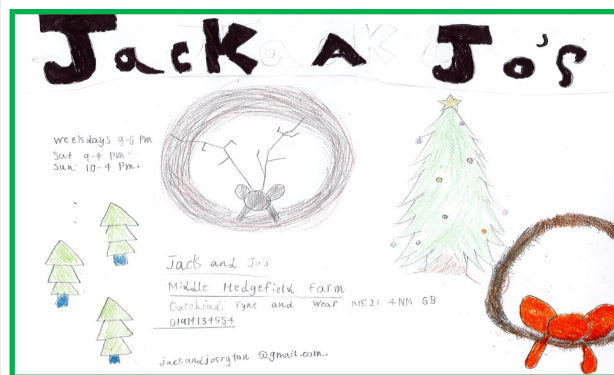
I liked the piñata the best we had to hit it with a tennis racket over and over again then eventually loads of sweets fell out.

- Holly, 6N

For the party we had to decorate the whole of sixth form area with paper chains, masks and skulls. We made the paper chains and masks ourselves. - Letalia 6N
At the party we had 'Day of the Dead pizzas' which we had made earlier. We also had cake and crisps to eat and a big bowl with little packets of sweets in to share. I liked hitting the piñata and having some fizzy pop. - Robert MS



Ellie



Advert designed by Shar & King John, 10A

SCP Kids Zone

Christmas News Crossword

Across

- A new member of staff?
- Who told us that 'rounders' was his favourite game?
- Letalia carved a pumpkin to celebrate this?
- Rupinder loves this game?
- He told us about Romeo and Juliet?

Down

- We have one of these in the grotto outside?
- We will all miss her when she retires?
- Brandon had to look for living things in this lesson?
- 10A gave us all something lovely to look at?

What do you get when Santa becomes a detective?
Santa CLUES!

Where does a snowman keep his money?
In a snow bank!

How does a snowman lose weight?
He waits for the weather to get warmer

Find it!

Can you find 6 sprigs of holly in our Winter School News?

Spot the Difference

Can you spot 5 differences in our Fenwick's Window?

Christmas Sudoku

Can you

Answers on page 7 →