



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

As we approach the Christmas break and reflect on the successes of the autumn term, I would like to thank our fantastic pupils for the joy and happiness they bring to our school.

Despite some easing of restrictions, 2021 has been far from typical. However, the children have exceeded expectations with their resilience and determined approach to school life.

Our pupils have developed as writers, mathematicians, artists, scientists and much more this term and we are proud of their academic, creative and sporting achievements.

This year, we have spoken more often about the importance of kindness and looking after our own mental health. I am very proud of pupils' ability to care for and look after one another, they really are a credit to their families and our school.

As the term draws to a close, I'd like to thank every member of staff for ensuring we provide the children with the very best curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities. It has been a very busy term and I wish you all peace and happiness over the festive season.

And finally, to our wonderful parents and carers who continue to support us relentlessly. I very much hope that the spring term brings with it more face-to-face opportunities and the return of in-school events.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a happy and healthy 2022.

*C Harris*

Mrs C Harris, Headteacher



## Pupils support Pudsey

Browney Academy became a sea of Pudsey bears this term as our school celebrated Children in Need 2021!

We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated to the wonderful cause, you are all helping to make a real difference to people across the UK.



# Browney remembers

On the 11th day, of the 11th month at 11 o'clock, Browney Academy paused to commemorate those who fought on behalf of their country and those who died and never came home.

Our Year 6 children delivered a moving assembly, outlining the importance of Remembrance Day and why we mark the special day every year. Each class made a poppy to be displayed in school and learned about why we wear poppies.

After reading the poem 'Flanders Fields', Lucas in Year 3 said: "We will always remember the people who have fallen in the war. Poppies will grow where your blood fell on the ground. We will always remember how you fell for us. Thank you, we love and respect you all."

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie*

*In Flanders' fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' Fields.*

## Christmas jokes

Which Christmas carol is a parent's favourite?

*Silent Night!*

What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree and an iPad?

*!ajddpau!d v*



## Dates for your diary

- 17 Dec** Break up for Christmas
- 05 Jan** Back to school
- 18 Feb** Break up for half term
- 28 Feb** Back to school
- 08 Apr** Break up for Easter
- 25 Apr** Back to school
- 27 May** Break up for half term
- 06 Jun** Back to school

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

[www.browneyacademy.co.uk](http://www.browneyacademy.co.uk)



## Let's celebrate what makes us different

This term, as part of National Anti-Bullying Week, Browney Academy saw the return of Odd Sock Day.

Pupils put on their mis-matching socks to celebrate our uniqueness and appreciate that everyone is different.

Our school had lots of fun while raising awareness for a serious topic.

All of our children know that we should always be kind to everyone, no matter our differences.

## The kindness calendar

Our Year 5 pupils got into the festive spirit this term, creating a kindness advent calendar.

After being inspired by looking at global issues and people's rights, our children wrote kind and encouraging messages to place in the calendar.

Throughout each day in December, pupils have taken turns to open a door where they get to keep one of the lovely kind notes that have been placed inside.

The messages from Year 5 let everyone know that they are there for each other. Here is a little selection of messages that were included...

**'You are amazing, no matter what.'**

**'Hope your day is as spectacular as you are.'**

**'You always have a friend in me.'**



## Toby lights up the sky!

Congratulations to Toby, who along with his brothers Alex and Will, worked to build two lanterns for the Lumiere installation, City of Lights.

Toby designed his wonderful lantern to look like a castle and we think you will agree that it looks amazing!

Well done boys we are so proud of your grand designs!

## We're social

Did you know that our school regularly posts exciting updates on Facebook and Twitter?

Our social media pages are a great way to connect to our online Browney Academy community. You can find photos, videos and important updates on our pages and see what your little ones are up to in the classroom. If you don't follow our pages already, please give us a like or a follow to stay in the loop!



@BrowneyAcademy



facebook.com/  
BrowneyAcademy

# Christmas recipe

Why not try making some delicious Christmas ginger bread during the Christmas holidays?

Remember, always make sure to get help from a grown up!

## What you will need:

- 100g salted butter
- 3 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 225g plain flour
- 50g icing sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 100g dark muscovado sugar
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda



## Method:

**STEP 1** – Heat the butter, syrup and sugar together in a small pan until melted, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool slightly.

**STEP 2** – Mix together the bicarb, ginger, cinnamon and flour. Pour in the syrup mixture and stir. Use your hands to form a dough.

**STEP 3** – Put the dough on a sheet of baking parchment, shape into a rectangle, and lay another sheet of parchment on top of it. Roll the dough and transfer to a baking sheet to keep it flat. Chill in the fridge for 1 hr.

**STEP 4** – Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Cut out shapes from the dough using a cookie cutter.

**STEP 5** – Place the shapes, spread apart, on the lined baking sheet, and bake for 10-12 mins. Depending on how thick your dough is, you may need to increase the cooking time a little!

**STEP 6** – Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with 1-2 tbsp water. Decorate the cooled biscuits with the icing using a piping bag with a thin nozzle.

## Quiz answers:

1. Germany
2. Four
3. Paris
4. Britain
5. 364
6. 1994
7. The Polar Express. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
8. Japan
9. Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
10. Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.

# Christmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
3. In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
4. Which country did eggnog originate?
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
6. What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie Love Actually, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?

## CHRISTMAS FILM REVIEW: HOME ALONE

*"This is my favourite Christmas film because the little boy puts festive traps out to catch the bad people. It is sad at first when the little boy is alone, but he becomes more confident and protects the house and his family. My favourite part is when the little boy's Mam and Dad come home on Christmas morning. It makes me happy because no-one should be alone at Christmas time."*

By Sophia, Year 3





**North East  
SCITT**

**Did you know that our school is a partner of North East SCITT - an organisation that trains new teachers in schools across the north east - including in ours!**

Whether you're a new graduate, in your final year of university or considering a change of career (it's never too late you know!), North East SCITT's high-quality school-based initial teacher training courses can provide you with the best start to a new career in teaching. They are based in the North East Learning Trust's lead school, The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, but training happens in schools all across the region.

The quality of training they offer is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted for both their primary and secondary courses. Along with this they have a proven track record of amazing

results and high employment rates. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn to teach 'on-the-job'. Unlike traditional university courses, you are in the classroom from the outset, interacting with pupils and teachers and learning first hand the knowledge and skills you'll need to become an outstanding teacher.

You will practise in a broad range of schools, gaining experience in different areas including special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour management, English as an additional language, phonics, and maths mastery (for primary only).

You will also be allocated a subject mentor from a team of specialists with vast experience who will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject.

At the end of the 10 month course you'll be a qualified teacher with a PGCE from Durham University.

So if you're thinking of teaching - there is no better place than through our school partners North East SCITT - please get in touch - we know they would love to speak to you!

**Subjects available:**



- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Computing</b>     | <b>Physical education</b>       |
| <b>Design and technology</b> | <b>Religious education</b>      |
| <b>Drama</b>                 | <b>Biology</b>                  |
| <b>English</b>               | <b>Chemistry</b>                |
| <b>History</b>               | <b>Physics</b>                  |
| <b>Geography</b>             | <b>Modern foreign languages</b> |
| <b>Maths</b>                 |                                 |
| <b>Music</b>                 |                                 |

**Try a teacher training taster day...**

If you're thinking about training to teach, you can come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like. Find out more and book your place at:

[www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster)



**Apply now for Sept 2022**

**New year, new career?**

**Become a teacher in 2022!**

**Outstanding teacher training in schools across the North East**

**Bursaries of up to £24k available to train in some subjects**

**Find out more at: [www.northeastscitt.co.uk](http://www.northeastscitt.co.uk)**