

Dear Parent/Carer

The year has past by in a blur! We are now enjoying the fruits of the building labours, in the shape of our new hall and toilets/changing room. We are able to offer the swing programme to more children and our children in Beech and Cherry no longer have to travel through school to use the toilets.

The addition of our wheelchair swing and canopy have meant that the yard has more to offer the children through all the seasons.

We are continuing to enjoy our post Ofsted period, although rest assured this does not mean that we are sitting back. We are pushing forward with school development all the time and are excited to be thinking about how we can base this practice and development in further research. I would ask you all to fill in the parent view form online, this can be found by searching for the 'Ofsted Parent View' online, it is a new form that matches the new Ofsted framework. It is a useful way for us to gauge how we are doing and if there are areas that we should be working on.

I am sharing with you the information about a research project that we are supporting. This project is being carried out by the wife of our Chair of Governors, George Murray. The purpose of the project is to validate the use of an online Intellectual Disability Screening Questionnaire. I think that being part of this project would be really helpful, it would give us information about the cognitive ability of our children, this is something that currently we do not have. The information would also be helpful for you as parents when filling in forms about your child/young person and when looking for support as the young people prepare to leave school. I hope that you might be able to get involved.

We have welcomed Mrs Johnson and Mrs Darling back to school and have our newly appointed staff member Miss Lindsay as well.

We have all our Christmas events planned and hope that you will enjoy them as much as we will.

In the new year we intend to start our fundraising drive for our two new vehicles. The old mini-bus is on its last legs and due to changes to the law on who is able to drive a vehicle of this size and weight we have decided to go for two seven seat vehicles. We estimate it will cost us up to £80,000 this is a huge amount of money for a small charity like ours and will take some time to accumulate. We will have to work at this over the coming years and hope that the old bus keeps going in the mean time! We are also applying for grants from different organisations, if we are successful I will let you know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our school. I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, peaceful Christmas and New Year, see you all in 2026.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Penny Derries

Validating an online Intellectual Disability Screening Questionnaire for children and young people

We would like to invite you and your child to take part in a project which is exploring how accurate a short screening questionnaire (the CAIDS-Q) is at identifying children with and without an intellectual disability. Children with an intellectual disability have significant difficulties with their understanding, learning and some day-to-day skills. This is called a learning disability or intellectual disability.

Some children and young people who have learning disability have to wait a long time for this to be identified and then fully investigated. In the meantime, they might miss out on support that could have helped them.

Who can take part?

You can take part if you:

- are aged 18 years or over;
- are able to give informed consent;
- have a child aged between 6 and 17 years
- live in the North East of England

We would like children with and without an intellectual disability to take part.

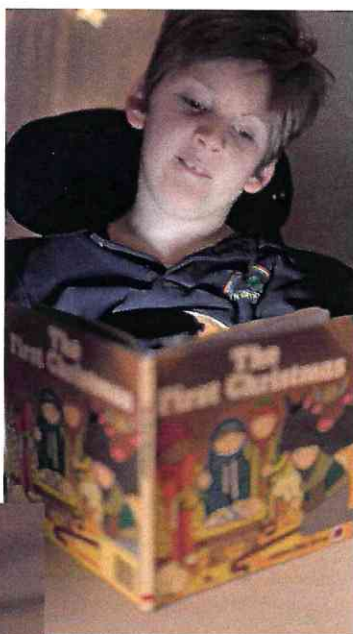
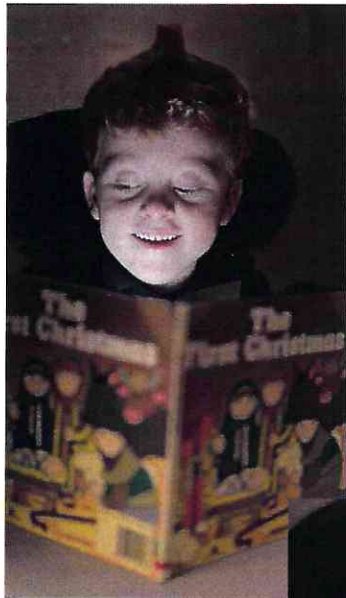
The study has been approved by the University Ethical Approval system (10698) at Northumbria University.

To find out more and to take part go

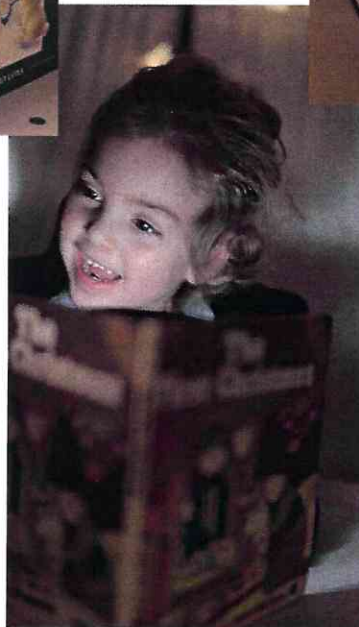
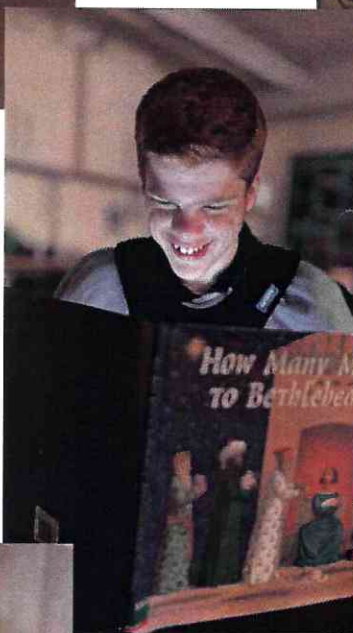
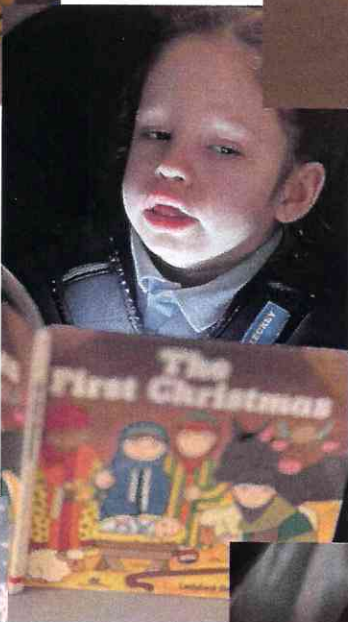
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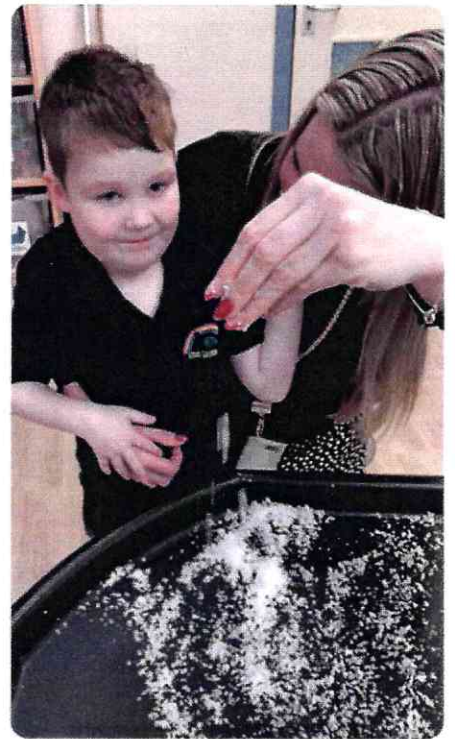
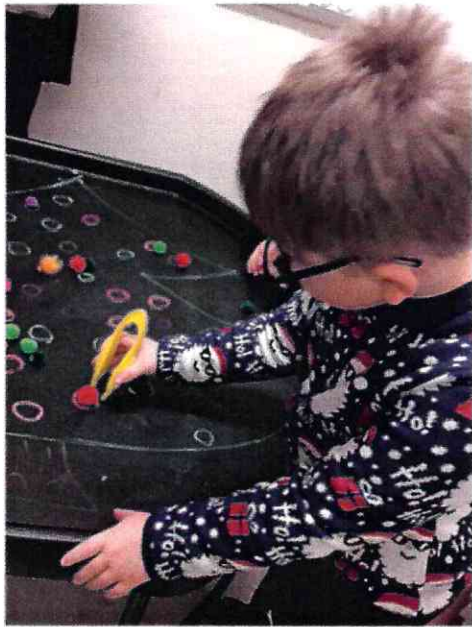
If you have questions about the study, you can contact:

Karen McKenzie (k.mckenzie@northumbria.ac.uk)

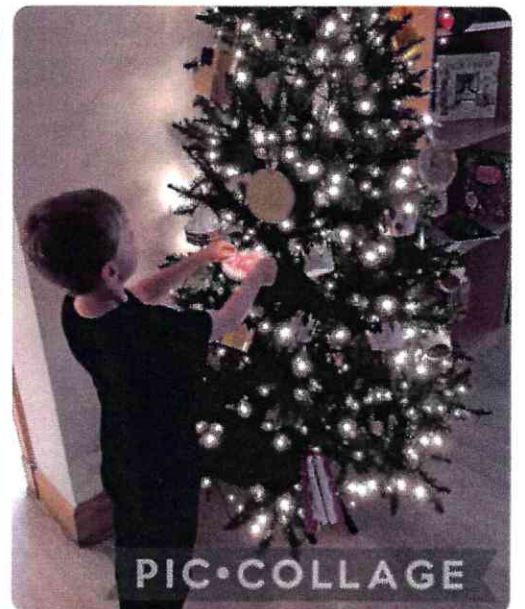
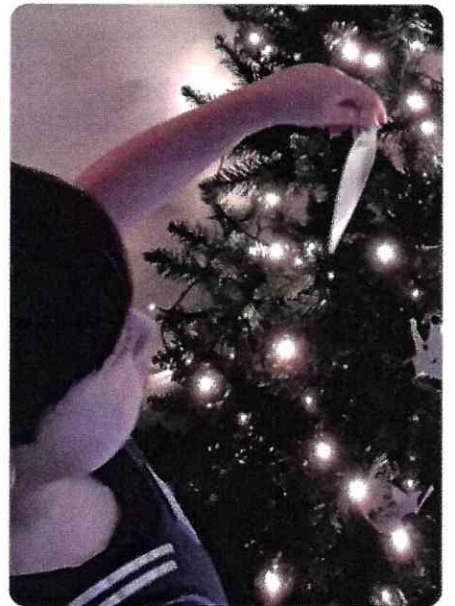


**Willow's
Christmas
Library**





Elm class
have had lots
of fun getting
ready for
Christmas 🎄



PIC•COLLAGE

Beech Class have been supporting our school Green Council by litter picking in our local community. The children chose to pick up litter near the Sports Centre after identifying that it was very messy on their way to swimming. The children separated the litter into recyclables and general litter and managed to pick up two bags full of litter.

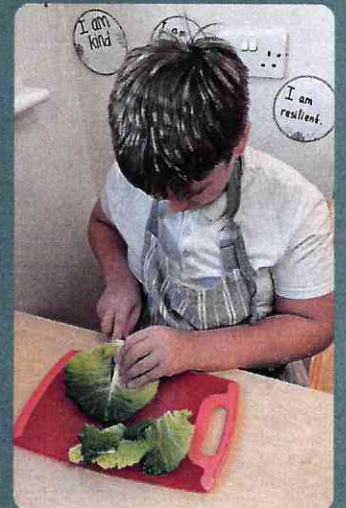


Sycamore Class have been getting energised, playing 'Duck Duck Goose' together. The boys have to run fast to make sure they don't get caught! Everyone has taken part and had great fun





Oak class have enjoyed making our Christmas cakes, visiting the garden centre, making gifts and cards for our parents and making lots of different foods from around the world.





DECEMBER 2025 - CHERRY CLASS

We recently participated in a learning walk around our local Asda store. Shona, the Asda Community Lead, took us on a full tour of all areas of the store and explained the various roles and responsibilities of the colleague team. We decided we would not be keen working in the chill department as the large fridge and freezer were very cold. We even experienced working on the till serving customers which was amazing. It was another fantastic learning walk in the 'world of work' within our Cherry Class curriculum.

