

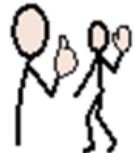
George Hastwell School

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



Welcome to our December newsletter

Hello and goodbye



We have welcomed several new pupils to the school this term — Laurence, Christian, Lucas, Kyra, Evie, Liam, Leanne, Thomas, Rico and Brandon. We have welcomed some new members of staff — Mia, Hayley, Lindsey, Jackson and Simone. We hope they will all enjoy their time at George Hastwell.

We also have said goodbye to two long-serving members of staff, Debbie and Clare, and wish them every success in the future.

Headteacher's message

Once again this has been a very busy term at George Hastwell. There have been far too many things happening to fit into one newsletter, but I hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights of the term in our newsletter.

In particular, we have been very busy with sporting and musical events. We are very proud that our Sixth Form boccia team have reached the regional finals in Liverpool, and our that signing choir reached the final of the Barrow BID signing choir competition. Thank you to the staff who put the hard work in to enable our pupils to show their skills and talents to the local community.

We have also been involved in several charity events across the term, to help our pupils to understand that we all have a duty to help others, and these are always well supported by our staff and parents.

Thank you to our staff for all their hard work this term, and for their dedication to the school and our pupils.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing all of our pupils again on Tuesday 7th January.



Best wishes,

Karen Baxter

Moor Tarn Lane
Walney Island
Barrow-in-Furness
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GHS Values

We have now completed our cycle of six values, by focusing on resilience this term.

The full six values are:

- Respect
- Fairness
- Kindness
- Pride
- Responsibility
- Resilience

Our goal is to permeate these core values into every aspect of our school; underpinning our curriculum and our ethos. In doing this we aim to develop our pupils understanding of their local communities and the wider community of Britain. In January, we will return to focus on respect.

Our Eco Warriors!

Silver Birch class have continued their interest in the environment this term. One of the pupils asked if they could plant some trees, so the class organised a tuck shop to raise money to buy the trees, baking the biscuits and cakes themselves. Well done to everyone involved.



Remembrance Day

Two of our youngest pupils attended the Remembrance Day event in Ulverston on 11th November, where they even got to meet the mayor! Back at school, everyone took part in two minutes silence.



KS2 sports event



In November some of our KS2 children took part in an inclusive sports festival where they had chance to try a range of sports. Everyone had a great time and were fantastic representatives of the school.



Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival took place on 14th October. All of the classes presented an item about Autumn or Harvest. Thank you to all those who donated food, which was collected by the Barrow Foodbank.



MacMillan Café

We had a fantastic turnout for our MacMillan Café in September, which was organised by our Sixth Form pupils and staff. Some of our pupils use the event as an opportunity to gather evidence for their ASDAN award challenges. Thank you to everyone who came and supported us on the afternoon. Your donations helped us to raise more than £260 for MacMillan Cancer support.



Jeans for Genes

On 20th September we took part in Jeans for Genes day. Pupils and staff members wore jeans for the day to raise funds and awareness of children with genetic disorders. About £40 was raised from the non-uniform

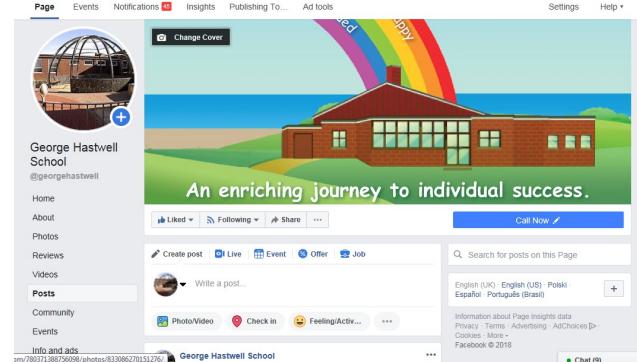
collection.



News

Facebook page

Our Facebook page now has well over 500 likes and is a good way to find out what has been happening in the school and about upcoming events.



Building improvements

In the summer we made a range of improvements to the school building, including adapting the resource room to provide a work space for teachers, remodelling a kitchen area, new flooring in two rooms, and the painting of several classrooms. We have submitted bids for further building improvements from the Conditions Improvement Fund and we are currently fund-raising for developing the outdoor areas at the rear of the school.

Crisp packet recycling scheme

We are still participating in the crisp packet recycling scheme. We collect empty crisp packets in school and send them off to Terracycle, the waste management company. So far the scheme across the whole country has prevented 19 million crisp packets from being sent to landfill.



Fundraising

We have received a donation from the Charity Bikers for £300. This will be put towards the improvements to our outdoor areas.



Awards Ceremony

In November we held our awards ceremony, where we welcomed back leavers to collect their award certificates and Records of Achievement.

For the first time every pupil in the school received our new school certificate. These are personalized for each pupil and recognize their achievements over the previous academic year. New pupils received their certificate for settling into the school.



Teeth cleaning

We are taking part in a tooth cleaning programme in school, and pupils had visit from the specialist dental service earlier this term to practise cleaning their teeth. Mrs Fisher also led an assembly on looking after ourselves where we found out more about cleaning our teeth.



Children in Need

On Children in Need Day we had a range of costumes on display from our pupils and staff. In the afternoon we had a sponsored boogie to raise money jointly for Children in Need and for our playground developments. There were some wild dance moves!



Signing choir

Signing choir have been practising all year round, and are gaining in confidence with every performance. They are an inclusive choir which is now 33 strong, with 21 pupils aged 4 to 19 and also 12 staff. This term they have taken part in the Walney Churches Together Concert, performed at an afternoon tea at St Mary's Church, and entertained residents and staff at Risedale Nursing Home. They also took part in the Barrow Bid Choir Competition and were excited to reach the finals on 15th December, where our pupils did the school proud. For reaching the final we were awarded a trophy and a £50 voucher. Thank you to Mrs Bower and Cheryl for their hard work organising the choir.



Photo: Barrow BID.



Primary Musical event

In October some of our primary pupils had a musical experience with pupils from Vickerstown School. They performed for us and our pupils took part in some joint musical activities. At the end our signing choir performed, too. Everyone enjoyed sharing their talent and making new friends.



Reverse advent calendar

Two of our teaching assistants, Leanne and Karen, organised a reverse advent calendar and collected enough food to make 207 meals food and £80 in cash donations for Barrow Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who donated, and to Leanne and Karen for organising the collection.



Sporting achievements

Oak class had a fantastic day at the County Boccia competition in November at Kendal Leisure Centre. All pupils participated with great pride and enthusiasm. After playing their first round they qualified for the quarter finals which they won and went on to win the semi finals making it through to the final. After a tense and exciting game of four ends the team came runners up to Nelson Thomlinson School and achieved 2nd place overall out of 17 teams. One of our pupils played some amazing winning game shots and got voted the player of the day.

They have now qualified for the Regional competition on the 6th of February in Liverpool.

Three of our pupils took on the roles of Young Officials at the Boccia Tournament. They were very committed to their role and were excellent ambassadors for the school.



Christmas outings

Classes have taken part in a range of Christmas outings in the last couple of weeks of term. These have included the Fun Fair in Barrow town Centre, visiting the Christmas Trees in Dalton, and enjoying hot chocolate at the Roundhouse Hub and Café.



Photo: Barrow BID.

House events

Last week pupils took part in house competitions in boccia and curling. Younger pupils enjoyed trying the activities for the first time, and older pupils had some hotly contested matches.



Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair on 14th December was a great success. There was a tombola, a raffle, plus stalls from classes who had been busy with Christmas crafts. The café and cake stall were popular. Pupils from several classes had the opportunity to serve the customers by helping on the stalls. We were also joined by Outdoor Learning students from Walney School. We raised more than £650 on the day. Thank you to the staff, pupils and parents who donated goods, helped in the days leading up to the fair and on the day itself.



Christmas dinner

Christmas dinner took place on 12th December, and pupils and staff enjoyed the lunch provided by Walney School kitchen. Thank you to Walney and to our own kitchen staff.



Christmas Tree

Two of our pupils wrote to Charnleys Home and Garden in Dalton, and in return we were very pleased that Charnleys donated a Christmas Tree for our school hall. Thank you for supporting George Hastwell.



Boogie Bounce

Some of our classes have been enjoying boogie bounce sessions this term in the local community. These are fast paced sessions on individual trampolines to music. Here is one of our Sixth Form students bouncing away!



Santa Visit

We had a very special visitor this week. Thank you to the Barrow and District Disability Association for sending Santa and his elf our way!



The Trust Board Chair Writes:

I am delighted to say that, in a year where there has been so much uncertainty on the political stage, there is a great deal to celebrate with confidence and certainty in our schools!



The Trustees are enjoying working with our new CEO Paul Slater who started in September. We are delighted to see the quality of education and leadership steadily improving in our schools and we look forward to the next Ofsted visits recognising this progress. Work is forging ahead on our strategy of centralising support services, to relieve the Heads of some of the administrative burden and to enable them to focus even more on the educational provision.

The Trustees have taken the decision to change the name of the Trust in 2020 to QKET, Queen Katherine Education Trust, a shorter name that clearly states our purpose of Education, whilst still recognising the Trust's historical origins.

This newsletter celebrates the wide range of activities taking place in your school, it's great to see so much going on and to see the students making the most of these opportunities.

A big thank you to everyone who works so hard to make our schools great places to be and I wish you all a very happy Christmas holiday and look forward to an exciting year in 2020.

Beth Curl
Chair of the Trust Board

The CEO Writes:

What an incredible first term as CEO for our Trust. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside our schools during this term to see first-hand the incredible achievements our students and staff are making right across the board.

The celebratory events in all three schools have been wonderful to witness by Trustees and Trust staff alike, and all have reported back to me how special each of our schools are – individual in nature and purpose but strong together when looking to the future for our students.



Of course, none of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of every single member of staff, governor and trustee working behind the scenes.

By all working together with a clear vision, we are showing that anything can be possible to ensure we provide an education that remains wide-ranging and engaging to all students. Thank you to everyone for your commitment to the schools and to the Trust as a whole.

I would like to wish everyone, on behalf of the Queen Katherine Education Trust, a very enjoyable Christmas and a new year full of peace and happiness.

Paul Slater
Chief Executive Officer