



Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy reading it!

A message from Mrs. Boulton,

As we reach the end of another term, I would like to thank you for all of your continued support for our school. Your children are fabulous and they have certainly enjoyed the Christmas festivities in the run up to a very exciting and busy holiday! Didn't the children all do so well in their Christmas Performances? They were indeed amazing! You must be very proud of them, as we are too!

We continue to receive such positive and glowing feedback about your children, whether that be in school talking to visitors, or when they are out and about in the community with school activities, always setting such a good example.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs. Slattery a wonderful retirement. With grateful thanks to Mrs. Slattery for being such a dedicated and loyal Deputy Head Teacher to everyone involved with Timothy Hackworth, both past and present, during her 27 years of working at our school. We shall miss you Mrs. Slattery!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! I hope that you enjoy some wonderful family time together this Christmas. May you have a happy time, a peaceful time and best festive wishes to you all.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

*Mrs. Boulton*



**CRC Article 28: All children have the right to an education**

**CRC Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We find ourselves already at the end of the Autumn Term, and what a busy and successful term it has been for our school. As well as the important day to day learning, there have been many events, such as wearing spots for Children in Need, odd socks for the Anti Bullying Alliance, launching our Timothy Hackworth Parent and Toddler Group, and Parents' Consultation meetings, to name but a few. Our school is now looking very festive as the Christmas Performances have just finished, and our Christmas parties begin. Governors are looking forward to joining in the celebrations. Visiting school regularly is an important part of a Governor's role as this is how we get to know the school well and, by talking with the children and staff, we can see for ourselves how well the school's strategic plans are progressing, and ensure that school is providing the very best education and experience for all of the children. The children are always keen to talk with us and we see evidence of some fantastic learning. Our school is a very happy and safe place to be.

As you will know, Mrs. Slattery is retiring at the end of this term, after 27 very successful years at our school. On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Slattery for her complete loyalty and commitment to our school. Over the years, Mrs. Slattery has been determined in her support of our school's RRS ethos and vision and has always wanted the very best for the children and our school community. Thank you, Mrs. Slattery for your unwaivering support and dedication. We wish you a very happy and well deserved retirement.

Thank you to our staff team for another productive and successful term. The continued success of our school is a very clear reflection of the hard work of all our staff, whatever role they play within our school community. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to say "thank you" to them all.

Finally, thank you for your continued help and support, it is very much appreciated.

The Governors wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes, on behalf of all the Governing Body.

Mrs. Pauline Crook

Chair of Governors





## A BIG DEBATE

CRC Article 12: All children have the right to an opinion and to be listened to.

In June, some of our Year 5 children went to County Hall to participate in a new event organised by Durham Youth Council. The children had to prepare their opinions on a range of topics and then, in the real council debating chamber, they shared their views in front of a large audience of children and teachers. Both children did themselves proud and were excellent ambassadors for Timothy Hackworth Primary School.

*"I felt like I had a job and was having a real debate, which will become law, because we got to use the microphones in the debating chamber."* A. Scaife

*"I will remember how big the audience room was and how it felt trying to speak in front of the whole school."* K. Robertson





## Reading at Christmas



Between all the shopping, cooking and festivities, it can be hard to find time to maintain your child's learning over the break. Plus, with all the excitement and time off school, children can have trouble focusing on anything other than Santa's arrival!

Amidst the busy Christmas period, it can be easy to forget about the enjoyment reading can bring - but with these tips, you'll see that Christmas can actually be the perfect time to help your child fall in love with reading even more.

### 1. Read Christmas stories as a family

There are a huge number of stories that you and your child can read together to get you in the festive spirit, whether they're new releases or classic tales. Why not read a chapter or part of a story each night in the lead up to Christmas, with family members taking turns to read? Splitting up a story like this creates cliff-hangers that leave children wanting to hear more and establishes a reading routine that you're more likely to keep up.

### 2. Give books as gifts

Our research shows that children who have a book of their own are much more likely to read above the level expected for their age than children who don't own a single book. Unwrapping a brand new book as a Christmas present can emphasise to children how special books are, and having a good selection of their own books to choose from will encourage them to read more in their free time.

### 3. Try audiobooks

Audiobooks are a great way to help children access the incredible world of stories, particularly children who find reading difficult. They're also good entertainment for the whole family! There are so many brilliant children's audiobooks available - why not put one on in the car when you're out shopping with your child or on your way to visit family and friends over Christmas?

### 4. Switch off

Try to resist the lure of all that great Christmas TV! Having dedicated story time with your child where you switch off all technology, like TVs and phones, means that you can all focus on the story without any distractions.

### 5. Don't stress!

Christmas can be a stressful time as it is, so don't worry too much about whether you're doing the 'right' amount of reading with your child over the holidays. Research shows that reading with your child for just ten minutes a day is enough to make a difference, and it doesn't need to be ten minutes at once - little and often is just as beneficial.





Useful websites:

<https://www.santagames.net/stories/default.htm>

<https://www.storyberries.com/category/christmas-stories-for-kids/>

<https://www.storynory.com/category/seasons/christmas-stories/>

<http://www.free-short-stories.org.uk/short-christmas-stories.htm>

<https://www.freekidstories.org/parents/free-christmas-stories-videos-children>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/christmas/ChristmasGames.aspx>

Why not see if you can complete this Christmas Reading Challenge during the festive period.  
Bring it back to your teacher after the holiday.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK READING CHALLENGE



It is very important for your child to continue to read and write over the holiday break. This extra incentive is being offered in order to help you encourage your child. Have your child choose four or more activities in a row, column, or on a diagonal to complete the challenge. Return the signed and completed grid card, along with any of the writing activities that were completed, to win a prize! Due \_\_\_\_\_

© 2014 Ms. G In Texas

Read a book about a New Years Tradition. Title _____	Write about a holiday tradition you celebrate with your family.	Find and read an article about how people around the world celebrate Christmas differently.	Write a poem about what Christmas means to you.
Write a story about one of your family's holiday traditions.	Write about a New Years Resolution you have for yourself. Why is it important to you?	Read a book about a Christmas Tradition. Title _____	Read a non-fiction book on Snow or New Years customs around the world. Title _____
Read a non-fiction book on Christmas or New Years traditions around the world. Title _____	Read a book about a New Years Tradition. Title _____	Write a poem about what Christmas means to you.	Create a chart that compares your family's holiday traditions to a friend's traditions.
Write about a holiday tradition you celebrate with your family.	Read a non-fiction book on Christmas or New Years traditions around the world. Title _____	Write about a New Years Resolution you have for yourself. Why is it important to you?	Read a book about a Christmas Tradition. Title _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_





**CRC Article 17 – All children have the right to books and information.**

**CRC Article 28 – All children have the right to a good education.**

Timothy Hackworth once again held their annual Book Fair, with pupils having the opportunity to choose from over 100 book titles and a large range of different publishers. Many children visited with the Book Fair with their parents and many books were purchased. A massive thank you to all parents, carers and family members who brought their children to the Book Fair after school.

A huge thanks to the Year 6 pupils who helped run the Book Fair.







## Would you like to become a litter picker?

We support individuals, organisations and community groups who would like to organise their own litter picks throughout the year. For further information on how to book the loan of equipment and the guidelines on how to lead your own litter pick safely, please contact:

[litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk](mailto:litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk)



## Help keep your area tidy

- Always put litter in a bin.
- Recycle where possible.
- Do not throw litter from cars/vehicles as this affects our roads, countryside and natural habitats for wildlife.
- Encourage children, friends and family to put their litter in a bin or take their rubbish home with them.
- Remember; dropping litter is an offence and is enforced by a £150 (maximum) and £65 (minimum early payment) Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

Report Environmental Crimes: <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/>





**Article 6: All children have the right to life and to be healthy.**

**Article 28: All children have the right to learn and to go to school.**

Our children at Timothy Hackworth Primary School benefit from the partnership we have with The Magic Breakfast. We provide bagels every morning to our children as they come into class in order to provide nourishment at the start of their day (research has shown that hunger can affect learning). Our children love this at the start of the day and it is an important part of their routine.

The comment below is from a recent visit by The Magic Breakfast:

*"Thanks to Mrs. Boulton for the lovely words, it's nice to hear how important breakfast is at Timothy Hackworth."*

At Magic Breakfast, we know the importance of ensuring children and young people have the fuel they need to learn in the morning, in order for them to excel and reach their academic potential.



*Breakfast Club is available from 08.00 at a cost of £2. This is run by experienced school staff. A nutritious breakfast is provided, including toast and cereal.*





CRC- Article 6: All children have the right to life and to be healthy.

CRC- Article 19: All children have the right not to be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.



The Road Safety Squad worked with PC Jessica Brown and PC Holly Cowton to judge the 'Parking Ticket Competition' entries. The Police Officers were so impressed that they have taken all of our entries to show their colleagues. Our winning tickets will be put on cars around school this half term! Please park safely so you get a Green Parking Ticket.

Our new Road Safety Squad children are:

3H- Oliver R

3T- Molly N

4H- Olivia M

4T- Lincoln B

5H- Kobi L

5T- Evie Pa

6H- Lucas S and Jack N

6T- Cody B



CRC- Article 24: All children have the right to the best possible health.

CRC- Article 29: All children have the right to be best they can be.

The Sports Group have been working with Nathan from County Durham Sports. They are trying to promote being more active at school, home and in the community. As a result of this we have been taking part in the School Games Live specials. This is one way we are keeping active in school. It is always great fun! We have recently taken part in the Christmas Special. Our fitness levels are increasing and we are becoming more active as a whole school. We are always resilient even though we do get a little bit tired!







*CRC- Article 24: All children have the right to the best possible health.*

*CRC- Article 29: All children have the right to be the best they can be.*

## Road Safety Week

### Let's Talk about Speed

The Road Safety Squad have been working with PC Jessica Brown; they have been talking to the public and drivers about speed and parking safely. They have been giving out some Parking Tickets and leaflets. The Road Safety Squad went out on to Byerley Road to monitor the parking at home time. They were shocked to see some drivers were blocking drives and parking on the zig-zag lines. The Road Safety Squad want to keep all children safe at Timothy Hackworth Primary School. They would like to see less cars parking on double yellow lines next half term. It is difficult for pedestrians to cross the road safely. If drivers continue to park where it is not safe there is going to be a serious accident. Please help us to stop this from happening!





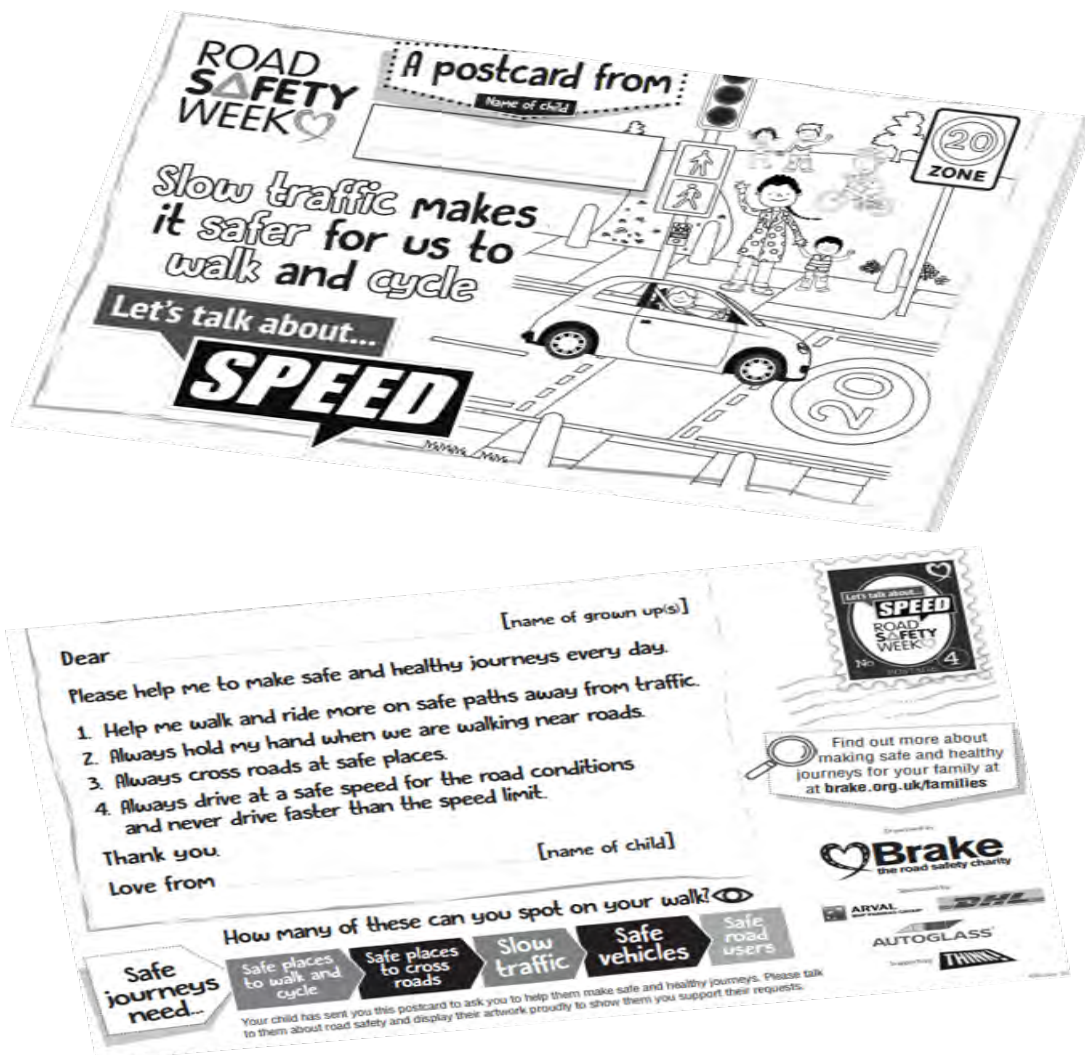


Mrs. Boulton invited the Road Safety Squad to talk about road safety in assembly.



Thank you to all those drivers who received a Green Parking Ticket. The Road Safety Squad will continue to monitor the parking around school.

Mrs. Dykes and The Road Safety Squad planned a Family Group lesson for Road Safety Week; hopefully you received a postcard about this. Here are some ideas how you can make safe and healthy journeys every day.



The Road Safety Squad want all children in school to feel safe when they cross the road.

Here are a few reminders:



# Safer Parking around our school



As a driver you have a responsibility to park  
in a safe and considerate manner.



Park with care and help make the area near and  
around our school a safer place for everyone.



## You can help by...

- ✓ Keeping your speed low, this will allow everyone else to see, think and act safely
- ✓ Always encourage your child to enter and exit your car on the pavement side
- ✓ Checking for pedestrians and cyclists before opening the car door
- ✓ Stopping for a school crossing patrol when asked
- ✓ Parking away from the school gates to reduce congestion
- ✓ Taking care when reversing

## Please don't...

- ✗ Park on single or double yellow lines
- ✗ Double park
- ✗ Park across dropped kerbs
- ✗ Stop, drop or park on the school keep clear yellow zig zags
- ✗ Park on corners
- ✗ Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- ✗ Park near the school entrance
- ✗ Block resident's driveways
- ✗ Idle your engine - this pollutes the air we breathe
- ✗ Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off

By remembering these points not only will you improve the safety of the area around our school, but you will also avoid receiving a parking ticket.

Show us  
you care  
- park  
elsewhere

Fewer cars at the school entrance  
will help make it safer for everyone.

## What you could do instead...

- ✓ Park and Stride - consider walking part of the way to school by parking away from the school and walking the rest of the way.
- ✓ Try car sharing - consider sharing the school run. If you have to drive to school then get together with other families who need to travel by car and take it in turns to drive.
- ✓ Walking Bus - organise a small group of parents/carers to share the walk to school and take it in turns with other parents/carers to do the school run. You could even combine this idea with Park and Stride.
- ✓ Cycling - you may be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there are in the areas that lead to school.



# Be Considerate to our neighbours



**Safer Parking**  
around our school

**We care about our neighbours, please, never park across driveways or on corners or junctions.**

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.



**Walking, cycling or scooting** to school contributes to the recommended daily physical exercise for you and your children.

It also helps to **reduce congestion** around school and **improves air quality**, providing benefits for everyone.



**Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone**

*What you could do instead....*

- ✓ Try walking, cycling or scooting – even if it's just one day a week, it can make a big difference.
- ✓ If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.



For more advice visit our website

[www.durham.gov.uk/schoolparking](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolparking)





# Keep Clear of our school keep clears



**Keep clear of our zig zag markings. Do not stop, drop or park on our yellow school keep clear road markings.**

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.

**Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone**

**What you could do instead....**

- ✓ Try walking, cycling or scooting – even if its just one day a week, it can make a big difference.
- ✓ If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.



For more advice visit our website  
[www.durham.gov.uk/schoolparking](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolparking)



Have a Merry Christmas and keep safe!



Children from Year 5 and 6 were invited to attend the Sports Hall Primary Competition. This was an exciting opportunity that provided children with their first competitive athletic experience. Many schools attended and we came third place in the event. Wow! The children had an eventful and memorable day. This event was a platform for young athletes to develop, whilst having fun. Sports Hall Primary competitions emphasised team participation rather than individual success. Mrs. Dykes was very proud of all the children because they all showed perseverance and kept going. The children were resilient and worked together in groups. All of the children were outstanding ambassadors for our school. They supported one another and cheered for their team. They worked collaboratively together and considered each others' strengths.









## Swimming

As a requirement of the National Curriculum PE Programme of Study, Year 4 children have been developing their swimming skills. This fantastic learning experience has developed and supported children's competence, safety and enjoyment in the water.

The children have looked forward to their Friday morning swim and have made amazing progress in not only their water confidence but in using a range of strokes effectively in such a short space of time.

*'I have enjoyed the swimming so much! It's really perked up my Friday morning!'* Evie

Article 28 – All children have the right to learn.

*'I wore three armbands on my first swimming lesson, now I don't need any!'* Eliza

Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best we can be.

*'We all look forward to our swimming lesson on a Friday, I am much more confident and it keeps us healthy.'* Jayden

Article 6 – All children have the right to be healthy.

**Well done Year 4 – We are so proud of your achievements!**





## Year 4 Cooking



In Design and Technology this half term, we have been cooking a variety of savoury dishes which included individual garlic breads, bread buns and corn muffins. We used a range of cooking techniques and skills, such as forming a bridge when using a knife to cut our ingredients safely.

As a year group, we regularly talked about the importance of hygiene, making sure that everyone was following the correct cooking and hygiene practises.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the practical element of Design and Technology, but most of all, the children have loved tasting food that they have cooked themselves.

Article 28: All children have the right to an education.

