

## GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs Joanne Maw

### November & December 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

We think you'll agree that there has been a lot going on in school over the past month. Here are some highlights:

#### Remembrance Day Services

Senior School Council students made superb contributions to the Remembrance Day Service, led by Mr Hutton.



#### University Safari

On Friday 24th November 2017, thirty-six pupils from year 6 attended a University Safari held by Newcastle University. Pupils enjoyed learning about aspects of student life and had the opportunity to work together with current students. They participated in a scavenger hunt around the campus, answering questions related to the university and even got to take part in a mini graduation of their own, and got to wear a cap and gown, with the university mascot. They really enjoyed the day and have raised their aspirations for further education.



Miss Ng and Miss Males

#### Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Junior Champions

Huge congratulations to Joel Wilkinson from Year 7 who won gold at the Junior European Jiu-Jitsu Championships. What an amazing achievement! Success obviously runs in the family, Joel's Year 6 brother Sam was awarded the gold medal in the 2015 European championships!

Mr Westgate



#### Assembly Visitors

We are delighted to have hosted a range of inspiring guest speakers to our senior assemblies. Recent visits have included the Deputy Mayor, who spoke about the exciting opportunities available to young people as part of our City of Culture bid. Resilience was a key theme in the assembly by Paul McCoy, Producer and Director of MCC media, a Sunderland company who create children's programmes, including the 'My First' series for Cbeebies.

Health awareness was the theme of the day when Rachel Wilkinson from the Teenage Cancer Trust visited to dispel myths about cancer, and issue important information on early warning signs.



**Story Telling Fundraising Evening:**

We are very grateful to the PTPA who hosted a wonderful evening of entertainment with author of The Beltheron series, and professional story-teller Chris Connaughton. Suspense and intrigue were very much the nature of the evening!



**Northern Power Grid light up Sunderland Challenge**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Year 5 children attended their own VIP party in Sunderland city centre. This was organised by the Northern Power Grid and was the reward for Year 5 winning their ‘Light Up Sunderland’ competition. Last academic year, the children worked collaboratively to design a Christmas light, which centred around the theme of the community. Year 5 were hosted in a private area with a disco, face painting and a special count down to the light being switched on. The light is hung near The Point, near Park Lane, and is well worth a look if you are in the city centre.



Miss Males & Mr Gordon

**Anti-Bullying Week Activities**



Members of the Anti-bullying team attended the children’s Anti-Bullying conference at Farringdon school. The children took part in a range of activities focusing particularly on online safety. Keynote speakers explained that even very young children are proudly calling themselves “YouTubers” and “Vloggers”, and focused on raising awareness of the possible consequences of sharing videos of ourselves online.

In addition, each class took part in activities exploring the key theme " All Different, All Equal". Children wrote random acts of kindness and Anti-bullying pledges as well as taking part in "odd socks" day. Anti-Bullying week was a huge success!

Mrs O’Brien



**UK Parliament week activities**

During UK Parliament week students took part in activities during form time, by participation in Amnesty International’s Write for Rights Campaign

Students were also invited to attend two debates to mark UK parliament week and celebrate democracy.



### Show Racism the Red Card

Staff from Show Racism the Red Card have been back in school working with some of our senior pupils within PHSE lessons. As always the sessions were informative and interactive.



### Children In Need 2017



Thank you to all staff, students and parents who gave generously to support our efforts for the 2017 Children in Need Appeal. Through our non-uniform day, sales of wristbands, face painting and a highly entertaining staff student football game we raised a grand total of £750. All activities that took place were at the request of our Primary and Senior School Councils. Well done everyone!



### Operation Christmas Child



The main hall looked like Santa's workshop for a while as students wrapped and packed boxes to send to Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to everyone's generosity we managed to pack 193 boxes. This is an incredible achievement; thank you for your kindness and generosity.



### Year 7 Silent Disco

Y7 held a silent disco in aid of the Toy box appeal. This appeal raises awareness of the plight of Guatemalan street children, aiming to supply much needed birth certificates. Without such a certificate, a child cannot access education, medical services, find a job or get married. So far, we have raised over £100! Thank you for your wonderful support- it is much appreciated!

Mrs Bowditch



### Upcoming in December: Prayer Space launch



Mrs Campbell has been working with the support of staff from our local churches to design and develop a prayer space for use in school. This is to be launched to all year groups between 11-15<sup>th</sup> December and will include a range of zones and activities, such as a reflection zone, calm jars, an

opportunity to 'take a blessing, leave a prayer', 'Fizzy forgiveness' and a 'thinking zone'. We plan to assign a permanent prayer space after the launch in the main hall and look forward to it being an important resource for all members of our school community.

### Christmas Nativity Plays

We are sure you'll join us in expressing our sincere thanks to all primary staff for making such a huge effort in preparing the children so well for their Christmas nativity plays. We are sure you will be very proud of them all! Thank you for all of your support in providing costumes and props, it is very much appreciated.

### Primary Christmas Discos

Thank you to staff and the PTPA for organising our Primary Christmas Discos, everyone seemed to have had great fun!

### Senior School Carol Service

The Senior School Carol Service will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December, at St John's Church, Ashbrooke. Buses will leave school at 1.30 for a 2pm start.

### Christmas Prayer Tree

Our Christmas Tree decorations have become a little more personalised this year, all senior students were given the opportunity to write their prayers or hopes onto tags and hang them on the tree.

### Last day of term and Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'

December 15<sup>th</sup> is our last day of term. Staff and children may show their support of the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day' by wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper. The suggested donation to the Save the Children fund is between 50p and £1.

### Ha'Way in a Manger

Our Year 4 children will be entertaining shoppers in Park Land on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December as they take part in the Connect Networks 'Ha'Way in a Manger' celebration. Our performance time is 3.30pm. and if you are in the area we would greatly appreciate your support. The rehearsals have gone exceptionally well and we know we will be very proud of all who participate!

### Carols and Candles

We have been invited to take part in the 'Carols and Candles' event, a candle lit singing journey around the city. The event starts at 4pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December, and finishes at Sunderland Minster with mince pies for all and mulled wine (for accompanying adults!)

### Snow Days

Please be assured that in the unlikely event that we needed to close the school as a result of very bad weather, we will inform you by text and the front page of the school website.

### Merry Christmas!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all those connected to our school community, and their loved ones, a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2018. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in the New Year. **School reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

### Message From Bright Tribe Multi Academy Trust

Mary McKeeman has resigned as Chief Operating Officer of the Bright Tribe Multi Academy Trust, her successor is Heidi Hoskin. Statements from Mary and Heidi are available to read in the news section of our website.

### Recent news article about Bright Tribe's Northern Academies

School's Week has reported that Sir David Carter, National Schools Commissioner, stated 'I met with the Bright Tribe executive team chair in September this year to begin that conversation about Bright Tribe moving out of the north.' If we gain further information to follow up this story, we will update parents by letter or via the school website. In the meantime, as always, our one and only priority is to ensure the highest quality of learning for each and every child and young person in school.

### Parental Feedback

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete and return the feedback form in the October newsletter.

If there are any areas of school life you would like to feedback to us about please contact us via email on

[info@grindonhall.com](mailto:info@grindonhall.com)