

WINTER

NEWSLETTER 2021

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WELCOME

from the Headteacher

Let me begin by sharing my appreciation and thanking parents/carers, governors and the staff team for your support and contributions in what has been an extremely busy term. There have been lots of activities, both new and old, being back on offer in the curriculum. We had the ever-popular MacMillan coffee and cake event, Mental Health awareness day, Pendle Dogs in Need assembly, Remembrance Day with Pendle Vale, Anti-bullying week, Children in Need and we managed a scaled down version for the Leavers' presentation assembly and other activities that you can read about in this newsletter. Of course, we still have to be mindful of COVID-19 and its impact, but we have carefully and strategically opened up as much as we can, whilst keeping our students and staff as safe as possible.

Our new year 7s had their transition activities cut short in the Summer Term but despite this, they have settled in brilliantly and it is already like they have always been here! I am particularly delighted that we have been able to have assemblies again, although numbers are limited to Key Stages.

Hodge House and the practise café are now up and running. Coffee mornings and parent courses organised by Alison (FLO) are a regular occurrence and the students are gaining lots of new skills as they serve the guests. Educational visits have also been able to go ahead as usual and the students are enjoying being back out in the community.

This term our Forest School has continued to be as successful as ever. Four classes have attended Boothman Park for half a term each. We have also extended our offer of 'learning in nature' into the school grounds. Unfortunately, this term we say goodbye to Miss Matthews our Forest School Leader, but next term we welcome Steve and Anna from Outdoors 4 All, who are going to be helping us to keep our Forest School running and supporting some of our own school staff to gain their Level 3 qualification. Staying outdoors we had some real troopers that completed their Silver award for Duke of Edinburgh which included walking in some very rainy weather.

We were totally thrilled to have the Christmas Market back again which proved to be an incredible success this year. It was fantastic to see all of the stalls lined up along Main Street, like a proper Christmas market. A big thank you to the D.T department for making all of the table top awnings as well as creating a variety of products to sell. We are very proud that several of our students stayed and helped out on the stalls or setting up. Santa was very popular this year and I think you will all agree that his grotto was truly magical. With the support of the parents, staff, stall holders and catering provision we managed to raise a grand total of £1134.99 towards the We CAN charity, which will go towards further enriching the experiences of our students.

I hope you enjoyed Pendle's got Talent again this term. We had hoped to be able to perform it in person this year but unfortunately Omicron struck along with new guidance. Yet again the students were fantastic and made us all proud.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday, stay safe and well and we will see the students again on the 5th January 2022. Best wishes to everyone!

Debra



INTRODUCING OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

At the start of the academic year, Callum and Erin were appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl after voting was undertaken by all of the staff and students in Key Stage 4 along with the members of the senior leadership team. It is a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of them both. So far they have been doing a fantastic job.

Erin says 'I am enjoying my role as Head Girl and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year'.

Callum says 'It's been a huge pleasure working within this community; being elected for Head Boy is a milestone I'll forever remember. I'm personally enjoying my role as Head Boy and I can't wait to see what the future holds. Have yourselves a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all!'

BIKEABILITY

In September, our third group of Bikeability, L1 students attended a week of cycling with instructor Emma from Go Velo. Despite the wet weather students managed to achieve their certificates and we look forward to welcoming Emma back again in the summer term for more cycling fun.



CASHLESS SCHOOL

Due to a number of factors including the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of a number of local banks; in the new year we will be working towards becoming a cash free school. We will be asking all parents/carers to sign up to our ParentPay system and will no longer accept cash payments sent into school. We have been using the system since September and it is working very well for the 66% of our parents/carers who are already using it.

ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, safe in the knowledge that the technology used has the highest internet security available.

You will have a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password. All information has been sent out already but we will send it again in the new year. If you have more than one child at our school, or children at other ParentPay schools, you can create a single account login for all your children.

Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view at a later date; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away.

Online payments will be available for school dinners, uniform, trips and events, clubs, even for donations for fundraising events.

We hope you will support us in achieving our goal to become a cashless school. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

On 7th December we held our Christmas Market event. This year we wanted to give the look and feel of a real Christmas Market and the students worked incredibly hard to make this happen. We received some funding from Bright Sparks to create the actual market stalls themselves. During their DT lessons the students used a whole range of skills to create 20 individual stalls. They helped to prepare the wood by sanding it and making sure all pieces were the correct length. They fixed frames together and attached them to tables. They then had to troubleshoot ways to make the stalls sturdy and ensure they wouldn't fall over. Lots of students got involved with the painting and everyone had lots of fun while listening to Christmas music, it was a real Christmas workshop! Once all the stalls were ready, they were wheeled into place and dressed up ready for our stallholders to set up with their wares. We had quite the range including handmade jewellery, resin gifts, pin badges and music memorabilia, tropic skincare, personalised gifts, candles, wax melts and salt crystals, bath bombs and books.

The Grotto definitely stole the show this year with Santa sitting on his custom made sleigh. Students in DT helped create the magnificent item from an old car that had been used in a drama performance! Sides were cut from large boards and fixed to the frame and then the whole thing was painted red. They made sure they had a seat for Santa and one for the children a safe distance away. Once it was placed in the Grotto and dressed up with lights and accessories, it really did look amazing!

Our college students made a tremendous effort to prepare the tombola and raffle ready for the event. All students showed incredible employability skills including teamwork, communication and the ability to work on a production line.

Despite the weather and the covid precautions, we had a good number of people in attendance. The tombola and raffle were a huge hit and children enjoyed the festive activities and games throughout the event. The cafe was busy all night eventually selling out! Customers enjoyed a whole range of food including samosas, rice, mince pies and christmas cake.

We have to give a shout out to Bella, Santa's snow dog, who everyone loved. She was the centre of attention in the busy hall and was loving every minute. Children gathered around to stroke her and have their photos taken with her and she lapped up the attention. She was very tired after the event and went home to bed for a well earned sleep!

The event was a success and raised £1134.99 for We CAN Charitable Trust. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to everyone who came and supported our event.



BIG LITTLE VOICES

This term students have been improving their vocal skills with our first big event being the recording of a school CD with Big Little Voices. Lots of classes prepared a song to record. We recorded using a backing track instead of the vocal track and we sang as well as we could. We did class vocal warm up exercises and listened to some of the best singers through history and across the world. We also learned a little about recording studios and how the CD would be made. The day of recording ran smoothly and everyone sang their very best and had fun along the way. We also held a competition to design the artwork for the CD and Sean and Joe's entries were chosen as the winners and now have pride of place on the finished product. Thank you to all of those who ordered the CD, we hope you like the results.



These were our 2 winning entries, Joe's on the left and Sean's on the right.

Straight after the recording we had to start practicing for Pendle's Got Talent! Some classes chose to use the same song and added visuals for the live performance. Other classes wanted a bigger challenge and immediately started work on a brand new song! We hope you enjoyed watching our talent show from the comfort of your sofas! Maybe you could secretly be judges at home and mark the acts/classes out of 10?!

CHRISTMAS IN PENDLE

Pendle have had a very busy couple of weeks preparing for Christmas and the holidays. We have been working in groups discussing our emotions and feelings about the holidays and spending time at home. We have explored how we can help ourselves if we feel unhappy or worried as well as happy. There were lots of discussions and scenarios which will hopefully be useful over the holidays.

We also enjoyed making gingerbread men, transferring our literacy and numeracy skills into cooking, reading recipes and measuring the ingredients. We enjoyed some flower arranging, making presents for people that we care for and enjoyed games and crafts throughout the week leading up to our Christingle service.



INTO FILM FESTIVAL

On 25th November Key Stage 3 and 4 went on a cinema trip to Reel cinema in Burnley as part of the Into Film Festival to watch Abominable. Each class then completed a film review which they have sent off as part of the competition to win more cinema tickets!



PENDLE'S GOT TALENT

For the second year running, we had to perform our Pendle's Got Talent event virtually! With current restrictions meaning we couldn't welcome parents and carers into school, students once again recorded a video of their acts and these were played over a private link for 2 consecutive days. After recording the CD for Big Little Voices, the students were well practised and rehearsed so everything ran smoothly! We hope everyone enjoyed watching the show as much as the students did making it. Well done everyone!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This term as part of PSHE we have celebrated Anti-bullying week. It took place from 15th to 19th November and had the theme 'One Kind Word'.

Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us.

Students and staff wore odd socks or designed their own. Students in Bowland led the assembly zooming into classes to spread the word. Starting with Respect and what it means to them.

**ONE
KIND
WORD**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

FUN IN DARWEN

Darwen have had a very busy first term this year. We have been learning about money in maths and how to convert a tally chart into a bar chart. In science we have been learning some very big words like PRECIPITATION and CONDENSATION and what they mean, we have done experiments to find out if substances dissolve and we made an electric circuit to light a light bulb, it's been lots of fun! In English we have read Treasure Island which we found very exciting and took turns to read. We drew our own treasure maps and made a treasure chest. We have also ventured out to Forest School. It was wet and muddy but we still had lots of fun making bows and arrows, swinging in the hammock and drinking hot chocolate. It has been a great first term getting to know each other and our new teacher Mr Bhatti who we think is fab!

COFFEE MORNINGS

It is great to see so many parents and carers attending our coffee mornings with FLO Alison and Nurse Deb, please come along to the next one!



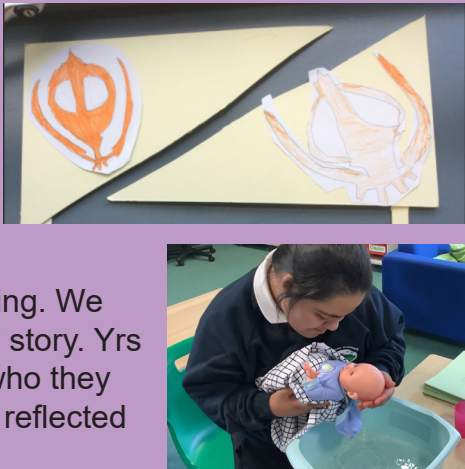
FESTIVE WREATH MAKING

On Friday 10th December, parents, carers and grandparents enjoyed making festive wreaths with Tom from Lancashire Adult Learning at Hodge House Community Centre. Our Lytham students were the perfect hosts serving refreshments throughout the session. Everyone had a great time and the wreaths looked amazing! It is always great when parents and carers get together and we hope this continues in the new year. Please look out for our coffee mornings and courses on our school Facebook/ FLO Facebook and also on the school website. Alison would like to wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas holiday!



RE THEMES

On Friday 3rd December students in KS3 took part in a RE-themed afternoon. Every class was given a different religion to look at for the afternoon. In Hodder we were looking at the religion Sikhism and as part of it, we made our own Sikh flags. The other religions looked at were Hinduism, Taoism, Daoism, Shinto, Buddhism and Jainism. Also in RE this term we have explored our school and our sense of belonging. We have engaged in celebrations held in a Church and role played the Nativity story. Yrs 8 and 9 have been researching and discovering about religious charities, who they are and how they help people from all denominations. As a group we have reflected on how thankful we are for who and what we have in our lives.



MESSY IN MARSDEN



Marsden have been covering the topic; People Who Help Us. During this time, the students have listened to stories, watched videos, and dressed up as people who help them. Ryan thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the different role play. Molly and her peers explored the different body parts via touch, she put her fingers into the messy play and mixed it between her fingers. She wasn't sure if she liked it, but it was a great effort.

CARDS FOR KINDNESS

Cards for Kindness is a campaign which aims to tackle loneliness and isolation in care homes across Lancashire and South Cumbria. The theme for this year's scheme was "What warms your heart this winter?" and people are being asked to include examples of what makes them happy alongside their festive greetings. This could be anything from pulling on a favourite Christmas jumper or eating a mince pie. Every class in school and college has made Christmas cards which will be sent out to local care homes. Inside the cards, students wished the residents a Merry Christmas and also wrote about something they look forward to at Christmas. Well done everyone!



HEAD TEACHER'S BUFFET

With guests being allowed back in school, Key Stage 5 students who are undertaking the NCFE Level 1 Food and Cookery Skills planned, prepared and served the Head Teachers Christmas Buffet for governors and supporters of our school and college. Due to the buffet clashing with the Christmas Market, it was decided to create a finger buffet which would not need students to serve. So students produced mini sweet potato, paprika and coriander pasties, individual caramelised onion and goat's cheese tart, open sandwiches based on the Scandinavian smorrebrod, individual chocolate tarts, strawberry cheesecake, home-made Christmas cake and mince pies. The buffet looked stunning and the guests thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food.



A BUSY TERM FOR PENDLE

Pendle as always have had a busy term preparing for their accreditation work. In English we have been studying about Myths and Legends. We produced our own creature from clay, wrote our own story and compared reading the story of King Arthur to the film version. We have been keeping up to date with current affairs and have discussed topics in class as they became headline news. In Maths we worked outside using a compass to give directions to each other. We also explored capacity with lots of different coloured water and Ms Grogan and Mrs Endersby came to join us and have some fun! Wellbeing activities have included "What if" scenario games, how to keep safe online and in the community. We have been involved with anti-bullying week, wearing odd socks and we discussed how we can be kind to others all of the time. We have celebrated many birthdays and even managed a trip to the cinema! What a term for Pendle!



EXPLORING GEOGRAPHY

Lots of different topics have been covered for KS3 and KS4 this term. Students have been learning about recycling and sustainability. Some of the activities have included sorting rubbish and making turbines. We have also been learning about and experiencing lots of different weather while working towards our accreditation.

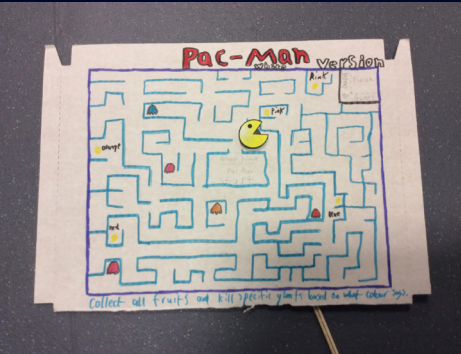
KEEPING SAFE ON BONFIRE NIGHT

On Bonfire night we had a special assembly from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service who spoke to us all about how to keep ourselves and others safe on bonfire night. They spoke about how to keep safe around fire and also how to keep safe around fireworks. The students also got a chance to ask the firefighters questions about their job. The students had all sorts of questions such as 'where do you get the water from to put out fires'? And 'what is it like to drive a fire engine'?



A-MAZE-ING SCIENCE

As part of KS4 AQA Entry Level Certificate, pupils had to produce a simple magnetic game. Students made magnetic mazes for our pupils in Year 7.



A GREAT TIME IN RIBBLE

Ribble have had lots of fun during this busy term. We have enjoyed going to Forest School and building dens. We loved having a hot chocolate after getting muddy! In Geography we have been exploring human and physical features in the local environment. In Maths we have been measuring and looking at the length and height of lots of different objects in our school environment.



A TRIP TO THE MILL

Irwell enjoyed a trip to Pendle Village Mill this term to explore different materials in science. They all had lots of fun!



TABLE TOP SALES SUCCESS



Slaidburn students have been working towards their Gateway Award and college students in Lytham and Bowland have been working towards their Princes Trust unit - Undertaking an enterprise. After weeks of planning and with the generous donations and support from staff, we have been able to hold not one, not two, but three table top sales!

The sales were well attended and received lots of support from parents and carers. We managed to raise over £300 from the sales for the school’s Charitable Trust, We CAN... Students have benefited greatly from the experience, learning how to advertise, promote, prepare and manage a sale. Lytham also offered delicious food at the events, prepared by the catering group.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us.



THE BIG CLEAN UP

After such a fantastic night at the Christmas Market, the big clean up began! It was quite the mammoth task! Classroom floors were full of paint from making the market stalls, so students learned the art of mopping; a fantastic skill for both work and domestic bliss. Other jobs included dismantling the market stalls so that they could be put away for next year; more work-related skills being utilised. When it comes to the end of our students journey at Pendle Community High School and College, they will definitely be equipped with the best work ethic and employability skills and know that work can be fun and enjoyable.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Wednesday 15th December, PCHS&C held their whole school and college Christmas dinner. Things had to be done a little differently this year with us all going downstairs to the refectory as it is a much larger space with increased ventilation. Following the guidance and risk assessments, classes kept within their bubbles and those who could wear masks did so.

We had the choice of a traditional turkey Christmas dinner or a vegetarian option with all the trimmings. The meal was delicious and enjoyed by everyone. It was nice to see so many smiling faces and the efforts people had made to get dressed up or wear something festive. Both staff and students had great fun pulling crackers, telling jokes and sharing some social time! What a lovely event for the last week of term.



SCHOOL UNIFORM AT PCHS

As you may be aware there is a lot of media coverage regarding the cost of school uniform and PCHS has always made every effort to keep costs low. This is just a reminder to all parents that the school uniform consists of a PCHS sweatshirt / cardigan (purchased from school) and the following, which are unbranded and can be bought at a local supermarket. This has been done specifically to keep costs down. A branded polo shirt is available but not essential. The photos on the right display examples of correct uniform.

UNIFORM

- Plain black trousers or black skirts
- Black shoes (all black inc. laces)
- Plain White polo/ T shirt

PE KIT

- Plain White polo T shirt
- Plain black joggers/ track suit pants or shorts
- Black or white socks
- Black or white pumps/ trainers

Please can you ensure that your son/ daughter has these items and that they are plain. Recently students have been coming in various designer clothes and/ or spotted/ striped designs for PE and they are not necessary as the uniform is for plain items only

School does have spare sweatshirts that have been given back once a child has moved on to college so if anyone needs support with uniform please do contact school.

FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS

When it is your child’s turn to go to Forest school, we have some sweatshirts from old stock that we are happy to give to students to use so that they don’t ruin their own clothes. If you would be interested in one of these sweatshirts, please let us know and we will organise.

JEWELLERY

Single stud earrings and watches are permitted for both staff and pupils. Health & Safety regulations on Campus stipulate that non stud earrings need to be removed before lessons such as DT, PE and Cooking and considering some of our students reach out when saying ‘Hello’, anything dangling could be accidentally grabbed and then cause injury, so studs only please.



STUDENTS GAIN DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

Congratulations to all and a big thank you to our Vice Chair of Governors Ken, for giving up his time to support the expeditions.



FUNDRAISING FOR CAUSES

Every year, we make a concerted effort to raise funds for a number of worthy causes. This term, alongside raising funds for our own Charitable Trust we also held events and activities to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Children in Need.

Fundraising helps students to contribute towards a common goal and learn fundamental life skills such as teamwork, creativity, customer service and goal setting. They also learn a lot about the charities they raise funds for and the worthwhile work they do.

TOTALS RAISED THIS TERM:

Children in Need: £132.20

Poppy Appeal: £87.90

MacMillan: £241.24

Well done everyone!

● NOTICEBOARD ●

ADVERSE WEATHER

As we are approaching the winter months it is time to prepare for adverse weather. Announcements will be issued by:

Radio Lancashire.

Website: Our school website will also have up to date news of our closure: www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: If these options are not available to you please call the school office on 01282 682260. If you are unable to get your child to school because of adverse weather please call the school absence line on 01282 682263.



SCHOOL CLOSES EARLY FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 1:30PM

We will re-open Wednesday
5th January, Have a fantastic
Christmas break!



POSITIVE CASES

Please report any positive cases over the weekend using the online form on our website so that we can complete contact tracing.

<https://www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk/coronavirus-updates/>