



## **December Newsletter - Headteacher's Message**

It has been a fantastic first term, despite all the challenges. Pupils have really excelled and have made fantastic progress since their return in September. I have been really impressed with the quality of writing across the curriculum. Pupils have been enriched through faith and virtues which is integral to the life at Nishkam. I am so humbled by the generosity you have shown in supporting the various charities that have been supported which deepens our children's knowledge on the virtue of selflessness. I wish you all a very blessed festive break and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

## **Dates for your Diary**

Date	Activity
Tuesday 5th January	Return to school for Spring Term Weekly afterschool club starts for Service 2 (Only)
Wednesday 6th January	Weekly afterschool club starts for Humility 1 (Only)
Thursday 7th January	Weekly afterschool club starts for Humility 2 (Only)
Friday 8th January	Weekly afterschool club continues for Optimism 1 (Only)
Monday 11th January	Weekly afterschool club starts for Service 1 (Only)
Thursday 21st January	The Photo Company to return, for those who were unable to have their pictures taken in Term 1

## **Prayers for Peace**

This year has been a challenging one for all as the pandemic has changed our life's. Here at Nishkam we are hopeful that we will be able to meet one another again soon.

The month of December marks some pertinent points for reflection. Our Sikh families remember the Char Sahibzade, the four sons of the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji who gave their life's for others. Our Christian families will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

During the Christmas period we would like our school community to come together by praying for peace for all. We would like you to take some time out and support your child in participating in five prayers from your faith. We have sent a number of different prayers on Class Dojo and via email from the Sikh, Christian, Muslim and Hindu faith you may choose to use or alternatively, you can use ones which you are familiar with. Can I kindly request for Sikh families who may choose to print off the Sikh prayer in Gurmukhi, please treat this with utmost respect.

Your child will be given a small card to tick off the five prayers once complete. Please feel free to do more than five. On return back to school in January we will be asking for the prayer cards to be returned. We will count these all up and do a special Sikh prayer called an *Ardas* in which we will ask for '*Sarbat da bhala*' which translates to blessings for everyone. We hope you will join us in praying together.



## **Nishkam hits the high notes!**

A massive thank you for your support in our Christmas musical fundraising activities! Christmas, as we are aware, is very different this year but this hasn't stopped the determination and creativity of our children in school. Unfortunately, we were unable to take part in our usual charity carol singing however we have risen to the challenge and created our first ever whole school 'Nishkam Christmas CD' (which was recorded virtually) and 3 virtual nativity performances across EYFS, KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2. Seva, service, is a big part of our school life and ethos, especially at Christmas, therefore we are pleased to announce that we have raised over **£786.00** for Promise Dreams this Christmas. A massive THANK YOU to you all for your support and wishing you a very happy and musical Christmas!

***Miss Gull, Music Lead***

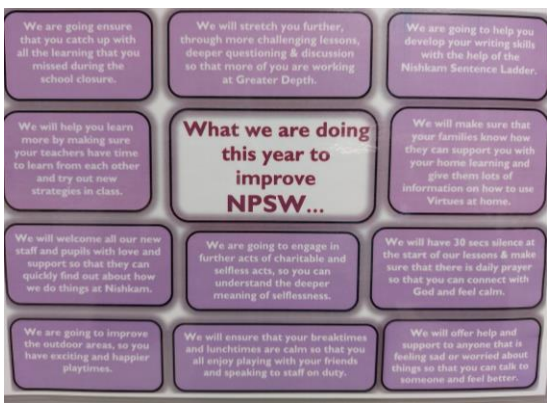
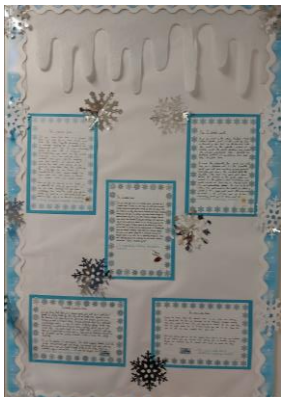


All the staff at Nishkam Wolverhampton would like to say a massive thank you to those parents who have kept in line with the Government guidance whether at home, at work or out shopping. Our collective actions with the Diligence and Commitment shown by our children have made the Autumn Term 2020 a unique but productive term.

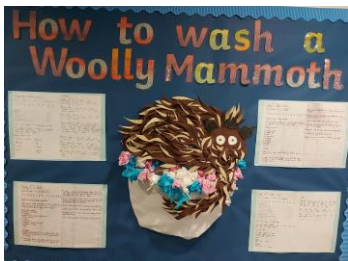
Despite the challenges with our parents and children's support we have been able to achieve the following:

- ✓ Pupils have made excellent progress in their learning after a very successful catch up programme
  - ✓ We have offered a fantastic remote learning offer, including live lessons during bubble closures to minimise disruption to children's learning
  - ✓ We have had a successful launch to Eco Schools with our committee of pupils established
  - ✓ The successful launch of the Maths passport taking children through a journey in their learning!
  - ✓ A comprehensive catch up programme that has comprised of before and after school interventions as well as Saturday tuition
  - ✓ The new virtues passport which now includes vices is being used daily in the school by pupils and teachers
  - ✓ Our learning environment promotes excellence
  - ✓ Our outdoor learning provides pupils with fantastic opportunities such as the Stone Age day
  - ✓ Wolverhampton Wanderers Football coaches provide excellent weekly sessions to upskill pupils and teachers
  - ✓ Term 1 book fair took place as planned and was our biggest ever, so thank you to those parents who purchased a book for your child, a percentage of the sales income will be used to purchase more books for the school
  - ✓ Charity fundraising has continued this term, practising the Nishkam Virtue of selfless service
  - ✓ Afterschool 'bubble' clubs have been successful in bringing more sporting activities to our children
  - ✓ Christmas productions have seen more children participate than ever, thanks to Miss Gull (Music Lead)
  - ✓ As a community we have been able to keep our school open with our staff and children feeling safe to work and learn
  - ✓ This term 153 pupils have achieved 100% attendance
- So again thank you and let's continue keeping each other safe during this current pandemic.

# Look at some of our fantastic displays!



This is our fantastic nurture space 'The Hive'





Our school is now part of this global community, working to create environmental change, for the benefit of our children and future generations. For us, this project feels increasingly important because the key principles resonate with the values of many students, staff and parents of our Nishkam family. We recognise the shared responsibilities to care for a world divinely entrusted to us and strive to create a generation of children who can discover their potential to make a difference. Faith will be threaded through the heart of this project and will be a driving force in achieving our Green Flag award. According to Sikh teachings, after creating the divine word or spirit (naam), God created nature, (kudrat). In daily prayers, Sikhs give praise to the life giving elements, which nourish and sustain us.

*'Pavan Guru, pani pita, mata dharat mahat'*

*(Air as Guru, Water as Father, and the great Earth as Mother)*

### **Truth 1 and Truth 2**

What a super busy half term it has been, time flies when you are having fun! The children have completed Phase 2 Phonics, we will only be moving onto Phase 3 when the children can, not only recognise but apply their sound knowledge when reading and writing.

Their pre-cursive letter formation is coming along beautifully, they have really enjoyed the new Literacy Carousel that we do every day. It is lovely to see the progress of your children developing right in front of our eyes. They are a lovely year group, and we are lucky to have them in Truth.

Reading eggs has been a big hit, remember you can use this at home to enhance early reading and phonics. We access it every week from class too. In Maths we have been busy securing our number knowledge up to 10, such as, addition, subtraction, more/less and number bonds.

Christmas has arrived so quickly; we have loved creating all out wonderful crafts to bring home at the end of the term.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Please enjoy the rest and stay safe and well. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2021! Best wishes, all the staff in Truth

### **Service 1 and Service 2**

What a fun packed month we have had in year 1! We have been very busy writing letters to the one and only Santa Claus! Our letters were very special because not only did the children write about what they wanted for Christmas, they were also able to write about why they deserved them by linking their good behaviour back to all the Nishkam virtues they have shown throughout the year.

In Maths, we have been working hard on our place value skills. We are learning to solve lots of different problems and also discuss our reasoning as to how we know our answers are correct.

We have really loved all our singing practice this month and have learnt lots of Christmas carols as well as brand new songs for our nativity that we have filmed especially this year. We have worked really hard to learn all our lines and let our drama skills shine through acting out the play. We are really proud of our Nativity play and can't wait for you all to see it.

From all the teaching staff in Service class, we just want to say a massive WELL DONE to each and every pupil for all the effort they have put into their learning throughout this term. We know it has been a big jump from Early Years, but the Resilience and Determination they have shown has been remarkable! You guys are awesome! We all hope you have a fantastic holiday and we can't wait to see you again in the new year where we will be learning all about marvellous Monarchs! Merry Christmas and a very happy new year from Miss Badhan, Miss Latif, Mrs Panesar, Mrs Choudhury and Mrs Kaur. See you in 2021!

## Humility 1 and Humility 2

Well done on another fantastic month of learning in Year 2! The children have worked really hard in all their lessons and in recording our virtual nativity and Nishkam Christmas CD!

In English we have finished our story all about Leaf. We have learnt about all of the different values that the animals could have shown to Leaf and completed some lovely writing around the book.

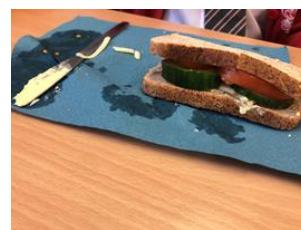
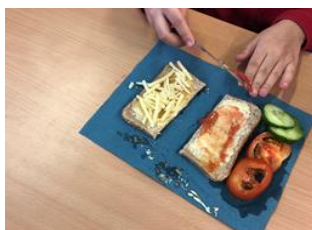
In Maths we have been focussing on recognising and identifying coins, finding change and adding money which the children have all really enjoyed.

We've had great fun rehearsing for all of our different virtual music Christmas celebrations and thank you for all your support in purchasing CDs/links and helping your children learn their lines.

Have a very lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in January! Miss Gull & Mrs Johal

## Compassion 1 and Compassion 2

It has been a busy December in Year 3! In English, we have been writing informal letters for our text 'Charlottes's web'. We have been working hard to extend our sentences and use lots of emotive language. In Maths, we have been working extremely hard in our multiplication and division topic. In Design and Technology, we have had a great time designing, resourcing and evaluating our healthy sandwiches.



We've also had great fun taking part in our alternative Christmas production! A huge thank you to all for supporting us with costumes and helping your children learn their lines.

The children in Year 3 have worked extremely hard this term and we are so proud of you all! We wish you a wonderful, restful Christmas break. From the Year 3 Team – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2021! :) Miss Meras, Mr Landers and Mrs Matharu

## Forgiveness 1 and Forgiveness 2

December has been a busy and exciting month for Year 4. We've been learning all about features of Wolverhampton and developing our language skills in our non-chronological reports. We've learnt all about perimeter and area in Maths and have started looking in depth at multiplication and division. We continue to practise our timetables.

We absolutely loved taking part in our alternative Christmas production and we also got to learn all about filming and editing videos to make our production. In Design and Technology we have designed, resourced and evaluated our Christmas cupcakes. All in all, in such a turbulent year, we have all enjoyed sharing in the holiday spirit.

We hope you all have a restful and safe Christmas break with your loved ones where possible and thank you for your continued support in this strange term!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Year 4 team ☺!

## Contentment 1 and Contentment 2

In English the children have finished off reading the text “Cosmic.” They have created some exciting work and worked extremely hard to build up their written skills using a range of descriptive techniques. In maths learning has continued to be focused on multiplication and division. We have continued to further challenge the children to understand these areas of learning in a variety of ways, through group work activities, answering “prove it” problems.

In RE the children have been looking at “Commitment” and what commitment looks like in Christianity and other religions. In addition, children have created a friendship tree which they have watched grow as their friendships grow.

With the build up to Christmas children have been very festive with learning Christmas carols, creating the Nishkam Christmas CD and making Christmas decorations. This Autumn term, Year 5 have worked extremely hard and made good progress which they should be proud of, well done to all the children, you have been an absolutely, amazing class, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and looking forward to seeing you all in 2021.

## Optimism 1

Year 6 have been incredibly busy during December. We kicked off the month by completing our second set of mock SATs tests and the entirety of the year group worked incredibly hard to show off all of the learning that they have completed.

In English we have been learning about narrative writing and have used the John Lewis advert as a focus and stimulus. In Maths, we have been learning about a range of topics such as properties of shapes, multi-step word problems and using protractors and other measuring devices.

In our wider curriculum we have been learning about mountains and building and testing our own shelters as part of our Design Technology lessons.



As a class we enjoyed taking part in the school Christmas CD and singing our contributions. We wish each and every member of year 6 and the wider school a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

## Farmers' Protests in India

As many of you will be aware farmers in India are protesting peacefully for fair pricing for produce amongst other issues. These protests have spread globally to raise awareness to the different governments around the World. Pupils in Years 5 and Year 6 have been learning about democracy and the purpose of peaceful protesting. They have learnt about how prices for crops can affect the farming industry not just in India but locally too. Pupils have demonstrated their understanding through discussion and written work. Here at Nishkam we pray for all those who are affected by this and are hopeful for a resolution through the democratic process.



We are proud to share, 153 pupils have achieved 100% attendance for Autumn Term 1, their achievement was celebrated during the virtual end of term assembly. Children proudly received their 'Bronze' certificate and will now be working towards their Silver and Gold award.

Class attendance for this term is as follows:






Class	% Attend
Truth 2	92.0
Truth 1	92.7
Optimism 1	94.6
Service 1	95.2
Compassion 2	96.1
Contentment 1	96.1
Service 2	96.2
Forgiveness 2	96.9
Contentment 2	96.9
Humility 1	97.3
Compassion 1	97.5
Forgiveness 1	97.5
Humility 2	97.9



Class Attendance award for Autumn Term I  
awarded to Humility 2 - 97.9%  
Well done everyone!

Those families who may be considering going overseas during the holiday period, please do bear in mind you may need to self-isolate upon return to the UK, do check the government website for updates. Children have settled back into their new classroom and enjoy coming into school. We kindly ask, you avoid disrupting their learning and routines.

Thank you for your continued support.

<h1>S</h1> <h2>Stay Safe</h2> <p>Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.</p> 	<h1>M</h1> <h2>Don't Meet Up</h2> <p>Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.</p> 	<h1>A</h1> <h2>Accepting Files</h2> <p>Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.</p> 	<h1>R</h1> <h2>Reliable?</h2> <p>Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?</p> 	<h1>T</h1> <h2>Tell Someone</h2> <p>Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.</p> <p>Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!</p> 
--	--	--	---	---

\*SMART tips based on resources from [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

## **Covid-19 reminders over the holidays**

As you are aware the government have released guidance allowing families to meet two other households over the Christmas period from Wednesday 23rd December 2020 to Thursday 27th December 2020.

We kindly ask everyone to consider their choices very carefully. Public Health England suggest it is still best to minimise a visit to others if you have higher risk family, particularly if elderly, or with chronic illnesses. However, if you are to meet, please consider keeping the windows open, and maintain social distancing and contact. Please kindly avoid meeting any more than three other household as per government guidelines.

If anyone in your household has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (a fever, a new, persistent cough or a loss of your sense of taste or smell), please contact the school immediately, book a test and then follow the guidance on what to do next based on the result of that test. Further information is available on our school website:

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsw/page/?title=Coronavirus+Update&pid=777>

Letting us know about positive tests will still be important over the Christmas holidays as other children and staff may need to isolate, due to being in contact at school in the days leading up to the Christmas holidays. Therefore, should your child or a member of your household test positive for the coronavirus over the Christmas please notify the school using this email address [Enquiries.npsw@nishkamschools.org](mailto:Enquiries.npsw@nishkamschools.org) or telephone the school number on: 01902 537970 selecting option 1.

When contacting the school about positive test results please provide the following information:

- The date symptoms started (or if there were no symptoms)
- The date the test was taken (not the date you received the result)
- The date your child's self-isolation ends

The school will then follow the guidance from Public Health England and contact families where appropriate.

The Civic Centre has been transformed into a mass lateral flow testing centre to provide asymptomatic (without symptoms) testing for Covid-19 with results in 30-60 minutes. The testing centre is open 7 days a week, providing testing Monday to Friday 8.00am-7.00pm and weekends 10.00am-6.00pm. There is no requirement to book an appointment, those wanting to get a test can simply arrive, register on site and get tested by providing a nasal and throat swab. Free parking is provided for those accessing a test at the adjacent, St Peter's car park (WV1 1LY).

Adults and children over 2 years old are able to access a test, providing they are not displaying Covid19 symptoms – new continuous cough, temperature or loss/change to the sense of taste or smell. Where this is the case, they will be signposted to a symptomatic test site locally.

Regular mass testing is one of the key weapons in the fight against Covid-19 with the aim being to provide convenient, accessible and frequent access to testing to identify and isolate positive cases earlier, preventing onward transmission. It is hoped that testing on this scale will drive down the City's infection rates.

Please stay safe over the holidays and stay alert! School will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 but if your child or any family member is displaying the any symptom of

- new continuous cough
- Temperature
- loss/change to the sense of taste or smell

Then do not come into school, call 111 for advise and contact the school by either telephone or email to advise the school of your situation. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

### School Uniform

It has been evident that over the course of this term the presentation of many of our pupils have slipped. The appearance of our pupils is very important, and all pupils must adhere to the school uniform policy at all times. Please ensure your child comes to school with the correct uniform and footwear. Trainers and boots are **not** acceptable school footwear. Please be mindful that hair accessories must be grey, or a suitable size and functional.

**Please ensure all items are correctly labelled with your child's name to ensure clothing is not lost.** All uniform is available to purchase at My Uniform Hub on Soho Road, please contact on 0121 551 7719 as due to Covid they have only been operating sales online. Website: [www.myuniformhub.com](http://www.myuniformhub.com)

Please be prepared for bad weather by ensuring your child has a warm, waterproof coat and suitable outdoor footwear.

### Farewell Mrs Hicks

We say farewell to Mrs Hicks who teaches many classes around school. She leaves us at the end of this term to spend more time with her family. Mrs Hicks will be greatly missed, she is a fantastic teacher and role model!

### The Nishkam Staff Band

During our end of term celebration assembly our very own school staff band performed some festive songs for the children to enjoy! We are fortunate to have some very talented musicians and I look forward to some of our pupils performing next year.

