

Pupil wins competition with colourful picture of Rudolph



TALENT: Winner Kate Murray and runners-up Charlotte Eve Bishop, 7, of Sheriff Hill, Gateshead, Fern Parker, 7, of Consett

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HER colourful crayon sketch is bringing festive cheer on the front page of today's Chronicle.

Talented Kate Murray, 11, has been revealed as the winner of our Christmas message competition, where we invited young people to send in their colourful designs.

The 11-year-old pupil, who attends St Joseph's Catholic Primary, in Blaydon, Gateshead, entered the competition along with 26 of her classmates.

Kate's bright drawing shows Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer alongside a skiing penguin and a robin.

Class teacher Celia Smith said Kate was thrilled to win and the whole school is proud of her. "We've had a really busy end of term, with a church service, two plays and carol singing at a residential home,

but this was an activity the children really wanted to do," said Mrs Smith.

"Pupils from Year 5 and 6 took part and they really enjoyed themselves; they were totally engrossed. I am so pleased one of our pupils won; she will be so thrilled."

As overall winner, Kate will receive a framed copy of today's front page as well as £100 in shopping vouchers for Eldon Square. The two run-

ners-up, who will receive £50 in shopping vouchers, are seven-year-olds Fern Parker, of Consett, County Durham, and Charlotte Eve Bishop, of Sheriff Hill, Gateshead.

Fern's design shows Santa, a snowman and a Christmas tree surrounded by stars, while Charlotte's picture is of Santa in his sleigh.

Charlotte's mum Kerry-Jo, who also has three sons, Sam, 12, Ben, 10, and Thomas, eight,

said: "I get the Chronicle every day and I always read out the stories to my children so they know what's going on. When I told them about the competition they all wanted to do a picture, but only Charlotte wanted to enter. I told the boys they were daft not to send theirs they were so good."

"Drawing and colouring are things Charlotte loves; she's always artistic. She asked for art sets for Christmas."

We were inundated with bright entries, with children using crayons, felt-tip pens, paint, glitter and sequins.

There were many fantastic pictures of Santa, snowmen, reindeer, Christmas trees and angels, which made picking a winner extremely difficult. A selection of our favourite entries will run on our website www.chroniclive.co.uk. Thank you to all who took part and Merry Christmas.

Sketch brings festive cheer

Link to benefit birds

WINTERING wader birds will soon have a new drop-in spot on the Northumberland coast.

A grassland area for the winter visitors is being created in the shadow of Holy Island as the result of a partnership between a farming family and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

John Sutherland, whose family has farmed land at Ross Links for 70 years, has joined Defra's Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme which provides a comprehensive agreement covering the whole farming system.

Ross Links is part of an extensive sand dune system that covers 285 hectares and forms part of the internationally-important Northumberland dunes Special Area of Conservation.

The dunes form a series of ridges that shelter an ancient beach and glacial sands, and are unique in the North East.

Parks funded

THOUSANDS of pounds are to be spent on improving children's play areas, thanks to a lottery cash boost.

The Big Lottery Fund has approved a bid for £457,000 to help South Tyneside Council and to improve play sites.

Coun Paul Waggott, leader of the council, said: "This is fantastic news and will provide a great boost for children's play throughout the borough."

"The importance of play in contributing towards children's wellbeing is now high on the national agenda."

The focus of the Big Lottery grant was to target areas of need. The council proposed to provide new facilities in the Hedworthfield area of Jarrow and Horsley Hill, in South Shields.

Archers cash in

A NEW archery club is on target for top-flight success after winning cash support.

Clegwell Archers, in Hebburn, South Tyneside, was given £7,822 by the National Lottery following a £1,000 grant from Hebburn councillors.

The money has helped provide much of the archery equipment for the club, which meets at Clegwell Community Association, in Mountbatten Avenue.



PICTURE: TONY HALL www.icNewcastle.co.uk/buyphoto ref: 01228298

TOP SLOT: Kate Murray, 11, who won a Chronicle competition to draw the Christmas Eve masthead, with her classmates