



The Beechwood Bulletin

Issue 4 - Autumn Term 2017

Merry Christmas

Dear Parents,

Christmas is upon us for another year and we find ourselves at the end of another busy term. We have had to endure the ongoing building work and I must thank you all for your patience and understanding throughout this period. Life for the children has gone on regardless and my thanks goes to all the staff and the parent helpers and the wonderful efforts of the PTA who have carried on despite the obstacles in the way.

You have given generously to the efforts of these volunteers who are raising monies for the new adventure apparatus which is a huge undertaking by the PTA. My personal thanks to Kelly and Sam who have taken on the PTA this year and what an impact they are making.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Xmas Fayre, last Saturday, a magnificent £2,810 was raised for the school.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas has taken over the school this past week and all the events have been extremely well supported by you the parents. I was so pleased to see the numbers at St John's Church. Our choir sang the Latin anthem Gaudete in procession down the aisle and led the whole school singing a carol in a round. We also saw the choir performing with the percussion and dancers from year 2. All in all, it was a very enlightening carol service and well done to the teachers Miss Morgan (on piano) and Mrs Tisi (choir). Last week saw key stage 1's production of Baa Baa Bethlehem and this week we saw our youngest children on the stage for the first time performing their nativity. A massive thanks goes to our catering team for providing Christmas lunch for over 300 children and staff. It was a delicious experience!

STAFF CHANGES

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Patel, as she is taking a break from teaching. She was only meant to stay for a year as interim cover for Mrs Minter but she stayed on a little longer. She has been a real strength to our school at a time of much need. We will miss her enormously.

We will be welcoming Mr Baxter to the Year 6 team who will be replacing Mrs Patel and will work alongside Mrs Tisi in class 6TB. Mr Baxter brings 17 years experience and specialises in Maths and Science.

Miss Rowse is also moving on to work for a local sports company to further her career as a sports coach. Once again I can only praise her for her hard work and phenomenal organisation. She has advanced the interests and opportunities for our girls.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Following an incident at school last Friday when a child was accidentally hit by a falling fence panel, we have made extra efforts to ensure that building operations cannot compromise the safety of your children. The action taken was fully supported by Wokingham Borough Council. The incident was investigated and I have asked for complete co-operation from the building contractors that no building operation or vehicle will occur during arrival and collection of your children. Meanwhile, extra staff are on hand supervising the entry and exit of pupils from the site.

BUILDING WORKS

It's good to know that we expect to take possession of Extension 2 by the February half term. This will mean that:

1. 2M and 2A will be in their new classrooms by Monday 19th February or earlier.
2. 1H will also come in from their mobile classroom base to take possession of their new classroom.



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RAISING STANDARDS

The school is making stringent efforts to raise the standards in maths, reading and writing.

We want to raise the profile of maths in our school so all the children have confidence in everyday application of maths in the home and at school by:

1. holding parental workshops
2. having presentations at the parent and child consultation evenings
3. explaining what mathematical reasoning actually means and looks like.

We aim to create a reading culture in school to improve comprehension skills by:

1. making efforts to increase reading stock in the school
2. developing our guided reading policy to include volunteers as well as staff
3. including more homework specific to higher order reading skills

As with all schools we are making every effort to raise funds from within (PTA) and from outside our community to purchase expensive items such as reading books and mobile technology.

Our head girl Rehan Oubihi's father has recently persuaded his own company to donate an amount of money to such a cause. This gift will purchase much needed reading books for the children
Thank you so much!

WHETHER it's big or small every little counts towards your children's learning. If you think you can help in any way please let me know....

Finally, can I please take this chance to wish you and all your wider family a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New year.

Please remember that school closes on **Tuesday 19th December at 1.15pm** and will reopen on **Thursday 4th January 2018**.

Gordon Davies

Head of Beechwood

REMINDERS

- Please do not DROP your children off by car at the rear gate. Please note that the turning circle is not the place to drop your children, it places the children in danger! Please walk your child into school from Arundel Road or Headley Road.

SCHOOL TIMINGS

Please can I ask you to recognise the times for dropping off your children in the morning and collecting at the end of the day.

- School gate opens at 8.35am as normal
- Children must be in school in their classroom by 8.45am and they must settle down to work immediately. The gate closes at 8.45am as per normal.
- Pick up is from 3.10pm until 3.25pm - please note the gate will close to allow builders to carry on with their work. If you need to see a teacher please wait for the teacher to escort you out from inside the building to the front.

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!



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