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Believe in ourselves, be the best we can be

Newsletter- 18.12.20

Autumn 2020

I have been reflecting on what has been yet another unprecedented time for us all as a school community. Children, parents and staff have all had to overcome some huge challenges when returning to school and this has been incredibly hard for so many people in so many different ways. The fact that we have not had to close a bubble since September (even writing that makes me nervous!) is a testament to how everyone has worked together both inside and outside of school to ensure that we keep our children safe. From the school's perspective, thank you for the trust you have shown us and respecting our decisions. We have received some amazing messages from you that we have shared with our staff team and they have made everyone feel valued and appreciated. I feel that this is a moment to feel very proud of our school community and I hope you do too!

Attendance

Another significant indication of how positive this term has been for our community is the school attendance figures. These are something we are frequently reviewing and I was delighted to report these figures to the Governing Board earlier this week. The most up to date data this week showed the national figure for attendance was 89% and in Devon it was 94%. At the end of last week, we had a figure of **97.71%** across the whole school. This is a remarkable achievement during what has been one of the most challenging terms for so many people. I think this also shows how we all recognise the importance of our children being in school spending time with their peers and making progress in their learning.

Preschool Update

Firstly, a huge thank you to all our parents for the very generous gifts and food donations for our Christmas parties. The children are having a fantastic time demonstrating their singing and dancing skills and poor Rudolph has had his nose pinned onto a very wide variety of places!

Several renditions of our Christmas songs have taken place - a selection of the best will be available to view on Thursday evening under the heading 'Christmas Concert' on Tapestry.



All that is left is for all of us here at preschool to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

'Open The Book' Christmas Special

As you may remember, 'Open The Book' is our local church group that comes to Bishop and performs bible stories for the whole school. The children LOVE these assemblies and it has been so unfortunate that they have not been able to visit us recently. However, the amazing OTB team sent us an exclusive video of 'The First Christmas' and the children in every class got a chance to see it. We are so lucky to have people in our community who are committed to making our children's time in school special. Here is some of the feedback from the children-

***'It made me think about things I do with my family - like running by the Church with my Mum - and it made me feel Christmassy!'* - Ella Y6**

***'I like the message you passed on - especially about family because lots of people take their family for granted!'* - Evie Y5**

A message from Reverend Jane

'It has been a real pleasure to volunteer with Forest School this term. The children's creativity and growing appreciation of what others can offer, is heart-lifting. It was good fun, recording an 'Open the Book' Christmas Story film for the classes: we do miss not going in because of COVID restrictions.

You would all be welcome at the 'Old Commercial' in Bishop, sometime between 4 & 6pm this Saturday 19th for a walk through nativity with party bags for children as you leave - do come in a costume if you like! St John's Church is also opening on the 23rd December from 4.00-5.30 with live Christmas music, flowers, community banners & decorated tree. Just drop by and then, sing outside from 5.'-Reverend Jane

Wrap Around Care

Thank you to all of you who responded to our survey about Breakfast Club and After School Club. We were surprised by the level of interest and glad that we now have a clear picture of how this provision could be supported in the future. This note is to say we have not forgotten- far from it! We have been working on a financial plan and discussing with our governors. This now needs to be approved by DCC before we take the next step. We will communicate further with you about this in the new year.

Christmas Carols Video

Have you seen our Virtual Christmas Concert that was sent home on Wednesday? A real treat! Thank you to Mrs Maslen for organising the songs and putting the video together. Here is another chance to see it now by following this link- <https://youtu.be/Gct7xyEIYh8>

Pupil Voice: Maths

Miss Reddaway has been collecting some feedback from our children on their mathematics learning. They discussed what they enjoy, what helps them and what could make maths learning even better.

Here is what some of our children are saying-

***'I enjoy using the counters and tens frames because it's easy to see answers when I sort them.'*- Harry Y2**

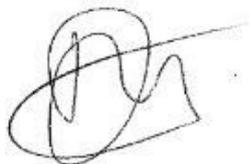
***'Times Tables Rock Stars helps me learn my times tables and it's easy to say facts like $4 \times 5 = 20$ and $7 \times 2 = 14$!'* - Stanley Y2**

‘I enjoy working with my friends to work things out.’ Neave Y6

‘Making mistakes helps me to learn in maths - if I make a mistake I can look at the answers and unpick where I went wrong.’- Dom Y6

On behalf of all the staff at Bishop, we would like to wish you and your families a peaceful, safe and enjoyable festive season. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

Kind regards,



**Dave Killoran
(Headteacher)**

FUTURE DATES FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 4th January | Non-Pupil Day |
| Tuesday 5th January | Children return for the first day of the Spring Term |