



*"Making learning an adventure"*  
21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

*Our value for this half term is Empathy*

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **High Beeches news**

We come to the end of another term at High Beeches. This week has been lovely with a wonderful Christmas lunch on Tuesday and the year 2 production of "The Inn-spectors". The children of Hazel and Willow class were amazing with wonderful singing and acting and I know that their families are very proud of them. Well done Year 2! A big thank you to all the staff who have produced such lovely Christmas performances this year.

For me, today is the end of my Headship at High Beeches. I have loved being part of this wonderful school community. It has been a total pleasure to lead such a committed, dedicated and professional staff. I am leaving to pursue other opportunities working as a School Improvement Advisor in a large academy trust in Oxfordshire and I know that I will take the excellent practice at High Beeches with me and use it to support other schools. A very big thank you from me to the outstanding staff at High Beeches. They are the beating heart of this school and will continue to beat strongly as the school continues to develop.

I would like to thank all of the parents who continually support the staff and this amazing school whether by being part of FoHBS, the Parent Forum, volunteering or in other ways. At times, my staff and I have to make decisions which are not always popular with some parents. I am so grateful to the parents who support the school and trust us. Any decisions that we make are always made after a lot of reflection and thought and always to ensure that we give the children at High Beeches the very best provision. Thank you also to the Governors who have supported me in my headship at HB.

I wish you all much success in the future. Having worked in many Primary schools during my 33 years in education, I can honestly say that your children are so lucky to be part of High Beeches Primary school.

### **Governors' cup winners**

Huge congratulations to William Wheatley (KS2) and Maya Clift (KS1) for winning this year. There was a winner from every class and all the winner's entries are displayed in reception. Thank you and well done to all the children who took part.



## **Head Teacher Questions**

Just one anonymous question this week.

Please, can you let us know the reason and why High Beeches have decided to stop attending a very traditional and popular outing to the annual Christmas pantomime?

First we had the banning of ice creams at the pantomime, the only school at least in Harpenden to do so, and replaced with Rich tea.

We are becoming the laughing stock of all the surrounding schools.

I am hopeful that the person who asked this question has read the email sent out by school on Wednesday about the rationale behind no longer going to the pantomime and now has an understanding of the views of the school.

In my newsletter last week I also addressed the question raised about ice creams and for clarification they were not banned but we felt than an extra £2.50 made the trip too expensive. We were only told at the very last minute by the Arena that there would be an extra cost.

## **FoHBS**

*FOHBS would like to wish you everyone a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. Look out for our newsletter in January with more details of the events in 2019. Our next FOHBS meeting is on Monday 14th January at the plough and Harrow at 8pm. All welcome.*

## **Nativity recordings**

I am a parent of High Beeches and each year I offer out copies of my video recordings for reception, year1 and year2. DVDs are £6 with all proceeds being donated to FoHBs.

Please email me at the relevant email address and I will email you a link to the order form. Email addresses follow:

[hb.eyfsnativity@gmail.com](mailto:hb.eyfsnativity@gmail.com) for reception nativity;

[Hb.yr1songs@gmail.com](mailto:Hb.yr1songs@gmail.com) for year Xmas songs;

[Hb.yr2play@gmail.com](mailto:Hb.yr2play@gmail.com) for the year 2 play.

## **Headteacher awards return in 2019!**

*Have a really wonderful Christmas and my very best wishes to you all for 2019. Thank you for all the lovely cards, presents and wonderful messages I have received. You have all been so kind and generous.*

*Best wishes,*  
*S. Lawrence*  
Headteacher



**Diary dates-updates in red**

**7<sup>th</sup> January INSET**

**8<sup>th</sup> January- term starts for children**

**17<sup>th</sup> January- Castles workshop at school for year 1**

**21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January- Viking workshops**

**24<sup>th</sup> January- Roman workshop**

**31<sup>st</sup> January-Fire of London workshop**

**31<sup>st</sup> January- Young voices- more info to follow**

**5<sup>th</sup> February- drama workshop**

**8<sup>th</sup> February- Movie night**

**11<sup>th</sup> February- Year 5 K'nex challenge tbc**

**18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> February- half term**

**25<sup>th</sup> February- school starts**

**14<sup>th</sup> March- Year 2 trip to Living rainforest tbc**

**15<sup>th</sup> March- Year 5 trip to Duxford**

**20<sup>th</sup> March- Spring Festival**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March-Quiz night FoHBS**

**29<sup>th</sup> March- FoHBS disco**

**1<sup>st</sup> April- Year 3 British museum trip**

**4<sup>th</sup> April- Community Concert**

**5<sup>th</sup> April- Break up for Easter**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April- INSET day**

**24<sup>th</sup> April- Children back**