



**Proud to learn  
Proud to achieve**

# Barnes Junior School

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## December 2017

### So here it is.....

I can't believe we are at December already. The busy November has flown by and it feels great to be at the most magical time of the year in a school. I am sure the children are already starting to get excited....especially when the snow falls- it looked really festive at school last Thursday- doesn't the snow make our wonderful building look even more special?

We look forward to seeing you this week as the children celebrate the end of the projects that they have been working on since September. A reminder of the times of these celebration events:

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December- 2pm Year 5**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December- 9.30am Year 6**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-Year 4**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December- 9.30am Year 3**



This then leads us into our Christmas Literature fortnight where each year group will be looking at a different story related to this festive season, some classics, some more modern. Here are a section of books that will be looked at:

Year 3- **The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, The Tale of Baboushka**

Year 4- **The Christmas Eve Tree- Delia Huddy**

Year 5- **The Christmasaurus- Tom Fletcher**

Year 6- **Charles Dickens- a range of Christmas extracts, JRR Tolkien- Letters from Father Christmas and Michael Morpurgo- The Best Christmas Present in the World.**

Next term the theme across the school will be: A Place For All

### Helping Others This Christmas.

Alongside all of the celebrations for Christmas we need to remember how lucky we are to be able to make the most of the festive season. There are so many stories of hardship and crisis in our local area, and this is magnified so many times during Christmas. I think we have a responsibility as a community school to recognise this and do our bit for those less fortunate. This year we will be working with Oasis Aquila- a charity that supports homeless people in our region and provides crisis support. They are soon to be opening a new centre in Sunderland which will be a massive help to some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

Their campaign this year is about giving a Gingerbread Man a home. People are being encouraged to make a gingerbread man and donate or buy them, the proceeds going to the Christmas campaign.

Our school catering team have kindly offered to buy the ingredients and give us the use of the kitchen to make the gingerbread men during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December. Some children will help the catering team with this, but then when cooked, each child will get the chance to decorate their gingerbread man. This will then be available to buy during Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December- with all of the money made supporting this worthy cause. We will also be judging the best decorated gingerbread man in each class!

On **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December** we will be holding our **Christmas dinner** day. The traditional dinner will be available for all pupils-if your child does not usually have school diners but would like to have the Christmas meal, please inform the office. Brussel sprouts are optional (I hope.) On this day Children are welcome to wear Christmas Jumpers, in return for a £1 donation. Money will be donated to another local charity- one of our parents, Miss Emma Olsen, is leading fundraising for the children's ward at Sunderland Hospital to buy presents for the children at Christmas.

### **Christmas Fair and Raffle**

Preparations are well under way for our Christmas Fair which will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December between 2pm and 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls, many devised and led by the children. The raffle will be drawn on the day and the list of prizes seems to be growing on a daily basis. The star prize of the Xbox is very exciting.

### **Carol service**

Our annual carol service will again be held at St Gabriel's church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December- starting at 2pm- all family and friends are welcome to join us. We will be walking to the church, and any adults who could help us walk down would be much appreciated. Children will be allowed to be picked up after the service has finished. The remainder of the children will be taken back to school for regular end of day procedures.

### **The Choir**

Mrs Hunter has started a choir in year 6, and they have been practicing really hard in preparation for a number of gigs! Unfortunately their first performance at the launch of the Sunderland Ice Rink was cancelled due to the wintery conditions. However, they have a list of other venues that they will be playing during December including:

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December- Debenhams at the Bridges- 4pm-5pm**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December- Barnes Court Care Home-2pm**

**Thornhill Christmas Concert 7pm**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December- Sunderland Hospital Volunteers Group-Royal Hospital- 12 noon**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December- Barnes Christmas Carol Concert- St Gabriel's church- 2pm**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Barnes Toby Carvery- 12 noon**

Our **Christmas Elf**, Barney, has returned for another year of recognising great behaviour and work- I am sure your child will tell you if he pays a visit to their class. He comes with a treat for the winning class each day.

By the time **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** comes, we will be exhausted with everything that we have done. Unfortunately we do not have the room to be able to welcome everyone to our Final assembly of the year that day, but you may get a text if your child has been nominated for one of the special and prestigious Effort or Achievement awards...but remember to keep it a secret from them.

The end of term also see us say farewell to our **School Business Manager, Miss Kelly Brenkley**, who has done an amazing job during her 8 years here in establishing the school as a really professional outfit with highly efficient financial systems. The success of a school is a real team effort and the hard work completed by the teachers and support staff are the visible side of this.

But this could not go on without the efforts of the backroom staff which allow us to plan exciting learning opportunities. Kelly's financial acumen and business minded approach has allowed the school to thrive, much of it against a backdrop of increasing financial austerity in education. Kelly is joining St Pauls C of E school in Ryhope, who will benefit from her experience and expertise.

**Mrs Audrey Maddison** has been appointed as the new School Business Manager, joining us from Bankheads School in Teesside, starting in January.

Our Year 5 children have been busy developing their entrepreneurial skills this half term, taking part in the Virgin Money Make £5 grow scheme. There are lots of great ideas for making money and I am sure the open day for launching their businesses will have been a great success and they will be thinking already about how their profits will be spent.

#### Children in Need

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Children in Need non-uniform and raffle where £496.72 was raised.

During this half term the children have been taking part in **Anti- Bullying** workshops and our anti bullying ambassadors took part in an event at Farringdon Comprehensive during anti bullying week. It is vital that we continue to raise awareness of anti-bullying, especially with the perils of online abuse high amongst children of all ages. We take bullying very seriously at Barnes and have a zero tolerance to targeted, persistent attacks on children, both physical, verbal and online. We are keen to stress that one off incidents do not constitute bullying, but would be dealt with appropriately.

#### Sports Update



It has been another busy sporting month, despite the wintry conditions and shorter daylight.

The **Ladies football** team took part in a tournament, Winning, Drawing and Losing one match. They were close to qualifying from their group but ran out of steam in their last match. A super effort and some great potential for the future.

The very enthusiastic **year 5 team** had a couple of friendly matches against Farringdon Academy, winning both matches played. Lots of promise for great success next season.



**Year 5s** were visited by some of the players from **Newcastle Eagles** recently as part of the **Hoops 4 Health** programme. The children took part in a number of different activities including fitness, healthy eating, keeping hydrated and of course some basketball skills. They will now receive coaching before taking part in the Hoops 4 Health tournament in January, where we hope we can replicate the success of last year!

Two **year 4 teams** took part in a **Hockey** tournament at a very cold Raich Carter centre. They all played extremely well, and one of the teams won 3 games and drew 1 to qualify for the semi-final. Unfortunately



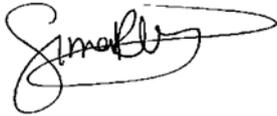
they were beaten despite being the better team. I think they may have thawed out by now!

### **Activ Panels**

Thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts so far this year, especially the work completed by the parents' group who organised our Halloween disco and will be helping with our Christmas Fair. Every little contribution is helping. With money that we have put aside from our budget, plus money raised so far and any future money raised, it is our intention that we will have active panels in all of our classrooms early in the new year. This is a really exciting development for that will support the great learning that already goes on in our school.

It seems a long way ahead, with so much to achieve leading up to Christmas, but just a reminder that we return to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** (no training day- our next one is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February).

I hope to see you at one of the many events we have organised over the next few weeks. If not, I wish you all a happy and healthy festive season, looking forward to a very prosperous 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S R Ward', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S R Ward  
Headteacher