



NEWBRIDGE News

www.newbridge.bathnes.sch.uk
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Issue 2.07
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Wednesday 03/01/18

- Start of Term 3

Thursday 11/01/19

- Y4 Visit from Julian House
- Young Voices

Monday 15/01/18

- Clubs Start
- Y3 Cake Sale & Bake Off

Tuesday 16/01/18

- Ladybird Class Assembly: 2.40pm

Tuesday 23/01/18

- Bee Class Assembly: 2.40pm
- BPSAF Abbey Concert

Tuesday 30/01/18

- EYFS Maths Mtg for Parents: 9am
- Y3 Walk around Newbridge

Tuesday 06/02/18

- Safer Internet Day

Friday 09/02/18

- End of Term 3

Monday 19/02/18

- Start of Term 4

Friday 09/03/18

- Shared Learning

Monday 12/03/18

- Shared Learning

Tuesday 13/03/18

- Timestable Workshop: 2.30pm

Wednesday 14/03/18

- Shared Learning

Thursday 15/03/18

- Dance Umbrella

Monday 19/03/18

- Y6 Lifeskills

Thursday 22/03/18

- Y6 SATS & Barton Hall Meeting: 6pm

Friday 23/03/18

- Inset Day
- End of Term 4



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Dear Parents and Carers

I don't know how to sum up such a busy week; there is so much to celebrate and say thank you for.



Volunteers' Thank You: On Monday we thanked our volunteers; it was a small gesture of our appreciation for the amount of time and effort they give to support individual children and groups across the school. We wanted to give something back and so a number of children played instruments and sang in a small concert, presented to our volunteers. The volunteers then joined our whole school assembly for a thank you by Tessa and a resounding rendition of Christmas is Coming. We are so lucky to have so many volunteers and we recognise that our job would be so much more difficult without them.

Full Governing Body Meeting: On Monday evening the governing body met to review the work of Terms 1 and 2 against the School Development Plan targets and also to share updates from the three committees: Finance and Personnel, Premises and Curriculum. The governors have decided to provide more regular updates to you in this newsletter. This week Ailie Steele (parent of Tessa and Zoe) has submitted a piece reflecting on her role as a new governor. We are grateful to the governors in their role; this is a voluntary position and requires a good deal of their time to support the school in moving forward.

'Choir on Tour': On Tuesday the choir went on their annual tour to the RUH and local care homes. I accompanied the children to the hospital and felt very proud to be associated with such talented and enthusiastic pupils. Whilst watching, members of the public spoke to me and expressed how impressed they were at the standard and confidence of the children. I know the choir will have touched many hearts; thank you for giving something so special back to our Newbridge community.

Nativity at Emmanuel Church: The lower school were in action again on Wednesday when the Year 2 children performed a very simple yet effective nativity in church. Year 1 and Foundation Stage again enjoyed singing their festive songs to the congregation. I don't quite know how they have all managed everything that has been asked of them over the past few weeks; they have all been more than magnificent and it has been a real joy to see them relish their singing, dancing and acting moments.

Christmas Dinner Extravaganza: Have you ever considered the thought of cooking over 400 Christmas dinners?! Well, this is what the cooks managed, with seemingly little effort, on Wednesday. Our lunchtime supervisors and cooks work tirelessly for our children and we are very grateful for their hard work and care.

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Upper School Music Concert: I hope you had the pleasure of attending the annual upper school Christmas Music Concert this week. It was truly outstanding. Yet again I was in awe of the 150 children who participated in the choir, orchestra, Blues Band, Year 5 ensemble and Year 6 ensemble. The calibre of all of the performances was exceptional and it made for some emotional moments. I also need to mention the parent choir; this too was a truly beautiful performance and lovely for the children to see. We must recognise the strength of music in the school and praise Mrs Houston's leadership of music, her inspirational teaching and her enjoyment of music, which she has passed to so many children; including ex-pupils who came back to join in too. We received a lovely email this morning. This is an extract of the message...

"...The quality of the children's singing was first-class and a total joy. They sang with such enthusiasm and with perfect diction. Mrs Houston has very high standards and your children certainly responded to her excellent instruction. She makes it such fun. I have to confess to some tears at the beauty of some of the solos. The Orchestra and Blues Band did extremely well with challenging and well chosen pieces.

We were also very impressed by the behaviour of the whole school which added to the enjoyment of this excellent concert. Huge congratulations to you all and a very Happy Christmas!"

The concert was dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and former colleague, Mr Terry Cross, who passed away recently. He had been our former caretaker and the loli-pop patrol on Newbridge Hill until four years ago. He was known widely in the local community and will be missed by so many. I was delighted that Mr Cross' family attended on Wednesday and at the end of the concert donations were collected for their choice of charity; an amazing £240 was raised, fittingly, for Bath Cats' and Dog' Home.

Christmas Parties: There was a great deal of fun and excitement on Thursday afternoon when the lower school children had their party and a visit from Father Christmas! Thank you to Amy Osborn for purchasing the party food.

Year 6 go to the pantomime: On Thursday afternoon the Year 6 children were treated to Snow White at the Bath Theatre Royal. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance...in the words of Max F, 6B "Absolutley phenomenal!". This visit was very kindly gifted to the children, as it has been for the past 3 years, by Mrs Martin – our colleague who very sadly passed away in 2014.

And so to close, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. As I always say, we can never be truly successful unless we work together to achieve the best outcomes for the children. And thank you for the generous gifts received by all of the staff; these are very much appreciated. The staff have worked tremendously hard this term and very much deserve their Christmas break. One member of staff will not be returning after the holidays; we wish Mrs Beaven and her husband the best of luck as they await the arrival of their first child.

I wish you all a restful holiday and a very happy and healthy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

With kind regards,
Gill Kennaugh



A HUGE big thank you to everyone who took part in this year's musical gigs and concerts. You are all stars and should be very proud of yourselves.

An ENORMOUS thanks to all the parents, carers and staff who helped with the choir gigs and concerts – we couldn't do it without you – and to all the parents/carers at home who have been helping all the children practise.

Everyone deserves a BIG rest and a jolly musical Christmas.

Remember CHOIR, don't rest too much as YOUNG VOICES is the 2nd week back, so keep practising.

THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

by Ailie Steele

I have been a Governor at Newbridge officially since September and I thought it would be good to share my thoughts on the role and the journey that I have been on over the last two terms.

When I applied for the Governor role I had very little idea what was expected of me and what I should expect from the school. My background is financial services and I knew nothing about the many different aspects of running an effective, inclusive and progressive school.

Since September I have attended Governor training which has given me much more of an insight into what is expected from a Governing body and why the job is so important. I have also attended a number of meetings from smaller committee meetings focusing on the school buildings and wider premises, to one to one meetings with teachers focusing on certain areas of the School Development Plan, to the Full Governing Board meetings where all current priorities are discussed and progressed. I have also had the opportunity to observe lessons which has given me another perspective on the school (and I would just like to say that I think the lessons that I saw were fabulous).

Becoming a Governor has been an eye opening experience from understanding and reviewing school policies, to understanding how the national curriculum and assessment systems have changed over time and how that impacts on children as they move through the school. I am also gaining an awareness of the expectations placed on schools and the financial constraints that it must work within on every level.

Understanding the role of the Governor is, to me, a steep and ongoing learning curve, but I am hugely enjoying the challenge. It is a very rewarding role and I can see how much of a difference a great Governing body can make to the progress, effectiveness and wellbeing of the school and all those involved in it.



**WELL DONE TO
THE CHOIR!**

We raised

£110

for the Forever Friends
Cancer Appeal when
we sang at the RUH on
Tuesday and

£125.93

for Julian House whilst
busking!

Dinner Money

All dinners should be taken on a weekly basis. Dinner money is £2.60 per day (£13.00 per week) You are welcome to pay per week, month or term. Please could dinner money be paid for **in advance** on the first day of every week (or month/term if appropriate) and **not retrospectively**.

Payment can be made either electronically through the School Gateway system or by cash/cheque. If paying by cash or cheque please send the money in an envelope with your **child's name and class** on it - please also include the dates the payment covers. Cheques should be made payable to B&NES

Dinner money for the coming terms is as follows:

| | | |
|-------|-----------|----------------|
| Jan | 21 days = | £54.60 |
| Feb | 20 days = | £52.00 |
| March | 17 days = | £44.20 |
| | | £150.80 |

Many thanks