



'A lifelong love of learning;
a love of life.'

Dear Parent/carer,



It is true what they say about time and we really do have fun here!
This term has seen 31 new reception children, 11 new staff and 7 other new children settle and join our team. Well done to them all – it can be difficult to be new as it is such a steep learning curve and they have done brilliantly.
Congratulations to Miss Tucker and Miss Barber, our newly qualified teachers, for completing and achieving their very successful first term.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas in a primary school is so full of many wonderful and varied opportunities to celebrate and bring joy to our school community. The dress rehearsal for the Reception, Year 1 and 2 Nativity was well-attended and although I am saving myself for the actual performances, I have heard that they were very endearing. Our Year 5 and Year 6 Christingle Service at St Mary's was atmospheric and quite cold! The carol concert for year 3 and 4 is also a treat yet to happen so I'll see you there! We also have our usual Bramber's Got Talent Show and the staff panto that the children *seem* to enjoy!



Festive Fun Friday 15th December



Due to a range of reasons, not least the amount of waste and no real need for an extra meal full of sugar between a big lunch and dinner at home, we have decided to try a different approach to a Christmas party.

Instead, this year, we invite the children to wear 'Chistmassy' own clothes such as a Christmas jumper, green /red clothes or tinsel in their hair (for a £1 donation to Save the Children). Throughout the day, in mixed groups across the school, we will provide festive activities such as card and decoration making for all the children. Please send each child to school with a named carrier to take their craft surprises home in.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Please can we remind all parents that they cannot accompany their children into the children's toilets, even during social events. This is because other children use the toilets freely as they do during school time and we cannot ensure their safety with a range of adults in there with them. If you would prefer to accompany your children to the toilet please use the staff toilets on these occasions.

Photographs are a treasured memory jogger. However, we have some children whose pictures cannot go on any social media site for their own protection. Whilst we cannot police your mobiles and use of social media, we politely ask you to respect the privacy of other children by only taking photographs of your own.

Music at Bramber continues to grow

The individual and group tuition of piano and guitar have been popular and will continue as long as parents are interested and willing. Our provision of music in school time includes singing tuition across the whole school, djembe for Year 3, violin in Y4 and World Music in Year 5 and 6 (a change as the teacher for brass unfortunately did not meet our high expectations). The 'Singing for Fun' club expertly run by Mrs Poole, Mrs Killey and Ms Thompson is going from strength to strength and having performed at the Winter Fair, have two other engagements booked. We are so very proud.



Friends of Bramber (including Parents Forum)

The role of parents and families continues to be instrumental in supporting the school to do what is best for the children. Events this term have been fantastic and there are still more to come including Santa's Breakfast for the younger children and Chill Out evenings for the older ones. **Unfortunately, we cannot include siblings as we cater for Bramber pupils only for these events. We are happy to accommodate them and parents are welcome to bring breakfast for their toddlers and babies.**

The Winter Fair raised £2,500 which is more than ever before and we still managed to provide a lot for free, including carol singers and Christmas art and craft tables. Thank you so much to all the parents who give their time freely to organise the events, contribute to decisions and give their suggestions for school and learning. We really appreciate all you do for the Bramber primary school community.

Open Day Reminder

Please come to look at your children's learning if you have time on Monday 18th December before or after school. The children benefit greatly from this in terms of their self-esteem and reflecting on their progress. Also thank you in anticipation for taking the trouble to complete feedback forms; we really do read every one and take into account what you say.



Fire Drill – Friday 1st December



You will be pleased to note that in our recent fire drill the whole school was evacuated out of the building and to muster points in less than 1 minute and 15 seconds. The drill was especially interesting as we had three classes rehearsing in the hall and many FOB volunteers preparing for the Winter Fair. All of the children were exceptional in the calm and silent way they left the building and waited whilst registers were taken ... and the adults were quite good too!

Text reminder service

Our office team: Ms Phillips, Mrs Boo and Miss Palmer, do a phenomenal job keeping everyone happy and they always endeavour to support Bramber parents to do a good job too. This often involves helping you to remember your diary dates by sending frequent reminders about events and clubs. However, can we suggest that you do not over rely on them always doing this because at very busy times this does not take priority over the children at school. **Please make a note of all start and end dates for clubs your child has been signed up for.** Perhaps Friends of Bramber Facebook or class Whatsapp groups could be utilised more for this purpose too.



Attendance

I would like to thank you all for continuing to get your children in to school on time. This ensures the children have a great start to the day and all the learning the school has to offer. The class with the best attendance for November is Seagull at 99.13% - Well done!

Overall 97 children across the school attained 100% attendance this term – congratulations to them and their families.

All that is left for me to say is that we wish you a very Happy Christmas; we hope you all stay well and safe. Thank you to all the excellent members of staff who have helped make this term so successful for every child at our school and to you for supporting us to do the best job we can.

We look forward to seeing everyone bright and early when we return to school on **Thursday 4th January 2018**

Take care,

Tracy Taylor

