

Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Christmas season is well and truly upon us, and it is no different here at school. We have already held a hugely successful Christmas Fayre. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time on the day and the BRSA committee who worked extremely hard to make it such an excellent event.

Earlier this half term we ran a practical session on how we teach and assess writing in school. We looked at how units of work were structured and how children build up their writing skills using talk as a starting point. The slides for this evening are on the website, but if there is enough interest we would be more than happy to run the evening again in the new year. If you are interested in attending, please email us at office@bledlowridge.bucks.sch.uk

Years 2 – 6 have all been on school trips this term, having an excellent time and enriching their learning in the process. They have visited Claydon House, the Ashmolean museum and also the Soldiers of Oxford museum. Key Stage 1 have 3 performances of their Christmas production of 'Children Around the World' coming up this week. Having seen a sneak preview this morning, it is certainly a treat!

Christmas Concert

We will once again be journeying to the church to participate in our annual Christmas Concert on Thursday 14th December at 10:00am. This will involve singing some tradition carols, hearing the school orchestra play and hearing about some of the Christmas customs such as Advent, Christingle and thinking about what Christmas means to us. You are more than welcome to join us.

Hot Lunches

Thank you for your support for the hot lunches that have started this half term. At one point, we served lunches to 122 out of 148 children so the uptake has been magnificent and the children seem to be enjoying the food, especially as it gets colder. Please can I remind you that lunches must be ordered by the Friday of the week before. If lunches are not ordered, they cannot be added for the current week so a packed lunch will need to be provided. If you have ordered ahead of time, it may be worth checking on a Friday evening that your order is still as you intended. Finally, the school is happy to provide ketchup for children having the fish and chip hot meal as Innovate do not provide it. If you ARE NOT happy for your child to have ketchup, please inform the office.

School Choir

Following their successful performance last year, the School Choir, led by Natasha Marsh, are due to give another performance on Tuesday 12th December. They will be opening the Brass Band concert, which is being held in the village hall. The concert begins at 7:00pm and entry is £3. I am sure they would love your support!

Christmas Parties

This year the Christmas parties will be held on Monday 18th December. Further information will be circulated by the teachers nearer the time.

Christmas Cards

Over the last few years Key Stage 2 has run a "Global Village Project" instead of sending individual Christmas cards to each other.

Given how many Christmas cards could be sent in school, we could spend hundreds of pounds – more than some people in developing countries have to live on for the whole year!

How the Global Village Project works:

All the children who want to take part...

- **Do not** buy packs of cards to send to their classmates
- **Do** bring the money that they/you would have spent on cards into school
- **Do** spend an afternoon in school designing, making and signing cards for each other, so that each child gets one special card signed by all the other children in the class
- **Do** contribute to life-changing Christmas gifts for poor families/ communities

Christian Aid's '*Just Gifts*' and Oxfam's '*Unwrapped*' schemes allow people in this country to make a real difference to the lives of ordinary people far away. Examples include:

- £10 for a brood of 10 chickens to provide food/cash now & in the future
- £29 to train a mobile teacher to work with nomadic farmers
- £30 for an emergency shelter kit for families who've lost everything
- £35 for a bicycle to enable a rural health worker to get around more easily

Many children want to do something that will make a difference to other people's lives this Christmas and we hope you'll want to support them.

Parent Parking

Thank you very much for your cooperation regarding parking at the junction of Church Lane. The junction is now much clearer, making it much safer for the children to cross the road on their journey to school. Please can you make every effort to keep this junction clear in the future.

Matched Funding

If any parents' work for a company who run a matched funding scheme the BRSA would love to hear from you! There are many opportunities to get involved with different aspects of running different BRSA events, and with matched funding we could also increase the money raised towards running projects within the school.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Mr. A. Haywood
Headteacher

Diary Dates

06.12.17	KS1 Christmas Performance @ 2:00pm	03.01.18	INSET Day
07.12.17	KS1 Christmas Performance @ 9:30am	04.01.18	Children return to school
08.12.17	KS1 Christmas Performance @ 2:00pm	30.01.18	M&M Pantomime in school
12.12.17	Choir perform at Village Hall @7pm	27.01.18	BRSA Quiz Night
13.12.17	School Disco		
14.12.17	Carol Concert		
18.12.17	Christmas Parties		
19.12.17	Finish for Christmas @ 1:30pm		