



**PRIDE IN ALL WE DO**

<http://www.primaryschoolsnorthdevon.co.uk/website>

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**18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## School News

### A message from Mrs. Denham

Well we've all made it to the end of another rather unusual term. We thank you so much for all your support, understanding, kind words and help. I really do believe the Bratton Fleming Community is a very special one. Even through these very difficult times the school team has ensured your children have been able to share as many of Christmas traditions as possible such as Christmas jumper days, Christmas lunch, meeting Father Christmas, swap shop, carols and Christingle, treat times and Secret Santas.

We have so many people to thank this term who have helped make the school such a wonderful place to work and a fabulous place for your children to learn, grow and thrive. These include:

- Our Governors who help support and run the school and have managed this so well even in these difficult times. Special thanks to Tim Baker the chair of governors who has been a great support
- Ventrus MAT who support the school behind the scenes, with areas such as School Improvement, HR, H&S and training
- Reverend Rosie and the Church team for all their love, support and kindness
- The amazing PTA who even through a pandemic, have organised the Christmas raffle, the Christmas Fayre in a Bag and the sale of T-Towels. These activities will have helped to raise much needed funds for our school
- Jenny Baker who has supported the children with a much loved specialist music programme
- Mrs Tapp and Mrs Thorne for scrummy Christmas dinner
- You as parents, for supporting the school and helping us follow the COVID risk assessments and guidance as best as possible. Thank you also to everyone who sent in gifts for the Swap Shop. The children REALLY enjoyed choosing something to bring home to you – their faces were a picture and we hope you enjoy receiving your gift on Christmas morning!
- And lastly the most wonderful team of staff, who despite anything and everything that has been thrown at them this year, have accepted it and just got on with a huge smile on their faces and a massive loving heart. They are an extraordinary team and I am so grateful to each and every one of them for their support and absolute dedication

Each class has put together a simple Class celebration, either a poem, song or play to celebrate Christmas. These can be found for you to enjoy on your child's Teams account, under the General Channel.

I hope your child was able to successfully bring home the homemade gnom/gnome I made for them as their Christmas gift this year. Please be aware these are homemade and therefore won't be as robust as those bought in shops. Small bits may sadly come away if pulled. I told the children they have to be named and loved – but they are also happy, if required, to go into hibernation for the year once Christmas is over!!

We are desperately needing to get more pupils to apply for places at Bratton in Reception, year 1 and year 2. We have attached a poster/ advertising leaflet to this newsletter. If you can print it out and put the poster in any local shops (we have done the Village shop)/ business or anywhere you can think of we would be very grateful!

If any child has to self-isolate or becomes ill over the holiday period, please follow the guidance received in an email from Ventrus on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and listed below:

We would like to give absolute clarity on the **steps you need to take if one of the children in your family who attends our school has a confirmed positive test for COVID-19** during the Christmas holidays.

Please email [info@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:info@ventrus.org.uk) as soon as you possibly can, marking the subject as "Confirmed Covid-19 Case", in the body of the email please include the following information:

**School Name:**

**Child Name:**

**Date of confirmed positive test:**

**Date child became symptomatic:**

Please ensure that you send this email without delay, as it will be crucially important for contact tracing to begin immediately enabling those who have been in close contact with a positive case to take appropriate self-isolation measures. We only need to be emailed if a positive test is received, we don't need to be notified if a child is isolating due to having one or more symptoms associated with Covid-19, it is only if a positive test is received that we need to be contacted.

Finally, although this is going to be a very different Christmas period, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. Enjoy being together as a family and spending precious time with each other. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

With very best wishes  
Sue Denham

We were very saddened to hear of the passing of three friends who have been closely involved with the school. Daphne Dallyn and Ruby Colwell came into school on many occasions and delighted the children as part of "Open the Book". Mark Thompson, an ex-colleague, worked in the school for several years and always made us smile. Our thoughts are with their families.

### **Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays**

If you are entitled to free school meals, please look out for a letter or email from DCC on or after the 8<sup>th</sup> December providing details of how to access your vouchers or an alternative food box. You should receive a unique code per child. Each code can be used once on a website call 'Hawk Select' to redeem your voucher/s to the value of £30.00 per child (£15.00 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please visit the Devon County website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

### **Severe weather conditions and the closure of School**

I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the procedures for the closure of the school in bad weather.

1. We will send out a message on the Bratton Fleming Primary School Facebook page as soon as we know the weather conditions, we will also put a message on the Bratton Fleming Facebook page, Bratton Fleming website page and we will also email you.
2. You can register with Devon County Council school closures, alert me -stay up to date. The email link is: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/> They will then alert you if the school is closed.
3. Listen to Radio Devon.
4. If you are unsure, as a last resort please telephone either Bratton Fleming Primary school on (01598 710337). However, if we cannot get into school to man the phone please try Holywell C of E School on 01271 345908 they may be open to assist you. We will always have staff, if possible, to answer the telephone.

We will always try, wherever possible, to remain open. Alternatively, it may be safer to open school later than normal.

Individual families should assess the risk posed by their journey to school and make their own decision. Many families who live close to the school will have a different level of risk to those who have much more complex travel arrangements. Let's hope that we have a trouble-free winter!

### **Vodafone Sim Card**

Vodafone UK wanted to do their part to help keep children and parents connected and be able to continue learning from home during this difficult time. They have given away for free 250,000 data SIMs with 30GB of data to use for 90 days.

We requested and have been allocated a small number of Vodafone data SIM cards to give out to parents who have problems logging on to the Wi-Fi for their children to access Microsoft Teams from home. As they are limited, they will be given out on a first come first served basis.

- ❖ Vodafone data SIM to use as a Wi-Fi replacement.
- ❖ 30GB data (lasts for 90 days)
- ❖ Need a smart laptop/dongle that has a slot for a sim card or a smart phone that takes a sim card
- ❖ Need good Vodafone signal (you can use the Network Status tracker on [www.vodafone.co.uk](http://www.vodafone.co.uk))
  
- ❖ If your phone is locked to another network, you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- ❖ You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- ❖ You will be able to enjoy 30GB data for 90 days this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

### **School News**

#### **Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)**

The application facility opened on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. It is important that parents apply before the closing date, even if they are intending to defer their child's admission until later in the academic year, they must secure a place before that decision need be made.

#### **Privacy Notice**

The Trust has updated its Privacy Notice for parents. It is available for you to view on our website

<https://www.ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

#### **Term Dates**

Please find attached the term dates from September 2021 to August 2022.

#### **COVID -19**

Please note that it has been announced that there has been a change in isolation time from 14 to 10 days.

#### **Awards**

Congratulations to all children who received cups, badges and certificates in assembly today.

**Bratton Fleming School  
is a NO NUT Zone**

## Dates for your diary

5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Spring Term begins
27 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Bags2School
15 <sup>th</sup> February to 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Half Term
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 <sup>st</sup> May to 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Half Term
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021	Last Day of Term

## PTA News

### Christmas Fayre in a bag

Although it obviously wasn't the same as actually going to a Christmas Fayre, we hope the children liked their Christmas Fayre in a bag-goodies. Thank you to everyone who bought one. We're still in the process of finding out a total amount raised but we'll keep you posted.

### School Tea towels

If you have purchased a school tea towel you should have received it by now. Please note that T-towels will still be on sale after Christmas, please order and pay on ParentPay. They really are a lovely keepsake/gift.

### Christmas Hamper

I am delighted to announce that Ms Tomalin was the winner of the Christmas hamper

Second prize Mr Rowe

Third prize Ms Parker

Congratulations!!!!

We managed to raise an amazing £300 from this fantastic fund raiser.

Thank you so much to Sian Kemp, who not only arranged donations for the hamper, but also put them together to make three wonderful prizes. Thank you Sian- you're amazing!!!

### Bags4school

If you're planning on having a sort out over the Christmas holidays we've arranged for a Bags4school collection in January. More details to follow.

### Club 59

We are hoping to get this wonderful fundraiser back up and running in the new year.

And finally all members of the PTA would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.