



Bottisham Primary School Newsletter

Beechwood Avenue
Bottisham
CB25 9BE
01223 811235
office@bottisham.cambs.sch.uk

Autumn Term
14th December 2018

Season's Greetings

What a wonderful Autumn term it has been! I have so enjoyed visiting classes and seeing the fabulous work that the children have been doing. We have some very interesting visitors to the school, such as History Off the Page and Steel Bones as well as the wonderful trip to Hilltop There are photos on our website showing some of the exciting things that the children have been up to this term so do take a look! Congratulations to our Reception children who are coming to the end of their first term and have settled in marvellously well to life at Bottisham Primary School. Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for the support you have given to the school this term and to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Perry

Bikeability

Maple class once more demonstrated their skill, resilience and determination as they participated in Outspoken's Bikeability training. This is a valuable 4 days of training in cycling proficiency, better equipping our children to keep themselves safe on our roads as they cycle to and from school. The Bikeability team spoke positively about the children's attitude and persistence especially as the weather was quite a challenge at



times. Congratulations to all those who achieved levels of proficiency and our thanks to the members of staff who stood at length in the cold and wet weather to enable this experience to

take place.

Parking and Baking

If you were one of the lovely parents who baked cakes for our PTA event and now cannot find your containers, it may be because we still have them! Please pop into the office if you think that might be you. In addition, local residents have politely asked us to remind parents to park safely and considerately when they are dropping off and collecting their children. Thank you to all of you who do not park over driveways or in such a manner that causes danger to our children.

Non School Uniform Day

Just a reminder that we are going to make the last day of term a non-school uniform day. This will be on Wednesday 19th December as a celebration of the last day of term—Christmassy wear is encouraged!

Cross Country Tournament

On a cold, crisp, beautifully sunny morning, Mrs McGrath took Bottisham children to participate in an inter-school cross country tournament. The 41 athletes were excellent ambassadors for their school and many were placed in their age-range. As the children arrived back at school, with faces glowing, they were excited to tell me that everyone had completed the course and showed good sportsmanship! We await details of the outcome of the mornings challenging activity.

PTA Meeting

The first PTA meeting of 2017 will be on Monday 14th January at 6pm in the staffroom. All are welcome - come along to find out what fundraising events the PTA have planned for the Spring term.

Diary Dates 2018-19

Spring Term 2019

Spring Term 2019

January

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th—
Training Days—school is closed to children

Monday 7th January—First day of term

Tuesday 22nd—NSPCC workshops
Wednesday 30th and Thursday
31st—Burwell House

Wednesday 30th to Friday 1st
February—Grafham Water Residential

February

18th—22nd February—Half term

April

Friday 5th April—Last day of term

Summer Term 2019

April

Tuesday 23rd — Training Day -
school is closed to children
Wednesday 24th—Summer term starts

May

Monday 6th May—May Day—
school is closed

Monday 13th to Friday 17th May—
Year 6 SAT week

Friday 24th May—Training Day—
school is closed to children

Monday 27th to Friday 31st—Half term

June

Friday 21st June—Science Day

July

Tuesday 2nd July—Arty Science Day

Wednesday 24th— Last day of term

Caterlink Feedback

We continue to work with the Anglian Trust Leadership providing feedback regarding the service provided by Caterlink our new catering company. Caterlink have provided us with a Feedback Book, so if you would like to comment, you will find this at Reception, alongside the signing-in book.

School Dinners

We would be very grateful if you can pay for your child's school dinner at the start of the week as it makes the management and organisation of finances much more straightforward for Mrs Clowes and Mrs Hobson. Of course, you are able to pay for the half term in one payment if you prefer. Payments can be made using the school's online payment system Agora. If you do not have an Agora password or need help in using it, please speak to the school office. Prices for the Spring term are as follows:

£2.30 per day

£11.50 per week

£69.00 for 1st half term (Spring)

£69.00 for 2nd half term (Spring)

Some families may be eligible to claim free school meals if in receipt of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but who are not entitled to working tax credit and whose annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Universal Credit

Please do come and see the school office for more information.

Governor News

Governors met on 5th December for the last time this term with a very full agenda! We regularly discuss issues that affect the school's

budget, compliance with local authority (and now also Anglian Trust) processes and legal responsibilities. Currently, we are also looking at our roles as governors within Anglian Learning and what that means for us within Bottisham Primary. We have given some thought to the results of the recent parent survey and we have been looking through the Trust's asset management survey in order to prioritise plans for maintenance of the site. Finally, we have been ensuring that the plan the school has for making continual improvements to teaching and learning (the school development plan) is being effectively monitored. We would like to say a big thank you to Phil Taylor who, following number of years as a governor is standing down; and to Mrs Perry for her hard work this term.

Merry Christmas!

Jo Middleton

Chair of Governors

Carol Concert @ Holy Trinity

Thank you to everyone who participated in the carol concert at the Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday evening this week. There was such a wonderful atmosphere and the beautiful singing combined with the candlelight created a really special feeling to the whole concert. You can view excerpts from the evening on the school website. A huge thank you to Mrs McMahan for her hard work and inspirational leadership in organising and leading the carol concert.

Bad weather

In the event of bad weather we would like to remind you of the methods of obtaining information of whether the school will be closed. Announcements will be made on BBC Radio Cambridge and Heart and a message will be left at the front entrance to the school and on the school website. We would only close the school if it is unavoidable and will endeavour to ensure that this does not happen if at all possible. When

we continue to be open, thank you for making sure that children come to school with suitable footwear, including their indoor shoes, and with warm clothing, during the winter months.

Roman Invasion!

Cedar, Elm and Birch classes became part of the Roman Empire in Vadum, last Friday when History Off-the-Page came to work with them for the day. Soldiers were trained and drilled in Latin, medicines were ground and mixed from herbs and spices and a feast was held in the afternoon! A super day was had by all involved. Many thanks to all the parent helpers who helped to facilitate this exciting day.

Attendance

Having met with the schools new Education Welfare Officer, we need to update you on our attendance policy. If a child's attendance slips below 96%, we will, from now on be sending a letter to draw your attention to this. Should attendance not improve, we will be asking you to come and chat to us about how we can work together to enable your child to be in school more regularly. If attendance drops to 90% the EWO will be notified and a fixed penalty fee may be applied. We all recognise the links between high attendance and achievement so thank you to all those of you who work with us to send your child to school as often as possible.

Adopt the Christmas Tree

We have had a few enquiries about the welfare, appreciation and location for the holidays, of the beautiful Christmas tree which currently adorns the school hall. If you would like to adopt our Christmas tree for your home over the festive period, please drop in at the office and hand in your name. The name drawn out of the hat on Tuesday 18th December at 12:45 will be the lucky recipient.