

Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 13: Friday, 8th December 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing News ~ As you know Mrs Christine Dutton will be retiring at Christmas and we will miss her very much. Mrs Lehan Medlock has made the difficult decision to step down as Nursery Teacher and will replace Mrs Dutton as Nursery Nurse. Miss Emma Davis will be the new Nursery Teacher from January. We wish them all well in their new roles.



Our real Christmas tree is all decorated and the Hall trimmed up, thank you so much to Mr Jones, Alice Porter and their families ~ it looks beautiful and everyone loves it. The classrooms are looking stunning ~ 'it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!'

The Christmas Fair is today

Thank you for all your very generous donations over the past few weeks. The money raised as you know goes directly back to our children as we heavily subsidise all of the trips and visits. Thank you to Mrs White, who has worked so hard over the past few weeks preparing, her family and all of the staff who have helped. **The class who sold the most raffle tickets are the Y1 Grasshoppers!**

School Council visit to the Houses of Parliament on Friday. We did an interesting workshop, visited the Queens' entrance to Westminster, the House of Lords, went on the London Eye, Mr Sabin bought us all a special pencil and Father David a 99 ice cream. We stopped off at McDonald's for our tea, which was another highlight! We had a wonderful day and the children were perfectly behaved, well done to everyone and thank you to Father David and Paul Sabin who came with us and were a tremendous help.

Christmas Soiree Tickets are now **SOLD OUT**. This is always a very special evening when the children share carols, drama and dancing with us all.

Christmas Dedication Baubles are still on sale ~ You can have your child's name on the bauble or in memory of a relative or friend, the year can also be added. The baubles are hung on a special tree in school and then can be taken home on Thursday, 21st December which is the day before we finish for the Christmas holidays. A bauble costs £2.50. **Closing date for orders Friday, 15th December.**

Selection Box Raffle Tickets ~ on sale at 20p each, the Draw will take place on Wednesday, 20th December.

This week

Year 1 Dragonflies Class Assembly ~ on Wednesday was extremely well supported (I don't think we've ever squeezed so many parents into a classroom before!) The children shared lots of their learning about their 'Knights and Castles' and their 'All About Me' topics. There were lots of special messages about being a good friend, drama, beautiful writing, poetry and fabulous singing. Well done to all of our lovely boys and girls in the Dragonflies and to Mrs Wilkie and Mrs Todhunter. Thank you also for all your support.

On Tuesday, the **Nursery Christmas Workshops** were very well supported by our families. Everyone enjoyed making Christmas crackers, biscuits, sharing a mince pie and other activities. Thank you to Mrs Medlock, Mrs Sabin, Miss Davis and Mrs Dutton for providing such a special opportunity for our youngest children. Mrs Dutton is counting the days to her retirement and is feeling very emotional as she faces 'the last time' for everything!

KS1 football multi-skills on Wednesday. All of the children did really well and the red team came 2nd! Well done to everyone and thank you to Mrs Porter and Mr Campbell.

Next Week:

- **Year 2 Robins, Year 2/3 Kingfishers and Year 3 Woodpeckers Nativity** ~ Monday, 11th December at 2.15pm and Tuesday, 12th December at 10am
- **Christmas Disco for Years 1-6** ~ Tuesday, 12th December 5.30 - 7.00pm. Tickets now on sale (£2 with crisps and pop included) Hot dogs available at 50p each.

- **Christmas Bingo** ~ Wednesday, 13th December at 6.00pm. All welcome, excellent prizes and lots of fun!
- **Choir and Brass Ensemble** ~ Wednesday, 13th December at 6.30pm performing at St. John's Church
- **Foundation Stage Sunflowers and Daffodils Christmas Nativity** ~ Thursday, 14th December at 10.00am
- **Alladin Performance of the Drama Group** ~ Thursday, 14th December at 2.00pm
- **Nursery Christmas Celebration** ~ Friday, 15th December at 10.00am and 2.30pm

Final week of Term ~ Christmas Party Week:

Monday

- **Nursery, Sunflowers and Daffodils Christmas Party Day at 12.30pm** (all nursery children (Am and PM) to come at 12.30 please, all F1 and F2 children in their Party clothes)
- **Year 5 Lions and Year 6 Christmas Party Day**
- **Choir children to sing at Oakwood Grange Care Home, Royston**

Tuesday

- **Year 1 Dragonflies and Grasshoppers Christmas Party Day**
- **Year 4 Jaguars and Year 4/5 Panthers Christmas Party Day**
- **Sunflowers and Daffodils to Barnsley Civic to see The Magic Toy Shop**

Wednesday

- **Christmas Jumper (optional for staff and children) and Christmas Dinner Day**
- **Assembly** ~ Esafety, Attendance Awards and Selection Box Draw
- **Year 2 Robins, Year 2/3 Kingfishers and Year 3 Woodpeckers Christmas Party Day**
- **Mrs Dutton's Afternoon Tea for ex-pupils, parents and special visitors** ~ from 2.00pm

Thursday

- **Mrs Dutton's Retirement Assembly** ~ at 9.05am
- **Christmas Soiree** at 6.30pm

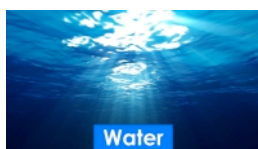
Friday

- **'Rock and Pop' Christmas performance** for children and staff by Barnsley Music Service
- **Christmas at St John's Parish Church led by the Year 1 Dragonflies and Grasshoppers** ~ Friday, 22nd December at 2.00pm, all welcome

Break up Friday, 22nd December

Dinner Money ~ Please would you kindly pay dinner money up-to-date in advance please. That way, you are paying for the meals as your child/ren have the, rather than owing and getting into debt. Thank you for your support.

The House Winners last week were:



Team Water (Blue)



**The proud winners of the Attendance Award last week were:
The Kingfishers with 99.3%**

With many thanks for your continued support.
Mrs Julie Allen MBE,
Headteacher