



Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 15: Friday, 22nd December 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year

Thank you to everyone who has supported events this term such as: Class Assemblies, Children in Need, Sporting Events, the Christmas Fair, Bingos, Discos, Christmas Nativities, Soiree and the Church Service.

I really appreciate all the support received from parents, friends, families, Governors and all of our wonderful staff throughout the year. Thanks to you, Birkwood continues to go from strength to strength!

Thank you also on behalf of all the staff for your very generous gifts, Christmas cards, cakes (Year 6) and wishes. We hope you enjoy the children's cards, calendars and gifts. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your friends and families and all the very best for the coming New Year.

On Friday, our **Nursery children entertained us with their Christmas Celebrations**. We couldn't believe how confident they've become, they looked so special and when you think they're only 3! Thank you to all of our families who were able to join us, well done to all of the children, Mrs Medlock, Mrs Dutton and Mrs Sabin.

Congratulations to our Christmas Card Competition Winners ~ Steph Peacock our MP, visited school last Friday morning and presented Ruby Alavi with a certificate and voucher for £50 for being Runner Up overall in the whole of Barnsley! Also, Jasie-Rae Wombwell in the Year 2 Robins and Lacey-Marie Smith in the Year 1 Grasshoppers who were both presented with a certificate and book token. Well done everyone who entered.

All Aboard the Polar Express! What an absolutely magnificent evening we had on Sunday at Hope House Church. It was just magical from start to finish and our children were the stars ~ we were so very proud of each and every one of them. Their singing, movement and dancing was wonderful, we just couldn't praise them enough. Thank you so very much to all of our families who are able to join us and thank you to Hope House for inviting us, to Mrs Sutton, Mrs Porter, Mrs Taylor and her son TJ plus all of the staff who supported, it was certainly one of the highlights in my career (I couldn't stop crying!)

Christmas Parties ~ the children really enjoyed themselves this week, they always look so different and grown up in their party clothes! Thank you very much for party food donations. All children in school have received a Christmas present of a book; Father Christmas visited Foundation with presents too.

On Monday afternoon, members of our choir visited **Oakwood Grange Care Home in Royston** following an invitation by Codie Booth's Mum. The residents, carers and our children, Mrs Sutton, Mrs Taylor and myself had a very enjoyable (and emotional) visit too. It was absolutely beautiful to see everyone's faces and the residents joining in. It reminded us all what Christmas is all about ~ about sharing our gifts of time and our voices to bring cheer to others. Well done to all of our very special children.

Our Sunflowers and Daffodils really enjoyed their trip to Barnsley Civic to see The Magic Toy Shop on Tuesday ~ It was a magical experience for them all and they loved every minute. Thank you to Miss Ward, Miss Jenkins and all of the staff who supported taking our little ones on their first school trip!

Thank you for your support with all the fantastic **Christmas Jumpers** on Wednesday! The children looked just great and the staff too! **Christmas Dinner** was wonderful. Thank you to all the lunchtime and kitchen staff for making the Christmas Dinner and for working so hard throughout the year.

Also a big thank you to Francesca Booth's Mum for organising the 'Guess the Name of the Elf' competition. The Elf was called Coco and the £25 prize was won by Pippa Malloy-Hill in Daffodils.

Attendance ~ On Wednesday, we celebrated the children who had 100% Attendance with no Lates during the Autumn Term. **101 of the children** received a special certificate and a Curly Wurly. This is an amazing number and there were 19 prize winners too:

Lily-Beth Warsop, Daysi Dyson, Ava Dean, Leila Godany, Jacob Middlehurst, Leighton Roughley, Jordi Roberts, Mylie Clarke, Joshua Whittaker, Rylee Harling, Logan Parkin, Evie Dean, Olivia Binnie, Charlie Gascoigne, Jacob Boydell, Fae Marshall, Joshua Robb, Ashton Bostock and Gene Webster

Thank you to Provide Education for their kind sponsorship of the prizes and to Mrs Booth for choosing them.

The Selection Box Draw was also held on Wednesday morning with lots of prize winners! This helped to raise **£108.40** towards School Funds, thank you. The Dedication Baubles also helped to raise £101.50.

Mrs Dutton's Afternoon Tea and Special Assembly ~ Thank you to everyone who was able to 'drop in' for a cup of tea and a bun. She was absolutely thrilled and quite overwhelmed with all the attention but delighted at the same time! We will miss her very much but wish her all the very best in her retirement with lots of love.

Esafety ~ we reminded the children about keeping themselves safe online as I'm sure some will have new tablets and phones from Father Christmas!



The Christmas Soiree last night was also amazing! It was a great showcase of the brass, choir, drama and dance opportunities the children have at our school. Congratulations to all of the children, to Mrs Porter, Mrs Sutton, to Mr Froggatt for his debut compering and a big thank you to all of the staff who helped after a long day at school. It was lovely to see so many of you supporting your children too, thank you.

'Rock and Pop' around the Christmas Tree with Barnsley Music Service was really enjoyed by staff and children today ~ they joined in singing traditional and modern Christmas songs, accompanied by a range of instruments. We all loved it!

Year 1 Nativity at St. John's this afternoon ~ I'm sure that our children will be wonderful, everyone will sing beautifully and remind us of what Christmas is really about. Thank you to Father David for all his love and support for our school throughout the year.

Some of our children and the choir will be starring on BBC Radio 2's and Radio Sheffield's Breakfast Shows on Christmas Day #wearefamous!



Celebrate Christingle at St John's Church on Christmas Eve at 5pm

A reminder that School reopens on Monday 8th January 2018

After the holidays:

- Meeting for current Year 5 parents (both classes) about Kingswood Residential Visit on Wednesday, 10th January at 3.30pm
- Year 2/3 Kingfishers and Year 3 Woodpeckers to see The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe at the West Yorkshire Playhouse ~ Thursday, 11th January (pm)



**The proud winners of the Attendance Award last week were:
The Lions and Zebras with 98.7%**

With thanks and Happy Christmas wishes and blessings,
Mrs Julie Allen MBE, Headteacher