



Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 15: Friday, 18th December 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all the lovely messages and kind words following the announcement of my retirement in the Summer next year; they are much appreciated and it has been very emotional, as you can imagine.

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

Thank you for all your support and trust in us during what has been the most challenging term ever. We are so proud of you all.

Thank you also on behalf of all the staff for your gifts, Christmas cards and kind wishes. We hope you enjoy the children's cards, calendars and gifts.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas in your Bubbles with your friends and families and here's to a much better New Year.

With love and Christmas blessings.



Well done to all of the children in the Year 3 Foxes, Year 3/4 Badgers, Year 4 Hedgehogs, Year 5 Robins, Year 5/6 Tigers and Year 6 Leopards on their wonderful 'Virtual Christmas Celebrations.' They were all very unique and helped to spread some Christmas Cheer, thank you to all of the staff who worked so hard to produce them ~ I know there were some grey hairs emerging over the 2 weeks!

Congratulations to all of the boys and girls in the Sunflowers and Daffodils on their beautiful performance of the Nativity. They were all just amazing ~ a special well done to Phoebe, Cole and Nievie who sang so beautifully on her own as 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'. Louie also did a fantastic job as the Covid Marshall making sure that everyone was socially distanced! Thank you to our wonderful staff team for all their hard work with 40 children; I loved every minute of it.

Our Nursery children adapted the Nativity slightly this year to make their 'Bear Hunt' Nativity with kind permission from Michael Rosen. Our youngest children were just delightful and I laughed and cried ~ they are just amazing considering they are only 3, they're just babies really! Thank you to Miss Davis, Mrs Sabin and Miss Claire for all their patience and for a fabulous production.

Finally, a big well done to the Year 1 Caterpillars, Year 1/2 Ladybirds and Year 2 Butterflies on their joint production of 'The Wiggly Nativity' which was just wonderful and all the children did so well, with lots of enthusiastic singing and very clear narrators too. Thank you to all of the Key Stage 1 staff and Miss Porter for putting together such a polished performance.

Congratulations to our Christmas Card Winners who designed the entries for our MP Stephanie Peacock's official card:

1st place: Nicole Iacobescu; **2nd place:** Max Brown and **3rd place:** Macie Jo Jackson

Nicole received a Tesco Hamper and a framed copy of her entry. Nicole's winning entry is on the front of Stephanie Peacock's card which will even be posted in Westminster.

Christmas Carols on Tour ~ to Westhaven, Prospect House and Belle Vue with the Year 4 Hedgehogs last Friday was very special. The residents were so grateful for the children singing to them from outside and they loved joining in too. The children had a great time bringing Christmas cheer to all.

Christmas Dinner Day/Christmas Jumper Day ~ was wonderful; 265 dinners were served throughout school. Thank you to all the lunchtime and kitchen staff for making the Christmas Dinner and for working so hard throughout the year. I just helped a bit to serve the dinners and was exhausted!

Christmas Party Friday ~ I'm sure the children will have a great time today. All of the food has been supplied by school for the parties, which I know was enjoyed and appreciated.

Christmas Grotto ~ Father Christmas has been in our special Grotto on the field throughout the week and has given presents and chocolates to all of the children in school. Aren't we lucky?!

Staffing News ~ We say farewell to Miss Betts as she leaves us today to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the very best and the safe arrival of her baby in April.

We have appointed Miss Becky Gormanly into the Year 2 Butterflies and she has been working closely with Miss Betts all week. Miss Betts will continue to support Miss Gormanly from home to ensure a smooth transition for our children; I'm sure you will welcome her to the Butterflies.

Attendance ~ This morning, we celebrated the children who had 100% Attendance with no Lates during the Autumn Term, thank you for your support, especially under the circumstances.

98 of the children received a special certificate and a Curly Wurly. This is an amazing number and there were prize winners too: Henley-Lee Day, Logan Levitt, Joseph Hughes, Lily Graham, Oliver Campbell, Kaitlyn Vicary, Layla Rowbotham, Jessie-Jade Jones, Holly Warsop, James Stables, Rayah-Mae Wombwell, Max Cooper, Summer Mills, Evie Sowerby, Chloe Goodyear Beevers, Emily Hand, Emily Thornton, Mia Robinson, Lewis Evans and Kaden Goodyear

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

The Selection Box Draw was held this morning with lots of prize winners! This helped to raise **£117** towards School Funds, thank you again to Mrs White and all of the staff who donated the selection boxes. The Dedication Baubles also helped to raise **£212.50**; thank you very much to Mrs Sutton for the beautiful decorations.

Over the Christmas holidays, if your child or any member of your household develops symptoms consistent with Covid-19 (a temperature above 37.8°, a bad cough or loss/change to your sense of smell or taste) they must book a test, stay at home and follow the isolation guidance.

If your child or any member of your household develops symptoms during the 48hour period after the end of term and subsequently tests positive, we would ask you to notify school via email to j.allen@birkwood.org.uk. If this information affects any other members of our school community we can then make sure they know.

Please label your email with the subject 'COVID POSITIVE' and include the following information: Name of person who has tested positive, date symptoms started, date of test and positive result.

We really hope that nobody in our community is affected over the Christmas holidays and enjoy a really special time with our families and close friends.

Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs ~ Just to let you know that the Government announced this week that only the Reading and Maths Key Stage 2 SATs will take place in May.



**The proud winners of the Attendance Award last week were:
The Ladybirds with 100%**

A reminder that School reopens on Monday 4th January 2021
Please Note that Nursery will be closed for New Starter visits on
Monday, 4th January 2021.
Nursery children will return on Tuesday, 5th January please

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