



Bitterne Park Primary School

December 2022 Newsletter



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

*Merry
Christmas*

Dear Parents

Welcome to my final newsletter of 2022.

As the Autumn term draws to a close and festive season begins, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe and well.

Our children have worked extremely hard over this half term and have maintained their focus on learning, right into the last week of the term. I am proud of the strong friendships and the mutual respect we are seeing in school.

Christmas Events

Christmas Performances

All of the children in school worked very hard to prepare for their Christmas concerts held last week. We are so very proud of them and would like to say a big thank you to all of the teachers and staff that helped make these events so special. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

A huge thank you to Karen and her team of wonderful cooks for cooking lovely fresh food every day for our children and staff – thank you! Christmas dinner was delicious this year, as always! All the staff and children had a lovely time eating Christmas lunch on Wednesday.

All children and staff looked wonderful in their festive jumpers on Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to all the families who sent in a donation for Save the Children, your continued support is very much appreciated. We raised an amazing £248.90.



House Competitions - Charity

This half term, we have been collecting food donations which will be donated to foodbanks and distributed to families in need over the Christmas period. We have been astounded by the generosity of our families at this time of the year. We thank you for modelling the spirit of giving and can reassure you that every packet and tin will be distributed locally to help those less fortunate than ourselves. This year, Phoenix were the overall winners.

The venues and opening times over the Christmas period are as follows:

Friday, 23 rd December	-	Open 10am – 3pm at Lordshill Church
Monday, 26 th December	-	CLOSED
Tuesday, 27 th December	-	CLOSED
Wednesday, 28 th December	-	Open 10am – 1pm at the Old Chemist, Bitterne Park Triangle

Thursday, 29th December - Open 10am – 1pm at Shirley Baptist Church
Friday, 30th December - Open 10am – 1pm at Lordshill Church
Monday, 2nd Jan - CLOSED

Poetry Morning

Year R

We celebrated our poetry morning this Monday! The children used their fluency skills to perform the poem. As a group, we came up with the actions to go with the words to our poem 'Pancakes in a pan'. The children had a lovely time learning a different style of performance and performed very enthusiastically!

Year 1

Year 1 have been hard at work practising and studying the poem The Owl and the Pussy cat. They sequenced the journey the animals went on and even thought about which other animal they could add to the boat. They then learnt the lines and performed it ensuring they were loud and clear to the audience. They even had actions too.

Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time learning and performing our poem, "The Boneyard rap". We learnt about onomatopoeia and emphasis so that we could make our performances really stand out. The children enjoyed creating their own actions to go with the poem and performing it live for the teachers. It was a unique experience that the children really enjoyed.

Year 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed our poetry morning! We spent the morning exploring 'Please Mrs Butler' by Allan Ahlberg. This poem was very funny and made us laugh a lot! Firstly, we spent some time exploring the language and key themes of the poem, as well as the repetition and impact of this. After this, we were given a line to learn off by heart while also considering how our voices will change when performing it. Finally, we performed the whole poem in classes. We had a fantastic morning!

Year 4

Year 4 absolutely loved our poetry morning! We explored the poem 'Macavity the mystery cat' by T.S. Eliot. We used actions and expression to bring alive the sneaky personality of Macavity! All teachers were very impressed by the performances. Well done!

Year 5

Year Five loved becoming immersed in the poem 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll. The 'nonsense' vocabulary caused much confusion initially but the children used the context and their inference skills to determine what the words could mean. In groups, the children then had the opportunity to focus on different stanzas of the poem and put it together as a class performance.

Year 6

For poetry day, Year 6 took on the action-packed, epic tale of *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. It is a lovely narrative poem which tells the tragic story of Bess, the landlord's daughter, who is in love with a dashing outlaw, the Highwayman. They express their love to each other in the beginning, before he sets off for another night of crime. Unknown to them however, Tim, the ostler - who is also in love with Bess - overhears the lovers and informs the King's men, the Redcoats, about Bess and the outlaw. The rest is a rollercoaster of entrapment, sacrifice, revenge and ultimately heartbreak. The children analysed the complex historical language of the poem, made inferences from the rich descriptions of character and setting and finally brought the poem to life, reading with expression, emphasis, rhythm and sound effects.

Attendance

Congratulations to James (4CH) and Florence (2M) for winning the Attendance Prize this half term.

Let's keep digging!

In preparation for spring, we have been busy planting bulbs outside. Our first mission was weeding; we pulled on our gloves, grabbed a shovel and went to work.

After a while, the area was then set and ready for planting our bulbs. Fingers crossed we see some beautiful daffodils blossoming soon.

We are already planning our next planting rotation ready to produce in the Summer term.

Safer Crossing Campaign

Some of our year 5 and 6 school councilors met with our local Councilors, Tony Bundy and Ivan White, to share thoughts our children's thoughts about this important concern. Please see our school blogs for further updates.

After School Clubs

Clubs will be running throughout the academic year on a half termly basis. The Spring after school clubs will begin on Monday, 9th January 2023. We will try our best to provide an opportunity for all children to take part in a club, with a minimum of one child's choice in order to be fair, following submission of the form. We will also organise a waiting list for oversubscribed clubs.

A Polite Reminder – P.E. Kit

Whilst the majority of parents ensure that their children have bought in their PE kits, there have still been a number of children that are not bringing them into school. It is very important for reasons of hygiene and safety that children have a change of clothing. We wouldn't want any of our children to miss out on the fun.

The P.E. days for each year group are as follows:

Monday: Year 1	Thursday: Year 5
Tuesday: Year 2	Friday: Years R and 6
Wednesday: Years 3 and 4	

Please may we also remind you that earrings must be taken out or taped before coming into school as we are not permitted to remove or tape earrings in school.



School Meal increase

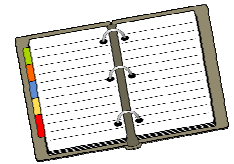
City Catering over the last few years have tried to maintain lower costs for our school meals by continuing to negotiate with their suppliers. Unfortunately, they have now reached the point where the current meal price has become unviable. We are writing to you now to advise that, regrettably, the price of school meals for KS2 will increase to £2.90 with effect from 3rd January 2023. If you feel you may be entitled to free school meals, please do use the link on our school website to apply or enquire at the school office.

School Office

We are receiving a high number of parents collecting their children before school finishing time. Please can we remind you that this will only be authorised if medical evidence is provided or under exceptional circumstances. If you intend to collect your child/children early, please may we ask that you inform the school office in advance so that the proper protocol can be followed. We thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday, 3rd January – school opens for Spring term
- Wednesday, 11th January – School Council partnership summit for Year 6 councilors at Holy Family SCITT
- Sunday, 15th January – Deadline for new Year R School applications
- 13th – 17th February – Spring half-term
- Thursday, 2nd March – World Book Day
- Monday, 6th March - Class Photographs
- Wednesday, 8th March – Year 5 Mobile Planetarium (in school)
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 Bikeability
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 swimming for 3 weeks
- Monday, 20th March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Wednesday, 22nd March – Year 5 Black Hole Poetry session (in school)
- Thursday 25th – Day Closure
- Friday, 26th – Day Closure
- w/c 10th July – Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge



And finally.....

Thank you to all of our school community for their support so far this academic year. We really appreciate working so closely with parents and always hold children at the centre of all decisions made. Once again have a lovely Christmas break and the Bitterne Park Primary School staff look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 3rd January 2023.



Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Montague".

Executive Headteacher