

# Bitterne Park Primary School

Dear Parents

Welcome to my final newsletter of 2023.

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.

## Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 – Back to school
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year R Teddy Bear Hospital
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Year R Teddy Bear Hospital
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Half term
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Class photographs
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Y1 – Y6 children's reports out to parents.
- 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March – Report discussion parent meets
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 – Year 5 swimming (1 week per class)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential

*Inspire, Thrive, Achieve*

### Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**. We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and coffee or tea with a member of the senior team.



### PE Kit

With the weather turning colder, please can you ensure your child has a black tracksuit in school to wear when they are outside doing PE.

### Pip and Pap Workshops

Our Pip and Pap workshops will continue in January on:



Tuesday – Year 2

Thursday – Year R

Friday – Year 1

starting at 2.45pm

We look forward to seeing you there!



### PTFA

Many thanks to the PTFA for their continuous fundraising efforts with Christmas cards, Elfridges and the annual BP Christmas Film Club. If you are interested in supporting the PTFA with any upcoming events, please contact Erin, the Chair, on [ptfa@bppsive.net](mailto:ptfa@bppsive.net)

### Librarians visit Southampton

#### Central Library

Some of our Reading Ambassadors (Pupil Librarians) met with other librarians from across our partnership at the Central Library, the biggest library in Southampton. It was a chance to explore such a big library and have librarian training. In the afternoon they went to Mansel Park Primary to share ideas and come up with a plan for our library.



# Curriculum News at BPPS

## Year R

We are learning about different religions and cultures and their special celebrations such as the Hindu festival of lights - Diwali, and the Christian celebration - Christmas! We will be doing lots of cross-curricular activities to fully immerse ourselves in this learning experience. Over the last few weeks, we have been learning about Diwali by exploring our Diwali themed home corner, and making decorations in the creative area.



## Year 1

Our handmade penguins have had a great time at home spending days out with us! This is resulting in some fantastic English writing about a day we spent with our penguin.

In Maths, we have discovered subtraction. We have been looking at real world problems that use subtraction and solved these using concrete resources. Afterwards, we learnt how to pictorially represent subtraction number sentences. We really have enjoyed the practical nature of this unit! Next, we will be exploring the more abstract concepts of subtraction.



## Year 2

In Year 2 we have been learning all about animals and their habitats in Science. We are focusing on the ocean, desert, polar regions and rainforest, thinking about what animals live there and why they are suitable for their habitats. We have been really enjoying finding out lots of fun facts! One of our favourites is that polar bears have a layer of fat to keep them warm in their cold habitat which is called blubber.

# Curriculum News at BPPS

## Year 3

Bones, bones, bones, that's our skeleton! This song is certainly stuck in our brains (inside our craniums) after our science lessons so far this half term. We have loved discovering more about our bodies and so far we have developed knowledge around the names of our bones and muscles.

In writing, we have adopted the role of the devious, sneaky Dr Hunter, who is inviting the innocent, unsuspecting animals to his manor for a 'glamorous' stay. We have loved convincing the animals to attend through our persuasive invitation, which has included ambitious and formal language.

## Year 4

In science we have been learning about electricity! The children have explored what dangers there are with electricity and how they can identify and prevent any hazards. They are truly experts and have been able to label each room of the home where electricity is used and have been giving tips on how to keep safe.

## Showcase Music

Showcase invited our Year 3 and 4 parents to watch a small musical concert to celebrate the children's progress in their instrumental lessons this term. Year 3's and Year 4's performances were a joy to see.



# Curriculum News at BPPS

## Year 5

We have been exploring our solar system and learning all about the planets, the moon and the sun during our science lessons on space. We are finding everything we can out about space before we have to report back to NASA at the end of the unit to help them on their mission! In writing, we have been creating a persuasive piece about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans. We have been shocked to discover how much damage is being caused to our oceans because of plastic, and have become passionate about communicating this through our writing.

## Year 6

We have been learning about WW2 and this term we have looked into what it is like for civilians and children of Britain. We are also currently learning about what it was like for women in WW2 and how it differed from women in WW1.

In writing we have written our new unit of 'Be the Best'. We have been looking at people who inspire us, as well as using motivational language to write our own piece on why that trait is so important to have and how we can encourage that trait in others.

**THANK YOU** to all our family and friends for attending our Christmas events. This was a wonderful opportunity to welcome you into our school and we are looking forward to welcoming you once again in the Spring term!