



Bishop Wood C of E Junior School

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Mr G Stanley, Headteacher

Friday 15th December 2023

End of Term

As you read this newsletter, we have come to the end of our 14th week in school this term. The Autumn term is always long and this one has been no exception! However, I have been incredibly pleased with the energy and feel of the school. As a staff, we are all working hard to move the school forward and the children are doing their bit to support us with this. This is really great. I will be writing to you in more detail in the new year to outline some of the work we have completed against our Ofsted recommendations. For now, I hope you all have a restful Christmas break – I am certain it is well deserved!

An Update from the Governors

I always love this time of year at Bishop Wood. There's so much going on to light up the darker days – Christmas lights and trees, Year 3 sewing little stockings, Year 5 practising for the Christmas concert, and lots of excitement and anticipation. It was wonderful, too, to ask a Year 3 pupil what she was hoping for this Christmas, and to hear her answer: "I'm looking forward to having fun with my family and friends."

After taking over as Chair of Governors earlier in the term, I've been spending a lot of time in school over the past few months. And one of the loveliest things I've been doing is joining Mrs Clark every Monday as she celebrates pupils who have shown exemplary behaviour over the previous week. Meeting so many of your children and talking to them about what they've been doing – as well as enjoying hot chocolate with marshmallows and being soundly beaten at Top Trumps! – has reminded me why I volunteered to be a governor and why it continues to be so very rewarding.

Behaviour in school is, of course, about more than listening carefully and putting a hand up before asking a question. It's at the very heart of the relationships that help the school thrive – relationships between staff and pupils, staff and colleagues, peers and friends. It's about respecting and caring for others, building a community inspired by hope, wisdom and dignity in which everyone can learn and grow. It has been wonderful to see the improvement in behaviour across the school this term, and I'm so thankful for all the hard work, led by Mrs Clark and supported by all the staff, which has gone into driving that change. I am so looking forward to meeting many more pupils in the New Year to celebrate with them.

Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful Christmas.

Dr Pippa Chappell – Chair of Governors

Carols at St Peter and St Paul

There is a carol service taking place at 4pm this Sunday in Tring Church. The service will include musicians and a choir from Tring School and is certain to be magical. All are welcome to attend!

BBC 500 Words Story Competition

Holly B with 'I Found a Duck', Alice C with 'Not Anymore', Lucy C with 'Protecting Plymouth' and Luke W with 'How To Save The World' have made it through to the next round of the BBC 500 Words Story Competition! They were up against thousands and thousands of other entries and we couldn't be prouder of them. We will hear in January whether any of them have progressed to the next stage.

Home School Agreement

Staff and governors have been busy reshaping the home/school agreement. This will be coming home next week and we would like all parents to look at it alongside your child/children. Thank you in advance.

Last Day of Term

A reminder that the last day of term is Wednesday 20th December and that school closes at 1.30pm!

Pilates and Play

There is a new and exciting opportunity opening up at Bishop Wood in January. If there is enough interest from pupils, a Pilates and Play Club will be happening in the school hall at lunchtime. If you are interested in this activity, please keep a look out for a separate email with details on how to book a place.

Behaviour for Learning Champions



Congratulations to the following children who were the Behaviour for Learning Champions last week!

6C – Lola E
6M – William M
5H – Acacia T
5DR – Annabel H
4H – Fin T
4A – Ben W
3I – Jagoda P
3S – Alex G

Celebration

This week we celebrated the following pupils in school:

3I – George W and Lyle G
3S – Charlie B and Freddie L
4A – Sebastian B and Harvey R
4H – Gwen R and Holly T
5DR – Bunny BB and Alex Y
5H – Eden P and Nico R
6C – Bella S and Josh B
6M – Scarlett H and Archie G

Other Honours

Pen Licences – Evie W, Tess NS, Joshie D, Alex D, Zac K, Edward V, George T and Max S
Platinum Reading – Anya R and Betsy L
Mariia T – Karate (red belt)
Aubree T – Dance
Esme P – Gymnastics
Alex D – Martial Arts and Swimming
Mollie C, Tilly S and Aoife C - Swimming

Around School

Year 3 have written some fantastic fables on the theme of 'greed'. Year 4 have looked at conjunctions, pronouns and apostrophes in their English lessons. Year 5 have been putting their French skills to the test by having some conversations in French. Year 6 have been learning the difference between sacred and secular in RE.

Diary Dates

Please find below a list of key dates for the Autumn Term. We will add to this as we progress through the school year. New dates will be highlighted.

Monday 18 th December	Nativity – Evening Performance in St Peter & St Paul Church
Wednesday 20 th December	9.30am – Christmas Service in St Peter & St Paul Church
Wednesday 20 th December	1.30pm – School closes for Christmas

Thank you and best wishes

Mr Stanley