

20 December 2024

Dear Parents,

### **PARENTS' NEWSLETTER**

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful ... (Isaiah 9:6)*

This has been an incredibly busy and exciting term. Thank you to everyone for all your support and hard work. As has been said on many occasions, we are such a successful school because of our fantastic team of pupils, parents, staff and governors.

### **Christmas Performances**

Over the past few weeks, KS1 and EYFS performed their Christmas Nativities. It is fantastic to see how confident and talented they are. It is so important to develop high levels of self-esteem at an early age. They are crucial foundation stones for their learning journey.

The songs were very catchy and I still find myself humming them in my office. It was a wonderful way to start our Christmas celebrations.

### **Community Christmas Lunch**

Last week, we held our Community Lunch. Our hall was transformed to offer a festive Christmas lunch to over 70, 80 plus year olds.

They were served Christmas dinner by Year 6 and the children sang to them. It was a wonderful event.



### **Carols of the Green and Christmas Service**

Carols on the Green will be tonight, at 6.00 pm, weather permitting. It will be a perfect opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate Christmas.

It is lovely to see generations of Berkswell families coming back to join in with this event.

'The Nook' will be opening for the first time to offer refreshments. We are very excited to see the reopening of the coffee shop, particularly as it is being run by one of our own families.

## Church Service

Our Christmas church service will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm. EYFS will not be attending on this occasion.

## School Vision Day

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be spending the day exploring the school vision with classes looking at the key aspects of Love, Togetherness and Aspiration. Different classes will be focusing on each aspect.

It will give the children the opportunity to reflect on and interpret what this looks like in our school.

Love	EYFS and Year 3
Togetherness	Year 1 and Year 5
Aspiration	Year 2 and Year 6
Inspiring all to shine	Year 4

## Courageous Advocacy

*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16)*

Over the past few weeks each class has looked at how they can shine their lights in the world to help others over the festive period. Below are some examples of what they have been up to.

## EYFS

In Early Years we have been thinking about speaking up for a cause that is important to us and helping to make a difference. We wanted to help those not as fortunate to have food this Christmastime. In both FS1 and FS2, we teamed up with Birmingham City Mission to give to their foodbank, and we decided to create a 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. During each day of the month, the children took it in turns to open a window on our advent calendar and 'receive' a chocolate, and in return 'give' a donation of food or essential item. All items generously donated will be delivered to Birmingham City Mission foodbank before Christmas.



## Year 1

In Year One, we had a discussion about the joy of Christmas and the magic it brings to us. Alongside this, we also began thinking about some of the **issues** that can occur at Christmas. We talked about how sometimes people can feel lonelier during special festivities, especially if they do not have loved ones or those that live close by. We wanted to **change** this and to be there for our local community; reminding them that they are not alone. We **acted** on this issue by each making a Christmas card for our neighbours and we used our thumb prints to create reindeers on the front. Each card contained a special note and we signed our cards from 'Year One'. We then went on a walk around Berkswell and posted each card into our neighbours' houses.





## Year 2

Year 2 have been performing small acts of kindness on each day during Advent. They worked together to think of things they could do for their family, their friends and even the environment to show kindness. Their ideas were brought together to form a Kindness Advent Calendar. What a fantastic way to give to others during this Christmas season.



***Our Kindness calendar***



***Giving a hug***



***Sharing a joke***



***Litter picking***

### Year 3 and 4

In Years 3 and 4, we supported Carriers of Hope for our Harvest celebration. We decided that we needed to continue to offer our support over the Christmas period. With that in mind, on Tuesday 17th December we held a cake sale to raise money for Carriers of Hope. Children in Years 3 and 4 made delightful Christmas cakes at home which they then sold to everyone in school! We did an amazing job and raised nearly £200 for this deserving charity.



### Year 5

This Christmas, Year 5 students have shown incredible courage and compassion by advocating for animals in need. After learning about the heart-breaking number of animals abandoned or neglected during the holiday season, they were inspired to make a difference. Through their thoughtful fundraising efforts, they have raised much-needed donations to support the RSPCA in caring for these animals. Year 5's passion for this cause is a wonderful example of how we can all make a positive impact in our community, especially during this season of giving.





## Year 6



Year 6 designed and made Christmas tree decorations and some delicious mince pies for members of their local community. They decided that this was something they wanted to do as many local residents are elderly or live alone and would not have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with friends and family. Year 6 delivered the gifts themselves during the church coffee morning as a surprise! They wanted to bring a little joy and happiness into the lives of others at this special time of year.

## Admission to Reception

The closing date for submitting your child's application is 15 January 2025. If you have not yet applied and you live in Solihull, you must submit your application through the parent portal at [www.solihull.gov.uk/pp](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/pp). Applications submitted after the closing date will not be processed until after the offers have been made in April. Applying late is likely to affect the outcome to your application. If you live outside of Solihull, you should contact your home council to apply.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs T. Drew

Headteacher