



BERNARDS HEATH INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn Term Newsletter Friday 17th December

Contact us: governors@bernardsheath.herts.sch.uk

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Happy Birthday

Ruairi, William F, Ethan S, Elijah, Alfie,
Miss Hayes, Mrs Siddiq, Mrs Freestone,



Another week closer to the end of term and yet more developments in the pandemic. For those hoping to spend the holiday with family here or abroad, it feels like an anxious wait as we tick off the days while listening to the speed in which the Omicron variant is spreading. On Wednesday, we received a letter from the Local Authority explaining that we could close today, if required, due to 'operational or safety reasons'. Currently, we are able to stay open until 1.20pm on Tuesday. However, I need to be open with you about the staffing challenges we have faced this term. From 1st Sept to 30th Nov we recorded 328 days of staff absence. This is equivalent to being 5 staff members short, every day. To mitigate the impact of this, we have responded in a number of ways: calling in supply, redistributing staff, part-time staff working on their days off, senior leaders teaching in classes and staff working longer or stepping up to cover roles above their pay grade. Whilst this has got us through an extremely challenging period, it is not sustainable in the long term. You need to be aware that closing a class due to a lack of staff is no longer beyond the realms of possibility. If we cannot cover a class in the ways described above, then closing that class, at very short notice, will be our only option. I can assure you this would only ever be our last resort and would be for the minimum time possible until another arrangement could be made. We continue to extend our thanks to our Bernards Heath community. Your messages of support, encouragement and appreciation are so gratefully received. We cannot predict what the world will look like come January so, until then, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you to Mrs Donagher and her team who cooked 274 delicious Christmas lunches on Wednesday.



PTA Fun Fest

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising such a fun packed programme at short notice.

All the children and adults alike had lots of fun!

It's not too late. [Click here](#) to donate

Reception Start Time – FS2

From January 2022 children in FS2 must arrive at 8.50am ready for the school day to start at 8.55am.

Children should line up outside their classroom doors and will all be welcomed in together – the casual start from 8:40am has now come to an end.

Well done to Adas, Dominik, Hanson, Alfred, Juliet, Kaelan, Arvind, Margan, Julian, Abigail, George, Zidan, Charlie, Autumn, Sophia LL, Rory, Darcey, Roshan, Thomas, Jacob, Evie, Theo, Amelia, Ben S, Laila, Lars and Toby, all of whom correctly guessed that the Christmas cake weighed the same as a 3.6kg pangolin!

A winning form was selected at random.

Congratulations to George from Ryder Class who won the cake!



We are pleased to announce the arrival of Benjamin Stephen Carey, We send Mrs Carey and her family all our love at this exciting time.

What a lovely sight to see all the children in their Christmas Jumpers on Wednesday. The school was filled with Santas, Reindeers, Snowmen and lots of glitter and sparkles. Thank you for all your donations to Save the Children. We raised a total of £125.66 in cash on top of all the on-line donations.



Letters / Emails Sent Home

Parent Teacher Consultations
Live Performances
The PTA Christmas Fun Fest

Please [register](#) here for Everbridge Schools Closure

Notification System (ESCNS) - the system we use in the event of school being closed due to weather or a public emergency.



Breakfast Club—to book a place [click here](#)
Bernards Heath Childcare—to book a place [click here](#)

**Applying for a Reception and Year 3 Place
Deadline—January 15th 2022**



Remember to [apply online](#) for your child's place for September 2022.

What a busy and enjoyable term we have had in Bernards Heath Childcare. We are all looking forward to more fun in the New Year and to the return of Friday Film Night Film which is back by popular demand!

We wish you all a restful Christmas Break.

Miss Sinnott and the BHC Team



Get well soon!

A special message to anyone in our school community who is currently feeling poorly. We hope you are being well looked after and start feeling better very soon.

From all of us at school. X

Raise money for our school whilst doing your Christmas Shopping. It takes just a few minutes to set up on Amazon Smile and The Giving Machine and each time you shop online they will donate to our school.



Next week will be Week 2 of our current menu.



The Healthier Together programme relies upon patients and healthcare professionals working together to improve how local healthcare is delivered. Their website provides advice for parents, young people and pregnant women, and clinical resources to support healthcare professionals.



[Click here](#) to take a look



We request that if a child in your household receives a positive PCR then any children attending the Infants or Juniors isolates for 10 days. This decision has not been taken lightly and is in line with guidance from Public Health. We are aware that this decision will present challenges for both parents and school staff but is being made with the understanding that this will further protect our school community.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER.....

Tue 21st Dec	1.20pm	End of Term
Christmas Holiday Wed 22nd Dec—Tue 4th Jan		
Wed 5th Jan		Staff Training Day School Closed
Thu 6th Jan	8.50am	Children Back to School
Thu 13th Jan	3.40-6.20pm	Parent Teacher Consultations
Tue 18th Jan	3.40-6.20pm	Parent Teacher Consultations
Mon 7th Feb Tue 8th Feb Wed 9th Feb		Reception Screening

This term we have seen Breakfast Club in many different ways. Those who came to us last year were surprised to find no 'bubbles' in September. Just as we thought we had turned a corner we were back to separated areas again. Different to what we had known before. But children in Breakfast Club have shown resilience and an incredible ability to adapt. They have come in with a smile on their face asking – where am I today?

Despite the constant change, we have been able to enjoy our time together – playing, making, colouring, enjoying breakfast – cereal, pastries or hot choc. We have shared our news and stories and books and jokes, we have laughed and danced. Aren't we lucky?

Now with Christmas holidays approaching, we will be thinking what this time means to us – whether it's the lights, the songs, the company of good friends or seeing families; thinking how we could be kind to others or show kindness in different ways.

Wishing you all find something special this Christmas and looking forward to seeing many of you in 2022.



Mrs Aide and the BC Team xx