



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents

A busy time in school, so a shorter newsletter than usual!

Thank you to everyone who helped or attended the PTA Christmas Bazaar last night. As ever, the school was buzzing with excitement and the PTA will inform you of the amount raised soon.



Please remember that KS2 children are welcome to bring in a snack for morning break time. This should be fresh or dried fruit or vegetables. Unfortunately, cereal bars and processed snacks are starting to creep back into school. The alternative is 20p for the fruit stall.



Morning routines – can I please remind parents that school starts at 8:45 prompt. Children need to be in their appropriate playground waiting for the whistle in plenty of time.

Play equipment should not be used by any child, pre-schoolers or siblings waiting to be taken to their playground. Please work with us to ensure that children enter the classroom on time and ready to learn.

The remaining two Teacher Training Days for this academic year are:

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Analysis of attendance figures showed that taking this extended holiday reduced the percentage of holiday taken in term time around this period by a third.

With this in mind I have decided to repeat this for the academic year 2020/21.

**School will be closed to children from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for two weeks; children will return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.**

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

**Family holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods only.**



### **Family Holidays in Term Time**

Schools have a very full curriculum to follow within the term time given and any absence has a negative effect on a child's learning. Whilst we acknowledge that illness cannot be helped, holidays should be taken during school closure periods. Following Government expectations on attendance, no leave of absence/holiday will be authorised for any child, irrespective of their attendance, except for exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing, addressed to the Headteacher. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.



### **Christmas Lunches**

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Classes 10-21 – Christmas Dinner, please order on Scopay by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Classes 1-9 – **Packed lunches only** - Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.

#### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Classes 1-9 – Christmas Dinner, please order on Scopay by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Classes 10-21- **Packed lunches only** – Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.



### **School Dinners and Breakfast Club**

School dinners and breakfast club are now available to book via Scopay for Term 3 - 7<sup>th</sup> January-14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Please remember meals need to be booked by Saturday for the following week. We cannot accept orders on the day.



### **School Jotter App**

We now have a school app which incorporates handy features from our school website. Download via Apple Store/Google Play.



## Foundation Stage

Wow! It has been so exciting in Foundation Stage this week. The children are busy preparing for their Christmas nativity performance 'It's a baby' and have all been working extremely hard to learn the songs and dances for our families to enjoy.

They have also been sharing and exploring traditional fairy stories and I have seen some amazing puppet shows and live performances of Goldilocks and Cinderella! The children have created story maps, written letters to The Three Bears and measured their feet for the Cinderella's glass slipper – what a busy time!

## Year 1

This week the Year 1 classrooms have had a frosty feel as the children have been thinking about winter, as they've learnt and created some lovely poems. They then needed to teach their parents how to write an acrostic poem on Thursday. All the children have had a wonderful time creating some wintery art work, using water colours to paint a beautiful scene and also some chalks to make a silhouette picture. In maths the children have been finding out how to partition numbers into their tens and ones, using practical resources then moving on to ways of recording them. When I strolled past on Friday morning the classrooms were empty as the children were busy watching the wonderful Foundation Stage performance, what a treat!

## Year 2

It has been a bit noisy down the Year 2 corridor this week. The children have been telling the story of 'The Twits' using talk for writing strategies and following their detailed story maps. I am looking forward to reading their finished stories in their English books whilst I snuggle down in the evening with a saucer of warm milk.

Later in the week, I heard Year 2 discussing vehicles that needed wheels. The children came up with a whole list of vehicles. They then discussed whether all the wheels were the same size, the children decided all vehicles had different sized wheels. The children then explored different sized wheels to produce some art work. They used the primary colours to make wheel tyre

marks and patterns. The children are all looking forward to their DT project. I wonder what vehicle they will be making?

## Year 3

As I crept along the Year 3 corridor on Friday I noticed it was very quiet. The children had gone on a long stroll to the library where I heard they had a paw-some time. They read a book about a donkey, which I'm sure wasn't as purr-fectly wonderful as a book about cats! The children have also been working hard to learn their 4 and 8 times tables, I wonder if they count paws to do this like I do?

## Year 4

It's all 'fee-line' rather festive in Year 4! The children have been practising their carols ready for their upcoming concert, started their class advent calendars and are looking forward to visiting the library on Thursday ... it really is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! In PE this term, the children have been 'purr-fecting' their jumping skills – I was amazed by how far some of our Year 4s can pounce! Although, I suppose all being Pumas, Tigers, Panthers or Cougars, this should come as no surprise! In Science, the children were doing a rather disgusting demonstration to understand the inner workings of the human digestive system – yuck! Meanwhile in English, the children treated me to a storytelling session with some of their epic dragon 'tails' – do ask them how their Viking warriors overcame the 'fur-ocious' sea dragon. Terrifying!

## Year 5

As I paw-trolled the upstairs corridor, I heard cries of 'Bah, humbug! I hate Christmas!' just as I was about to ask why, I noticed the Year 5 children were watching 'A Christmas Carol' as a starter for their English learning, thank goodness for that! Scrooge is a paw-ful character, which the children are discovering, but at least he improves by the end of the story! As I watched the film, I had to wipe the tears from my whiskers before anyone noticed! I am sure this will inspire the children to write purr-fect narratives based on the text. When they were doing their art work I tried my paws at using watercolour paints, unfortunately my efforts were claw-ful, whereas the children did a fantastic job – can't wait to see the finished pieces of art!

## Year 6

This week, the Year 6 children have enjoyed an 'insightful' visit from Mrs Richardson (an optometrist and friend of the school). At first, they had no 'eye-deer' about the inner workings of the eye. But thanks to her expertise they quickly gained a 'spec-tacular' understanding of how we see things and more importantly have learnt about how to keep their eyes healthy. The opportunity to explore some mind blowing optical illusions also created a stir in the classroom.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, they have been captivated by one of the most influential stories (A Christmas Carol): a 'purr-fect tail' for the time of year. So far, this work has been centred on the character of Scrooge. With the reputation of being a 'sour-puss', he is well practised in the iconic phrase 'Bah humbug!' Inspired by this story of redemption, the children will go onto create their own ghoulish figures with the mission to restore the true spirit of Christmas, just in time for the holidays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Billinge'.

Frances Billinge  
Headteacher