



Wednesday 15th December 2021

Newsletter 3 - December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I love being an Infant School headteacher all year round, but it is at Christmas that I think it is really magical. The corridors and classrooms are filled with excitement as the children talk about the antics of their naughty Christmas elves, what they are hoping for from Santa, all whilst enjoying the festive learning that the teachers have prepared. Thankfully, for most of us, Covid hasn't disrupted learning or our scheduled events too much this term.

Local Authority Assurance visit

On 7th December we received a visit from a School Improvement professional who was representing the Local Authority. The purpose of the visit was to review our progress following our Ofsted inspection in February 2020 and verify our evaluation of the school. Our visitor spoke at length to our Senior Leadership Team, reviewed our curriculum offer including the website, monitored standards in children's books, reviewed learning in classrooms and interviewed some of our Year 2 children.

Although it was a challenging process we were pleased with the feedback provided and we will take the necessary steps to address the actions identified.

In addition this term, a representative from the Maths Hub has visited school and conducted lesson observations with our subject leader Mrs Bancroft. Once again we were pleased with the feedback provided and teachers have taken on board suggestions about how they can further improve their maths provision.

Reading

Are you reading with your child at home? An important question and one that is so vital to rapid reading progress in school. Children who practise their reading at school and at home make significantly more progress. Our expectation is that parents/carers read at least three/four times a week with their child to rehearse and practise the skills they have been taught in school. I understand that it can be difficult at times but do please make the time-is there anything more important? Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need support with this.

Our first Reading Raffle draw will take place on Friday in Celebration Assembly. Every time a child reads at home (entry in the reading diary) they receive a raffle ticket. The more you read the more chance you have of winning a prize.

Remember to read with your child as often as you can over the holidays to keep those skills ticking over.

Year 2 Phonic Screening Results

Our Year 2 children did not complete a phonic screening check at the end of the summer term because of Covid. This term all Year 2 children have been screened and I am pleased to report that **98%** of the children met the standard. For us, this demonstrates the positive impact of our new reading strategy in school.

Covid Guidance

Earlier this week you should have received updated guidance from the government.

Attendance and Punctuality

Every day in school can make a difference to a child's future, which is why regular and high attendance is vital. We recognise that Covid has disrupted children's education over the past few years and that is why when children are well enough to attend school then they should do so.

This week you will receive your child's attendance report for the term. Here is a quick reminder of what it means:

Green = Good- 96% and above

Amber= Cause for concern 90-95.9%

Red= Serious Concern Below 90%

Each child's attendance is reviewed alongside the reasons why they have been off school. We recognise that children do become ill or that they have had Covid related absences but it is regular patterns of non-attendance that we worry about. For example, every Monday or Friday off, odd days away from school, repeated absence in a half-term. These patterns raise safeguarding concerns for us in school and we will be inviting families in with unusual patterns or very low attendance. The Local Authority Attendance Officer also monitors school attendance.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who ensure that their child is in school on time. This means that your child starts their day positively, in the right frame of mind for quality learning, hearing the key morning messages from the class teacher. **Please note that if children are late more than 10 times after registers have closed a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued.**

YEAR 2 children should all be in school for 8.45am each day because they are taking part in a maths intervention programme which takes place at this time.

Retirement

Mrs Jan Thompson is retiring at the end of the term from her role as Midday Assistant. Jan has been at the school for over 16 years. She is a wonderful Midday Assistant who always has a kind, friendly word for both the children and the staff. On Friday we are having a special assembly to celebrate her time at the school. Jan, we wish you a very long, happy and healthy retirement and thank you for all you have done for the children at BHHIS!



Christmas Fair

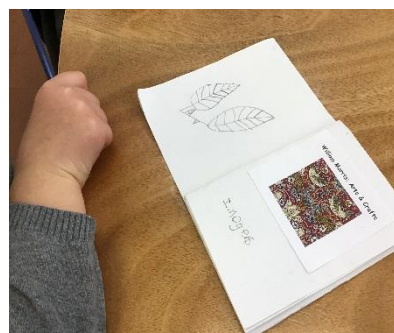
Thank you to all those people who braved the weather and came to support our Christmas Fair on Sunday 28th November. A massive “shout out” to Amy and Martina from FOBHHS for their determination and resilience on the day. The event was scheduled to be outside and in the morning all of the stalls were set up but then the weather had other ideas.....! Everything then had to be relocated indoors and set up again. They are both truly amazing and they do so, so much for the children at both schools.

£1,026.00 was raised at the Christmas Fair and £463.00 for the raffle. The money raised by FOBHHS is going to fund some new ipads, outdoor play equipment and resources for our early years classes.

Year 2 Trip to Port Sunlight

This term the Year 2 children have been learning all about significant people from the past. It has really captured their interest. As part of the project Mrs Astbury and Miss Murphy felt that it was important for the children to learn about significant people from their own locality so on Tuesday 14th December the children got on a coach and visited Port Sunlight. There they found out about William Lever who founded the village and his love of the artist William Morris.

In addition to finding out about the significant people the children also took part in art activities and created a wonderful copper plate embossed with their own nature inspired design.



Other activities



Operation Encompass

Black Horse Hill Infant School works with the Operation Encompass system. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. If your child has witnessed domestic abuse in the home we will receive an email to notify us. The child's class teacher will usually be informed so that they can support the child to deal with their emotions and accommodate any needs that they may have. Often, the family will be contacted by a member of school staff to see if any support can be offered.

PE days for next half-term

Monday- 2EA and 1DH

Tuesday- 1CY

Thursday – 2TM

Friday- Foundation 2

January

- Tuesday 4th - Staff Development day (Staff only)
- Wednesday 5th - Children return to school

February

- w/c 7th - Children's Mental Health week
- Tuesday 8th - Safer Internet Day
- Monday 14th - Coffee morning – opportunity for parents/carers to meet our governors and share their views of the school
- Friday 18th – Non uniform day. Children finish for half-term break
- Monday 28th - Staff Development day (Staff only)

March

- Tuesday 1st - Children return to school after half-term
- w/c 21st - Neuro-diversity week
- w/c 28th - Parent/Teacher meetings

April

- Friday 8th - Children finish school for Easter holiday
- Monday 25th - Children return to school

Many thanks for all of your support this term. All of Black Horse Hill staff wish you and your children a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2022! See you all on 5th January 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher