



BIDSTON VILLAGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term 2023, I am writing to update you on events and achievements. It has been a very busy term, as always and we have had many successes.

I am sure that you will agree with me that the Christmas performances from children in Foundation, Y1/2, EIB1, Y3/4 and Y5/6 (including EIB2) were all excellent. At Bidston Village, we place great emphasis on the importance of team work and we strive constantly to develop children's confidence, resilience, self-esteem and the general belief that they can do anything, if they put their minds to it! All performances this year showed the importance of having such aims. I was so proud of the children. They displayed excellent behaviour, magnificent narration and acting skills and impressive singing voices. Most importantly, the children clearly enjoyed performing for you (just as much as you enjoyed watching them).

As you are aware, it has been my last term as Headteacher here and I can hardly believe that this is my final newsletter. Over the past term I have done a lot of things for the 'final time' and it has felt very strange. I have been Headteacher at Bidston Village for 20 years now and this school really has been a very important part of my life. At Bidston Village we truly are a family and it will be very difficult for me to leave everyone behind. Over the years, I have made so many relationships with pupils, parents, staff and governors. We have had so many good times and reasons for celebrations and we have also supported one another through difficult times.

I am now moving onto a new chapter in my life and I look forward to what the future will bring. I will leave with very fond memories of my time at Bidston Village and I would like to thank you all for your support over the years. It really has been a pleasure and a privilege to be headteacher of this school and I look forward to hearing of successes and developments in the future. Mrs John will take over as Acting Headteacher from January and Mrs Fallon will be Acting Deputy.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your families and a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

L. Hazeldine

End of Term Activities

As always, children have taken part in a range of activities this term.

The children enjoyed our school Christmas lunch on Christmas Jumper Day last week. They also took part in our part in our Reindeer Run, a sponsored event to raise money for St Johns Hospice, Wirral. Thanks to all those who sponsored the children.



As I have already mentioned above, we put on Christmas performances from children across school and each one was based on the Nativity story. We were reminded in all of these performances of God's love for us. These performances were a perfect example of us living out our vision 'to guide our children to develop their God-given gifts to the full and live fulfilling lives, rooted in the values taught by Jesus: based on the gospel value of love for one another'.

Photographs from our Year 1 / 2 performance



Photographs from our Y5/6 and EIB2 performance 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'



Photographs of our EIB1 children performing for their parents



Children from Foundation 2 entertained the residents of Nazareth House Care Home with songs from their Christmas performance, earlier this week. They were delighted with their visit.

F2 Nazareth House Trip



Our school choir entertained customers at Tesco and residents at St Oswald's court with a selection of traditional and non-traditional hymns and songs. They received so many comments, the most popular of which was that the children had 'brightened up their day'



Our Nursery children have had lots of fun this Christmas and they enjoyed sharing activities and songs with parents and carers.



Our Christmas Bingo was very well attended and both adults and children enjoyed themselves. Thank you for supporting us. We raised £1080 and we intend to use some of the proceeds to subsidise our Y6 residential trip, as the accommodation and transport costs have risen so much this year that it would have been extremely expensive for us to charge every pupil the full amount. Thanks are due to our assistant cook, Mrs Lally, as she organised a Christmas raffle which raised over £700 for school funds.

On Wednesday, all children in school (F2 to Y6) were treated to a fabulous pantomime 'Pinocchio' from Altru Theatre Company. They enjoyed interacting with the actors and joining in with the songs. It was lots of fun. On Thursday we are all going to attend church for our Christmas services with Reverend Joe. On Friday afternoon we will be providing free parties for all children and I am sure that they will have great fun!

Stars of the Term

All class teachers have chosen one pupil whose behaviour and attitude towards all aspects of school life has been an example to others in the school, as their 'star of the autumn term 2023'. As usual, in many cases this was a very difficult choice, since we have so many 'stars' at Bidston Village! The following children were eventually chosen and they will be presented with a certificate and a book at our celebration assemblies later this week. Parents and carers of these children will be invited to watch them being presented with their awards. Congratulations to them all!

Nursery (F1)	Josie Graham and Asher Hiu Lok Lee
Foundation 2	Hallie Howden (F2L) and Bray Keogh (F2S)
Year 1	Karl Boylin (1H) and Reggie Williams(1K)
Year 2	Bella Dunne (2L) and Isobelle White (2G)
Year 3	Freddie Dunne (3T) and Tarique Whelan (3B)
Year 4	Winter Edwards (4VJ) and Joshua Derbyshire (4DJ)
Year 5	Layla Abuelgasim (5B) and Lucia Hipkiss (5O)
Year 6	Scarlett Gallagher (6GJ) and Lyla Carson (6A)
EIB classes	Teddy Finn (EIB1) and Crystal Hutchings-Hill (EIB2)
Nurture class	Ajay Davies

Attendance Awards

Since the introduction of our new attendance policy and the range of new rewards (to encourage children and families to support us in achieving our attendance target of 95% overall) I am delighted to report that our figures have improved. The rewards have been well received, especially the £5 for 5 days in school each week. The children can't wait for the spin of the wheel during Tuesday assemblies to see who will win the £5 in each department in school. In line with our attendance policy, we have been awarding a prize (chocolates and a £25 cinema voucher) each half term, to one family of any pupil with 95%+ attendance. This half term's winners will be determined by a spin of our wheel in our attendance assembly this week.

Congratulations to 84 pupils who have had an impressive 100% attendance this term. They are due to be presented with certificates, badges and pencils in our end of term attendance assembly. They will also be invited to attend afternoon tea with Mrs John in January. Certificates and badges will also be awarded to another **154 children with good attendance (95% and above).**

In total, this means that 238 pupils reached our target of 95%+ attendance. This is a great achievement and we could not let this go unrecognised. **We will also be awarding badges and certificates to 4 children with greatly improved attendance.** Thank you for supporting us to work towards achieving our overall attendance target for the year. This is set at 95% and, to date, our overall attendance figure for this term is 93.63%. I am aware that many children have been unwell this half term and this has had a negative impact on our overall attendance figure. In the spring term we will continue to encourage children to attend as regularly as possible and we will be working with children and families of children whose attendance has been a cause for concern this term. I am sure that you will appreciate the fact that **good attendance leads to good achievement in school.** For this reason, you are politely requested to refrain from booking holidays during term time, in line with Local Authority guidance. **Parents of Y6 pupils, please note that the week beginning May 13th 2024 is Year 6 SATs test week, so please do not book holidays for this week as tests cannot be taken at any other time.**

Behaviour Awards

We are consistently proud of the children's behaviour and of the fact that we regularly receive positive comments from visitors to school. This term has been no exception and following our Elf Day, the entertainer Freckles) sent me an email. She said that the children's manners and listening skills were fantastic and that entertaining our children 'absolutely made her day'

Not surprisingly, therefore, **285 pupils** have never moved their name from the green zone all term. These children will be presented with certificates in our celebration assembly. They are a real credit to our school and to their families! Congratulations to all these children for setting such a good example to others, making the right choices and keeping our code of conduct consistently throughout the term.

PLEASE NOTE

School closes for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 22nd December 2023**

School re-opens on **Monday 8th January 2023**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

