

Thursday 16 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly we would like to say a great big thank you for your continued support during this last half term. We realise it has been challenging and unpredictable at times, with Covid still very much affecting some of our plans, but we continue to keep the safety of our pupils, staff and local community a priority. The support you have shown us really is appreciated, particularly when we are faced with making some difficult decisions which affect you all, often causing frustration and upset. Although we are finishing this term back in year group bubbles, we very much hope that we will return to normal in the New Year.



We hope the children have enjoyed the events of the last few weeks. All the hard work and practising by the children in EYFS and KS1 for their Christmas shows paid off and we hope you have enjoyed watching their performances if you ordered a DVD/USB. The children (and staff) enjoyed the class parties and Christmas lunch, EYFS and KS1 were lucky enough to have a visit from Santa, whilst children in KS2 were able to enjoy some outdoor festive fun courtesy of the PTA. We were also able to record a Christmas reading by our Head Boy and Head Girl which was shared with all classes.

Fundraising this term

The school has supported the following charities this half term:

- The poppy appeal for the Royal British Legion raised £388
- Children in Need raised just over £1400
- Christmas Jumper day for Bexley and Greenwich Hospice raised just over £500

As always, thank you for your generous support of these worthy charities.

Staff news

Sadly we are saying goodbye this term to Mrs Hurrell, one of our Reception teachers, and Ms Groombridge, a Year 1 TA. They will be very much missed, with Mrs Hurrell having been a familiar face to so many children over quite a few years. We wish them both all the best for the future as they leave to embark on new challenges.



PTA

Unfortunately the PTA could not hold their Christmas Fair this year. However, through initiatives such as Christmas cards, the prize draw, blind auction, children's raffle, Santa's grotto and festive fun days, you have raised approximately £4000. The money raised really does make a difference to every child who attends the school and your support is very much appreciated.

Old Bexley News Crew



Hopefully you received yesterday's ParentMail which introduced you to the "Old Bexley Babble". This is our exciting new newsletter written by our News Crew made up of Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Parents' Evening



The use of the SchoolCloud system for Parents Evening was on the whole a success. We understand there were a handful of technical issues and some parents found the countdown timer a little off-putting. We have taken your comments on board, so thank you to those who fed back to their Parent Forum representative. We will look to make some changes ready for the next Parents' meetings if Covid restrictions are still in place.

Driving Congestion



Driving congestion around the school remains an issue and we continue to receive complaints from our neighbours. Please think before you park, and if need be, park a little further out so that you are not causing an obstruction. Thank you to those parents who continue to park responsibly.

New catering company

Since our return to school after half term, we have been working with a new catering company called Edwards and Ward. We hope your children are enjoying the new menu on offer - we know that the sausage and mash has been particularly popular! If you would like your child to switch from school dinners to packed lunch, or vice versa, when we return in January, please let the school office know.

On behalf of all the staff at Old Bexley, thank you for your kind cards and presents. Staff and Governors would also like to wish you and your family a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 4 January**.

Best wishes

Mrs Netherton and Mrs England