

December Newsletter

The Christmas Fayre

What an *amazing* Christmas Fayre we had this year - the atmosphere was great. It seems to go from strength to strength each year and I can't thank FAB enough for all the hard work, time and effort that they have given school. Their initial reports are that the fayre made over £1,250 profit which is simply brilliant. We are now looking at ways the money can be used to further enhance the positive experiences that school can offer your children. Thank you again to everyone who came and supported school.

I know that FAB are always on the look-out for new recruits to continue the outstanding contribution they make to school so if you do have any spare time please come along for a coffee and a biscuit to support the group. The meetings are every other Friday morning in school at 9am and babies and toddlers are more than welcome! Come along, meet new friends and make a difference to what school provides for our children.

We are also having a FAB coffee morning on the 18th January. We would love to have lots of people come and join us to help shape the future of FAB.

Parking outside the school

Generally, everybody who drops their children at school does so considerately and sensibly. The road markings and signs are very clear and are there primarily to keep all pedestrians safe. Please do not use the entrance to school as a dropping off or collection zone as it is the only exit and entrance into school and **must be kept clear at all times**. Also, please be aware that Traffic Wardens and the Police do make regular unannounced visits and if you are parked illegally on the double yellow lines or the zig zags you will get ticketed. This applies even if you are just stopping for a few minutes to drop off or collect children from school and also relates to parking in Manor Park, where more consideration does need to be given to local residents.

Over the coming months, there will be some more traffic calming measures introduced at the mini roundabout and I have requested that another crossing patrol is introduced at the top of Vicars Terrace.

Homework

So far this term, the response to our homework policy has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for everyone's help and support in ensuring that homework is completed, handed in on time and that planners are signed.

Also, a big thank you for your help in making so many of our children Reading Champions. Just a reminder that as long as the children have read four times a week at home and have their planner signed by an adult they will be included. In addition, those children who managed to be a Reading Champion five times or more this half-term will receive an invite to a special celebration in the first week back after the holidays. Thank you in advance with your support in promoting reading.

Keeping Safe and Healthy

Unfortunately, this time of year not only brings lots of parties and presents, but often lots of bugs and germs. So far, most of the children have managed to continue coming to school but I would like to thank everyone for following the 48 hour guidelines if your children have been poorly. We do monitor sickness closely and are constantly encouraging the children to wash their hands.

If you or your child is suffering from a cold, a sore throat, ear ache, athlete's foot or a sprain along with other minor illnesses, then the pharmacy is often the quickest and best place to go rather than the GP.

Amazingly Talented Children

We love nothing more in school than finding out about all the hidden talents the children have. So far, we know we have some fabulous footballers, amazing athletes, rugged rugby players and more! If your children play a sport or have a hobby out of school, please let us know about it.

Assemblies

Our celebration assemblies on Friday afternoons are a time when we can all celebrate the successes of the week together. We really look forward to hearing about all the marvellous learning experiences and opportunities that the children have been involved in and the things their teachers have to say about them. Having family members and carers there to celebrate this as well is a real bonus. Please see the dates below for assemblies after the holidays:

Date	Reception/Key Stage One	Key Stage Two
11 th January	Reception	Years 3 and 6
18 th January	Year 1	Years 4 and 5
25 th January	Year 2	Years 3 and 6
1 st February	Reception	Years 4 and 5
8 th February	Year 1	Years 3 and 6
15 th February	Year 2	Years 4 and 5

A Note from the Headteacher

And so Christmas is nearly upon us, and as I write I have been reflecting on the year - and what a year, not just for myself but for school and the community it serves.

I often use the expression, '*you can't see the woods for the trees*' in relation to all the magnificent things that go on, on a daily basis, in school and it is only when I get the chance to stop and reflect that I realise just how lucky I am to be the Headteacher of a school that has such brilliant children, dedicated staff and supportive families. TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More - is what ABPS is all about.

Judgements about schools nowadays can be made by reading an OFSTED report or looking at league tables, but I feel it is more important to look at the development of the whole child to see how effective a school is and I know that there are lots of people in the local community who feel the same.

Thank you for your continued support.

When I have been asked about my highlights of this year, it has been difficult to answer because there are just so many: all the sporting activities that have gone on, the Christmas Fayre, Golden Day, Productions, Nativities, Residential Visits and of course the learning that has taken place each and every day.

After working at ABPS for nearly eight years, it is and always will be a great place to come to work every day. As I have said in the past, I am often humbled by the dedication of the staff and the support of the community. So please have a peaceful Christmas and New Year and we all look forward to seeing everyone when school opens again on Monday 7th January.

Happy Christmas.

Richard Cairns
Head Teacher

cairnsr02@brigshawtrust.com