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*Believe in ourselves, be the best we can be*

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## Newsletter- 16.12.22

### Attendance

There has been a significant focus in Devon and across the country to ensure that attendance in school remains positive I sent out a letter earlier this term which highlighted the potential outcomes of poor attendance and it is clear that there is a national agenda on ensuring our children are in school as much as possible and arrive on time to start the school day. Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning. It is also important to establish positive behaviours around attendance during the primary years to support this continuing into their secondary education. My intention in highlighting this is to work alongside families moving forwards and I appreciate your understanding and support with this matter.

### FOBS

The Christmas Fair seems like it was a long time ago now but I wanted to mention what a great evening we had. I felt it was a lovely, relaxed atmosphere and an event that was really enjoyed by adults and children. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this event and for those adults and staff who were able to help. A special mention to Lyndsey Harvey and Lucy Bishop for their hard work and organisation that meant we raised a fantastic **£1,119.54** for the school!

The Christmas Shop was also a real success and raised another **£183**. Thank you for your donations that made this possible. I am sure you are very excited to see what your children picked as your special gift!

We will keep you posted as to how we spend the money that has been raised. We always discuss our thoughts with the FOBS team as our intention is to use it in a way that benefits children in our school now, those who will be with us in the future and our youngest children in preschool.

### Seasonal greetings from Reverend Jane

The Christmas season is packed full of stories. True stories: of particular women and men; of angels; of shepherds and traveling wise men. These may be familiar stories but there's always more to discover, more to understand. You are welcome to join in with any of the following and see the Team website: <https://www.haldonteam.org.uk/>

- **Community candle lit Carol service on Friday 16th December at 7pm at St John's church-** arrive for 6.30 mince pies and mulled wine!

- **Living Crib and DIY Christingle Thursday 22nd December 4-6pm at the Old Commercial in Bishop-** Do drop by whatever your age! There will be party bags to takeaway; mulled wine & mince pies to purchase and seasonal singing to enjoy. Our Nativity characters will be happy to chat & do feel free to dress up as an angel/shepherd/donkey/king... We will be collecting for 'The Children's Society' if you'd like to put donations in our buckets.

## Preschool Update

We are counting down the days to Christmas and have enjoyed lots of Christmas craft and preparing for our concert. We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Christie Tribble- Preschool Supervisor



## Christmas 2022

I hope that you have enjoyed the variety of Christmas celebrations across the school in the past two weeks. It is such a special time of year and it has been great to invite adults together to celebrate after being so restricted in the last two years. The children have LOVED all of the performing, singing and the craft making and especially being able to share this with their special adults. We very much hope you enjoyed them too!

## Shakespeare Rocks

I wanted to make a special mention about the Pioneers and Inventors' production of 'Shakespeare Rocks' that was such a huge success! In their final year at Bishop, there are some very special events that our children remember for a long time and this is definitely one of them. To see the children bond and collaborate with each other to produce this wonderful show was such a pleasure. The excitement and enthusiasm that they showed throughout the process culminated in brilliant performances that were thoroughly



enjoyed by all of the audiences. Well done Pioneers and Inventors- you are all AMAZING!

### **Pupil Voice**

In line with our school development plan this year, we have been talking to the children about Mental Health. This is also an area of staff development and we will be working on how well we know our children so that we can offer the right support at the right time and also continue to build further trust and understanding. To start this, I was interested in what the children thought we did well as a team of adults so that we could then know what we needed to keep doing and further build on this. This is a flavour what our wonderful children told us-

***'I think the teachers help us understand about things that might make me feel uncomfortable, so that we know it is ok to overcome it.'* Eloise- Y5**

***'Adults help our mental health by recapping things. This helps our brains because it makes learning easier and our brain will get stronger.'* Rory- Y3**

***'They listen and actually take action so we don't have to worry.'* Cade-Y4**

***'I think they do well in taking you out of your comfort zone and trying new things and they are good at listening to us because they start to know a bit about us.'* Eliza- Y3**

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy new year. We look forward to seeing you on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023!

Kind regards,



**Dave Killoran**  
**(Headteacher)**

### **FUTURE DATES FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023</b>	Non- Pupil Day
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>	First Day of Spring Term- Children return
<b>13<sup>th</sup> February-17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Spring Half Term
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>	Non-Pupil Day