

Bishops Waltham Infant School Newsletter December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy December we have had, and our school has certainly been full of Christmas cheer. We had three performances to parents, one carol service to grandparents at the the beautiful St Peter's Church, a Christmas lunch and party, and finished the term with our special wishing assembly. This is one of our loveliest assemblies in the school year, and the children are full of wonderment when then come into the hall to sit in a circle, lighting candles to make our wishes for the world. Our children recognise that the safe, lovely homes they have is not replicated across the world, and the television and internet often show them this, with war correspondence and reports of drought and flooding. Our children are very caring and their wishes are heartfelt. If you would like to read their wishes, they will be on display by my office, in the new year.

We have had a few staffing changes at school, with Mrs Labram starting her maternity leave, and Miss Martin taking over fox class. We are saying goodbye to Miss Robinson, who is

continuing her dancing career abroad one of the Disney cruise ships for the next 8 months. We do have a part time position supporting SEND in Year R advertised, with the closing date in January.

Our brilliant PTA have worked extremely hard this term ensuring events run smoothly, and it has been lovely to see parents and grandparents helping at events too. Thank you so much to everyone involved. We are very lucky to have you on board.

Thank you also to our Governors, who are behind the scenes holding the school to account. They have helped to steer us through financial constraints, and make sure we use all resources wisely and as best as we can. We have recently appointed some new governors, and they are developing their knowledge of how our school operates.

I would also like to share with you how lucky BWIS is to have a team of caring staff, who want the very best for our children. The Christmas countdown seemed much longer this year, but was made extra special by all the adults in the school, who have made December so much fun. The children have had the loveliest of times and the learning has been so much fun. Thank you to all staff, including our volunteers for making it so special for all.

On behalf of the school, we would like to thank all parents who have supported us and the children this term. We cannot believe we are a third of the way through already. Our children are happy, kind and caring and we value the partnership we have to enable the children to continue to be excited about coming to school in our lovely, nurturing environment. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a lovely break and we will see you 2025!

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Riches

Headteacher

Starlight Children's Foundation Charity



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Starlight Charity fundraising this week. Between the concert collections, the church collection and Christmas jumper day, we raised **£382.27** for the charity. We will be sending this off to this amazing charity and we would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone.

https://www.starlight.org.uk/

PTA Update

It's been a busy and exciting Festive Season so far, as we count down with excitement to the big day! We've held the annual Christmas Bazaar shopping event - the children absolutely loved it, and we hope you all enjoy opening your gifts. There were some lovely gifts available this year and we would like to thank Mrs Riches for all her efforts shopping and sourcing the gifts, and also our fantastic volunteers for helping this event be so successful. We have completed this years Christmas Raffle drawn with some fantastic prizes generously donated by our brilliant local businesses and also some of our parents. We send you all a big thank you! This week the children will also get to meet Santa accompanied by some of his elves, as they deliver a wrapped up gift (Book) from the PTA and School. We held our Christmas tree drawing competition, all brilliant entries which made judging it very tough! It was a close vote, but our winner this year was Imogen Legg - Congratulations! Each of our entrants got a chocolatey award. The PTA Christmas tree was also erected, we hope you all agree it looks very festive. It had a bit of a tough time in the high winds, but its still standing!

Finally, we held our first Nativity and Christmas Jumper sale, which comes from the generous donations from last year. The feedback we received from parents and carers was very positive so we plan on doing this again next year. If you'd like to donate your nativity outfits to us and Christmas jumpers, please drop them into the school reception.

As we reflect on this terms achievements, we want to say a big thank you to the teachers and school staff who give a lot of time and energy into supporting our events, along with our fantastic volunteers. Without you we couldn't run these events for the children, or raise the money going towards school improvements - so Thank You!

We are starting to prepare a list of next year's events so please watch this space for what's coming up! You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram by clicking the links or searching for BWISPTA. There are several ways to support your PTA, come and join the committee, become a class representative, or a volunteer via WhatsApp. In any capacity help is welcome and very rewarding. Thanks to those who have signed up to volunteer, QR codes to automatically join are

up around the school, and sent out via previous communications, and included below. You can also click the link to join.https://chat.whatsapp.com/EtuFFmioYIJC1YRIdpd5df If you have any questions about how you can help, please reach out to us at bwispta@gmail.com we are parents, and work full time too, so we try to respond within a couple of days, but please be patient.

Wishing you all the best.

Andy Knight - PTA Vice Chair



Governor Update

As we rapidly close on the end of yet another busy year at BWIS, Governors have been treated in the last week to both the dress rehearsal of the school Year 1&2 Christmas Performance and the Grandparent's Church Service. For the dress rehearsal of the school performance we were, as per tradition, joined by last year's Year 2 pupils. It was lovely to see some familiar faces back at the school and allow the children to see a performance from the audience's perspective. The

show was a delightful preview of the upcoming event and a wonderful opportunity to see the confidence in the children and appreciate all the hard work that has gone into preparing for the event. The children certainly performed with real enthusiasm and excitement and showcased their efforts and talents. We are confident that everyone will really enjoy the performance like we did.

For the Grandparent's Service, the church was packed, with the large congregation charmed by children who included kings, shepherds and at least one angel and a donkey! Every child participated in one way or another - singing, reading, supporting - in a programme of traditional carols and Christmas time songs expertly compered by Mrs Riches. The levels of engagement and concentration were very impressive throughout. Reverend James Hunt conducted a light touch review of 'the true Christmas story' with all grandparents thoroughly enjoying the event, like the children.

As our final governor update of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the school team for their continued hard work. Maintaining a highly successful school is not easy but the dedication of the staff ensures we keep standards high and that children continue to develop and enjoy their three years with us. Thank you also to all the parents and carers who have supported the school team, Governors have enjoyed meeting many of you, visiting the school, speaking with children and engaging with events. We all look forward to what 2025 will bring and wish everyone a relaxing Christmas break.

Best Wishes

BWIS Governing Body

What Have We Been Learning About? Year Group Updates for November

Year R

Year R found a surprise present in their class, which led to discussing times when gifts are given, such as birthdays and Christmas. We have been learning when our birthdays are and talking about our experiences of birthdays and how they make us feel. We then thought about the special birthday that Christians celebrate on Christmas Day.

We ended our project by performing our Christmas Nativity to our Mums and Dads. I think you will agree the children did an amazing job!



Year 1

Our Angels project has ended and we are so proud of our outcome. Did you see our beautiful Angel display on the ramp? The children worked so hard to design and create their angel sculptures and we're sure you agree that they all looked stunning. We have been exploring how others feel about angels and what we know about them from the Christmas Story. We looked at art work through time of others' perceptions of angels and used these to design our own. This sparked some healthy discussion about opinions and viewpoints when it came to drawing our angel ideas. Some of our angels have swords, spears and shields. Some of them have rainbow wings and big bright halos. Some have armour and some are wearing robes!

The Year 1 Team would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed we have been with the children during this Christmas period. The children sang and danced so well in the performances, their costumes were beautiful, and the children really did try their best to put on what were 3 fantastic shows. We'd like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a happy 2025!







Year 2

This month Year 2 have said goodbye to Mrs Labram and hello to Miss Martin. We wish both of them all the best for 2025. The Christmas Performance, ‘The Grumpy Elf’, was amazing with fantastic singing, dancing and costumes. In class the children have been thinking about the importance of journeys in the Nativity and have created beautiful booklets to tell the Christmas story. They have also made lots of Christmas crafts to make your homes sparkle. Have a wonderful Christmas and we will see everyone in 2025!



Dates for your Diary

- Monday 6th January-Back to School. First day of Spring Term. Normal opening time.
- Tuesday 7th January-Pantomime coming to school. 'Snow White' will be performed by MGM Theatre Productions
- Wednesday 15th January-Closing date for Year R Applications 2025
- Friday 31st January SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY (Staff Training)
- Tuesday 11th February Year 1 School Trip to Manor Farm
- Monday 17th February HALF TERM WEEK
- Monday 24th February SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY (Staff Training)
- Tuesday 25th February Spring Term 2 starts. School Open Normal Time





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Bishops Waltham Infant School

A World to Discover,
Learning Together