



Braunston C.E. Primary School

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18th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome so many families and friends into school over the last few weeks to join us for our Christmas performances of "Silent Night" and to share the work of children in the Dance and Drama Clubs. We have been especially delighted to welcome visitors from our local Friendly Club and Braunston Film Club.

Christmas Performances

The children performed brilliantly in the Christmas Performances. We have two hundred and five children in our school and every child had a part to play. We are all very proud of them. The Christmas Performance is an opportunity for the whole school to come together to work on a project. The children learn to work together, dance, sing, speak clearly and to appreciate the wonder of the Christmas Story. They have to show Resilience when things go wrong (the audience would not have known), take Responsibility such as Riley ensuring all of the words and music worked perfectly, show Respect for one another and most importantly Reflect on just how much they have achieved.

Christmas Hoops and Baubles

It was lovely to be performing in a hall decorated with the warmth of family support through the gorgeously decorated PE hoops and the family baubles on the Christmas Tree. Thank you also for the very generous donations you made for the children's Christmas parties.



The Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a wonderful event that helped to get us all into the Christmas festivities. Mrs Drake and Mrs Harris worked tirelessly to ensure that this was a lovely fundraising event. Santa's grotto was a magical place for the children and we know that they loved listening to Santa read a story. Thank you for all of your donations of bottles and chocolate and for supporting the event. Thanks to all of you, the Friends were able to raise £400. The next meeting of the Friends will be on Thursday, 10th January 2019 at The Boathouse at 8.00 pm. Please do come

along to the meeting. You do not have to take on a Committee post but simply be able to offer a small amount of time so that the Friends know parental numbers before organising events for our children.



Visit from the Friendly Club

We were very pleased to welcome visitors from the Friendly Club to watch our Dress Rehearsal and share a cup of tea and a biscuit. The Friendly Club is a club for people who are over sixty to meet up with friends. We received a card from the members that reads:

“Thank you for inviting the Friendly Club members to see the dress rehearsal of Silent Night. We admire your very hard work to achieve such a smooth running performance. We enjoyed a wonderful morning of joyful entertainment. Thank you.”

Visit from Braunston Cinema Club

Braunston Cinema Club came into school together with the parents of the children in the Drama Club and Dance Club. You will recall that the Cinema Club paid for the children to create an animation to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of our school opening. We were delighted to show the Animation and thank them for their generosity.

The children in Years 1 and 2, who are members of the Dance Club led by Mrs Nash, performed two dances and the children in Mrs Edge’s Drama Club performed “Baboushka”. The members then stayed for a cup of tea and a biscuit.

We interpret “Learning for Life in all its fullness” as including offering an enrichment curriculum and extending these opportunities before school, during lunchtime and after school. We will send out a letter about next term’s club very shortly.



Basketball Team

Last weekend, the children in the Hotshots Basketball competition competed in a Hotshots Tournament. They came second in the event which is a great achievement. The children are very dedicated to this club which runs every Friday morning. They have really developed their skills and are a great team.

Parent Evening

We were delighted that we have had parent/teacher/child consultations for every child in our school. It was a time for us to share together in your child's successes and to learn how best we can continue to ensure that your child is learning to their full potential. It was also an opportunity to share with you the Learning Log Homework from across the school and to gather your views about what you feel is important about "Learning for Life In All Its Fullness". Some of the comments we received are:

"I think that this means not only learning knowledge but skills, values and attitudes for all stages of life. Igniting a joy in learning, a confidence to pursue areas of interest, lifelong friendships and an appreciation of diversity."

"I think that this means understanding and valuing difference – different values, backgrounds, interests, ambitions, experience and skills but also the value of togetherness. We are stronger together. It is about understanding the world about us – the village, county, country and beyond and what is happening in it. It is also about developing and keeping hold of a capacity for joy."

There were very many more contributions from both parents and children. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. We will ensure that these are shared at our Ethos Committee meetings when we will be thinking about our School Vision.

Reverse Advent Calendar

The children in the Anti-Bullying Committee organised the Reverse Advent Calendar. They are delighted with the contributions made and will be delivering the food to Daventry Food Bank.



Daventry Area Carol Service

Members of the Reflections Committee attended the Daventry Area Carol Service at Holy Cross Church in Daventry. Bradley, Pippa and Bethany read at the service and the Year Six choir sang beautifully. Many thanks to parents for bringing the children to the church and for joining us for this traditional service.

Daventry Indoor Athletics

This year we were thrilled to be able to send all of our Year Six children to the Daventry Indoor Athletics Competition. This was possible because Hunters coaches provided us with a coach to take the children to the event at a very low price. In the past, we have selected children for the event but we very much wanted all of our children to experience being part of competitive sport. It was lovely to see children who would not normally put themselves forward for such an event joining in and enjoying the part they were able to play in representing our school. The adults who accompanied the children were very impressed with the way they conducted themselves, for the support they gave one another and their overall sportsmanship.



Maths Competition

We selected four very talented mathematicians to represent Braunston in a competition run by Explore Learning in connection with Cambridge University. They made it through to the Regional Finals. They scored top marks for their team work and were placed in the top three teams in Rugby. We are very proud of them and have agreed to look for more competitions for them to enter.

Reception Visit to Pre School

The Reception Children visited Braunston Pre-School to watch their Christmas Play. They enjoyed a drink and biscuit before returning to school. Many of the children enjoyed returning to their Pre-School and felt very grown up when they returned to school. We thank the Pre-School for their invitation and for their hospitality.

Christmas Pantomime

The Christmas Pantomime organised by The Friends of Braunston School was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event with lots of very noisy singing and the inevitable “He’s behind you...” For many of our children this is their first experience of live theatre so thank you for making this possible.

Christmas Lunch

Miss Daniels and Miss Higgs have decorated the tables with Christmas ornaments and the Friends of Braunston School kindly donated a Christmas cracker for every child. The hall was very festive with the Christmas Tree and Hoops and the children loved wearing their Christmassy clothes for the day.



Religious Education

The whole school has been learning about The Incarnation as part of their Religious Education. Year Six created poems relating to a topic about what Christians believe about the "Prophecies of the Messiah".

*Made by a virgin,
Made by a woman,
Sacrificed for sin,
Born of Bethlehem,
Born a saviour.*

*Heir to King David's throne,
A descendant of Isaac,
A descendant of Jacob.*

*Messiah would spend a season in Egypt
Son of God,
Called a King.*

*Messiah delivers prophecies,
Beloved by children.*

By Katrina

Christmas Carol Service

The whole school attended the Christmas Carol Service on Monday, 17th December 2018. The children on the Ethos Committee led the Service with help from Rev Nat, Jean and Kim. It was lovely to see the church filled with the children, family and friends. It was also the first year that the Pre-School has attended the service. Rev Nat and the Church Team give up a great deal of time to support our Christian ethos in school and it is always a pleasure to be invited to the church for special services.

Flu Vaccinations

We were very pleased to welcome the NHS School Nursing Team into school so that children in Reception to Year 5 were able to have the flu vaccination this year. We appreciate the time and effort that goes into organising and delivering the vaccinations to our children and thank the Nursing Team for ensuring that our children are able to access this fantastic service in school.



Safeguarding

We have attached to this letter a copy of the Online Safety newsletter from Simon Aston, the Online Safety Officer for Northamptonshire County Council. Simon has some important advice about keeping your child safe online and the action you should take if you discover that they have been using the internet and other social media inappropriately. It is important that we all take responsibility for keeping all of our children safe. As you know Mrs

Barker is our Designated Safeguarding Lead with Mrs Willis, Mrs Marengi-Smith and Miss Madge being Deputy Safeguarding Leads. Please do speak to us if you have any safeguarding concerns. In the event that you feel a child is in imminent danger then do not hesitate to contact the Police.

Special Awards

Special Awards go to the following children:

Pupil of the Week			Our School Values - Reflection		Playground Behaviour Awards
	30.11.18	7.12.18	30.11.18	7.12.18	
R	Sonny	Ayla		Penny	Merin, Aerinnwen Logan, Harry Shay, Ella, William Riley
1	George	Fiorenzo	Clayton	Charlie	
2	Callum	Georgia	Ayva	Grace	
3	Calen	Jonathan	Lily	Romah	
4	Sienna	Ray	Amelia	Oliver	
5	Ricky	Eleanor	Finnley	Andrew	
6	Ted	Harvey	Henry	Thyme	
<u>Best Attendance 4 & 3</u>					
Pupil of the Week			Our School Values - Reflection		Playground Behaviour Awards
	14.12.18		14.12.18		
R	Ruby		Ellie-May		George Henry Lily Lydia
1	Alicia		Cruz		
2	Isabelle		Harry		
3	Annabel		Evie		
4	Olly		Ruby		
5	Lydia		Mason		
6	Billy & Madison		Riley		
<u>Best Attendance 1</u>					

Next Term

We will be returning to school on Thursday, 3rd January 2019. On our first day back, we will be exploring the concept of “Belonging” and on Friday we are having a whole school science focus called “Biscuit Bonanza”.

We have a number of staff changes. Miss Falcone, graduate student teacher will be leaving us to take up her second placement. We look forward to her return for the summer term bringing with her new ideas from her placement. We have a new graduate student teacher, Miss Finlay, who will be joining the Year One team for the spring term. Mrs Griffiths will be leaving us at Christmas. We thank her for her work at the school and particularly for her work with the choir and Young Voices. We are currently seeking to replace Mrs Griffiths – please see the advertisement on our school website.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support over the past term. It has been a pleasure to see so many of you in school to join us with the Christmas Festivities.

Regards

Gwenda Barker

Headteacher