



**PRODUCTIONS \* SPORTING SUCCESSES \* YOUNG WRITERS \* HOMEWORK  
OPAL UPDATES \* ATTENDANCE \* DIARY DATES**

We've made it to the end of the first full term, which has been packed full of exciting learning and experiences for our children at Berry Hill. The children have worked incredibly hard over the weeks since coming back in September. We have seen good levels of progress across school and are proud of the children's achievements so far.

## PRODUCTIONS

Nursery, EYFS and KS1 all stepped up to produce excellent Christmas performances over December. The teachers, teaching assistants and support staff put a huge amount of effort into producing carefully put together productions and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work. Our children were fantastic, demonstrating our value of being brave to deliver their lines and sing in front of huge audiences. Each child shone brightly within each of the performances, and we are very proud of each and every one of them.



# SPORTING SUCCESS



We have been involved in many sporting events over the past few weeks. Our football teams have played many local schools and have been successful in securing a win on many occasions. We also made it to the final of the Mansfield U11 Utilita cup! We can see that each team is becoming more cohesive as they play, and the spirit of teamwork is beginning to flourish. Well done to our Football teams – we're very much looking forward to seeing what we can go on to win in the future.



We've been fortunate to have teams play in Dodgeball competitions at West Notts College and Queen Elizabeth's this term. They did amazingly well and won the competition overall, gaining lots of points for honesty as well as points scored during the game! Well done boys!



We've also had some members of Year 3/4 take part in a dance competition at Manor Sports Complex. They competed against many dance groups from 4 different schools, putting on an excellent hip-hop display to 'All I Want For Christmas'. Although they were not chosen as the winning team, the judges did have a sneaky whisper in their ear to say they were very close runners up! Great effort dancers!



# YOUNG WRITERS

Some of our Year 4 children entered the Young Writers competition with their 'Ancient Adventures' themed writing. The children below all wrote superb adventures and had their stories published in the book! Well done to each of you!



# **HOMEWORK**

Just a little reminder of the home learning we ask your children to engage with each week. Your child should be completing: weekly Maths practice / a session on Times Table Rock Stars, spelling shed assignments and reading at least 3 times per week. Please contact your child's class teacher if you feel your child is struggling with home learning or needs additional support. Some of our children in KS1 may also bring home some key words to support their development of phonics.

# **OPAL UPDATE**

Opal is our 2-year redevelopment programme of our outdoor play and learning provision. Next term, we will be having 2 large 'loose parts' storage sheds with trolleys built at school. This will enable us to begin rolling out a much wider provision for breaktime and lunchtime play. We will also be collaborating with a large group of engineering students from Notts. Trent University – they will be designing a range of outdoor provision areas which can be constructed from pallets and then coming into school in the summer term to complete the building side of things. They will be designing and creating: seating, pallet tepees, a messy kitchen and some other creative areas. We will be contacting parents next term to see if we can gather a big collection of pallets in preparation for this.

On the subject of parents helping... a separate letter is coming out from Miss Hedges and Mrs Tranter about donations of some types of play provision items. Thank you in advance for anything you may be able to help with.

# **ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE**

Since writing about attendance in September, overall attendance figures have improved. We are so pleased to see less children missing core elements of their learning and hope that as we enter the new year, attendance figures will continue to rise – especially when all the winter coughs and colds have finally dwindled! The class with the highest attendance this term has been 5BW, so a huge congratulations to them!



Into the new year, we will continue to monitor children coming through the gate after 8.55am each morning as this is counted as a late mark. It is crucial that your child is in class at 8.55am as this is the time the first session begins. Currently, there continue to be too many children missing core aspects of their learning through being persistently late. Teachers will be recording how many minutes late each child is each day from January.

# THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mrs Rivis for her short time at Berry Hill Primary. Mrs Rivis joined us in September as Teaching Assistant in Year 4 on a fixed-term basis but has since secured a permanent position with her former Academy Trust. We have been grateful for her input and support over the past few weeks.

# CHRISTMAS @ SOUTHWELL MINSTER

A huge thank you to everyone who came to support our first ever KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at Southwell Minster. The children were amazing, as was the support from so many family members and friends. It was a heart-warming and uplifting experience and is certainly something we would look to repeat next year.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January – from 1:45 - All parents invited to our drop-in tea/coffee and cake afternoon with Mr Trenowden, Miss Sargison and Mrs Price. Please come, let us know what you think is going well and what you would like to be different.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January - KS1 SATs meetings at 3:45pm and 5pm.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – KS2 SATs meeting at 3:45pm and 5pm.

Many thanks, Berry Hill Primary School Senior Leadership Team