

LOVELY NEW BUILDINGS!



We are delighted to have our new buildings up and running now and they've made an immediate impact. At the back of school, we now have the 'Learning Lounge' and the 'Wellbeing Hub'. The Learning Lounge will allow us to sometimes split year groups into three instead of 2 for a more tailored session and will be used for KS2 phonics interventions next half term in the afternoons. The Wellbeing Hub will give Mrs Kirk and Mrs Colley a far more 'fit for purpose' room in which to do emotional support, work with small groups and meet with families. At the front of school, we have our music room (we are currently calling it the Sound Studio to see if that sticks!) and this gives us a tremendous space in which to hold our peripatetic music lessons. We currently offer drumming, keyboard / piano, brass, ukulele / guitar and singing lessons, with plans to introduce strings at a later date. If anyone is interested to find out more about these, please speak to our school office.



SERENITY GARDENS

I wanted to separately express my thanks and appreciation to Serenity



Gardens and Robbie who have collaborated with us for well over a year. It's been a huge learning curve for both of us, but I couldn't recommend them highly enough and I couldn't have asked for more in terms of build quality, helping us find solutions and their conduct on site. To top it all off, as an exceptionally generous gesture, Serenity Gardens have gifted school the baby grand piano which adorns our music room, and I can't wait to have children using this.

SCHOOL DOG UPDATES

In the new year, we will be enhancing our school reading dog provision. We are currently visited by Linda and her lovely Labrador Daisy, twice a week. However, Daisy's little sister Rita will soon be old enough and we are hoping to adopt her as a school dog who visits regularly. We have been amazed by the way that having a gentle dog in school has either helped children develop their confidence to read, or has helped them feel calm when their insides do not.



'THIS IS US' PROJECT



Mrs Stirling-Wood wrote to families a little while ago about a project we

are working on called 'This is Us'. The demographics at Berry Hill have changed a lot over the past 3 years and she has created a project that celebrates our school and is wanting families to share how they came to be in Mansfield – whether that is a great, great grandfather who worked in the mines years ago, travelling from overseas for a career or relocating from within the UK.

Whatever the story, we'd love to hear so that we can do some work with this and celebrate our origins. For me, my parents moved up here from Surrey when I was 1 because at that time in 1980, Mansfield was the cheapest place in the UK to buy a house and money was in short supply. I went to school and grew up in Mansfield, went to university in Sheffield before working there for 4 years as a brewery account manager before deciding that I wanted to do something that felt more worthwhile with my life – and that I'd like to do that within the community I grew up in. 20 years later and here I am as the very proud headteacher of Berry Hill Primary School.

From Mrs Stirling-Wood: At Berry Hill, we believe in the power of community and the importance of understanding and celebrating what connects us all. As part of a new and exciting project, we will be exploring the story of our local community and discovering the unique experiences and histories that bring us together.

To begin this journey, we would love to hear from you about what brought your family to Mansfield. Whether you are new to the area or your family has lived here for generations, your story is an important part of what makes our community special. You can share your story in writing or even with photographs. Feel free to include your child– we'd love for this to be a family activity! Please contribute to our project by filling in this forms: (<https://forms.office.com/e/xVECKM5EE5>) or sending an email to office@berryhill.notts.sch.uk. We will be using your input to inspire displays and help guide our project that will help our children learn more about the wonderful community they are part of. Thank you for helping us make this project a success. Your stories are an invaluable part of building connections and fostering pride in Mansfield.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & OPEN MORNINGS

Next week is our final week before breaking up for Christmas on the 20th. With Christmas parties scheduled throughout the week. On the morning of Friday 20th, we are having our annual Christmas Crafts Parents Morning. We'll get the children in and registered and then have any visiting

family members pop in from about 9:10. If you have children in multiple classes, the activities are short so you should be able to pop into more than one class easily. I'll also create this year's Christmas Quiz to see which children (or competitive adults) win some chocolate!



SUNSHINE ROOM'S FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

A special shout-out to four exceptionally amazing young people who make up our Sunshine Room. As part of their personalised curriculum, they wanted to come up with an idea that would make a real difference to their local community. After deciding on a sponsored walk, they have been very busy convincing anyone with ears and a wallet to support their very worthy cause! After raising a phenomenal £241, they bought boxes and boxes of Christmas chocolates to donate to the Sherwood Forest foodbank so that other children, who may not get any Christmas treats, would. I am incredibly proud of their achievements and the contributions they make to Berry Hill Primary School.



A FEW DIARY DATES

Mon 16th Dec: Christmas Dinner Day (& Christmas Jumper Day)

Thursday 19th Dec: Berry Hill's Annual *Southwell Minster Christmas Concert

* this is a ticket only event

Fri 20th Dec: Parents' Christmas crafts / activities open morning (9:10 - 10:30)

(20th is one of our PTFA non-uniform days too)

Christmas Party Days: F2: Thurs 19th Dec; Year 1: Tues 17th; Year 2: Weds 18th;

Year 3: Tues 17th; Year 4: Weds 18th; Year 5: Thurs 19th; Year 6: Fri 20th

Upcoming dress up days - we know you can never have enough notice!

·Red Nose Day (Friday 21st March: general non-uniform or RND themed)

·World Book Day (Thursday 6th March: come dressed as a character from children's literature)

BERRY HILL RELAUNCHES ITS FACEBOOK PAGE



Whilst we will continue to use Class Dojo to share the vast majority of goings on at Berry Hill, when we want to let the wider local community know about things, we plan to increasingly use Facebook. If you don't currently follow us, please do so!

A TERM OF SPORT!

It's been an exciting term with lots of opportunities for the children to get involved with a range of events and fixtures! The 3/4 Football League is well underway, while our 5&6 Boys' team won their first match. They also topped their group in the Utilita U11's Cup and secured a place in the final on Thursday 19th Dec. Both our 3/4 and 5/6 Girls' Football teams participated in an exciting football festival at West Notts, showcasing their teamwork and enthusiasm. Some of our Y6 pupils attended an indoor golf festival while our Year 3/4 children attended a rugby festival. Finally, our Year 3/4 Dance club has been preparing for the Dance Festival, where they will perform their routine on Wednesday 18th December. Well done to all participants for their hard work! (from Miss Shaw)

