



# RAF Benson Community Primary School



## Newsletter



**Friday 13 December 2024**

Dear Parents,

I hope that this (unexpectedly long!) newsletter finds you all warm and cosy as we find ourselves almost at the end of the longest term of the school year. These last couple of weeks have been festively gearing up towards one of the best times of the year and the classrooms and corridors have been filled with such magical festive spirit.

Our Christmas Fair was such a success and thank you all for attending – it was so lovely to see many of you! The children had great fun crafting the high-quality items for you and we hope that you were just as impressed as we were. The standard of these just improves every year! The secret festive shop was popular as was the very special addition this year of the Father Christmas Grotto – such a treat and the children love speaking with Father Christmas as much as he enjoyed chatting to them too! The winter enterprise trophy will be presented to the winning class during our Carols around the tree event next Friday. I would also like to thank the parents and governors who offered their time and help on the evening – without your help we would have struggled to have covered all the stalls. Thank you.

Our Nativity performances on Thursday of the 'Bethlehem Bake-off' this week were just amazing. It had all the ingredients of the magical story with some extra sparkle sprinkled on the top! Thank you to everyone for coming to watch as it makes a real difference for our superstars to perform in front of a real 'live' audience - and a huge thank you to the staff team for their hard work in pulling such a west end standard performance together. We were also delighted that Station Commander Alice was able to attend the evening performance too.

If you have been up to school or made a telephone call this week you may have noticed a new face/voice in the office. We were successful with our most recent round of recruitment to a post in the office and we welcome Mrs Bevis to the school team in the role as Office Manager. I am sure that you will give her a very warm RAF Benson welcome and thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we went through the recruitment process as well as whilst Mrs Bevis gets to know our school and the systems and processes.

Whilst the recruitment process was taking place, Mr Hastings, who was in school as our Business Manager on an interim basis, has been successful in finding a job out in the big wide world of business and, as a result, we will be saying a very sad farewell to him at the end of this term. I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the very best in his new adventure and wish him and his children, Josh, and Hannah, all the very best as they move into the new year together with Sarah very much in their hearts. We hope that they remain friends of our school.

As there has been a drop in numbers on our school roll due to the Pumas moving and awaiting the arrival of the NMH, we have had to look at our office provision and, in line with schools with similar current numbers, Mrs Bevis will be taking on the tasks carried out by the finance and personnel officer - so, going forward, there will just be one person in the office rather than 2. I thank you for your support in advance to Mrs Bevis as she embarks on this new role for the school.

I would like to thank all the staff who have been covering the office post whilst we went through the recruitment process. It is not an easy task being in 'mission control' and everyone has done a marvellous job. Mrs Davies and Mrs Laidlaw will be returning to their classes next week. Thanks also go to the TAs, Mrs Evans, Mrs Dixon and Mrs Taylor who have covered Mrs Davies and Mrs Laidlaw ensuring that learning in the classroom was still supported at this time.

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you.

## Dates and Events

Please keep an eye on the school calendar for these dates and events – you are able to subscribe to this so that you don't miss anything coming up. <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/diary/subscribe/>

**Tuesday 17 December – Puppet Show** – We are looking forward to Clive Chandler returning with his amazing puppets to put on our annual puppet show. This year we will be in the school hall.

**Wednesday 18 December – School Christmas Dinner** – All bookings for this have now closed and we are looking forward to having a fabulous time with some guests too!

**Friday 20 December - Carols around the tree** – come and join us at **2:15pm** where we will be singing carols and festive songs to finish the term in a very Christmassy way. Classes will be singing their own songs and, to give you some advanced notice, 'some' audience participation will be required....

**Monday 6 January** – Spring term starts – children return back to school at 8:45

**Monday 13 January** – Year 5/6 Children leave for the school Residential

**Friday 17 January** – Coffee morning in the Wessex Room. All welcome – including little ones!

**Wc 20 January – Learn with your child week.** Look out for the dates and times when your child's class teacher will be inviting you into class to learn with your child

**Friday 14 February** – Last day of the half term.

**Monday 24 February** – Start of second half term

**Friday 28 February** – **Coffee morning in the Wessex Room.** All welcome – including little ones!

**Thursday 6 March – World Book Day** – Children invited to dress up as their favourite book character

## Notices

**Mrs Wilson** – We start the notices section with some wonderful news - Mrs Wilson is expecting a baby! The baby is due in May and Mrs Wilson very much expects to be in school as long as she can before the due date – although baby might have other plans! We will let you know what the plans are for maternity cover close the time. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Wilson and her family many congratulations on their very exciting news.

**Christmas Raffle** – We are still adding more prizes to the Christmas raffle, the most recent being an afternoon tea at The Relais in Henley. The raffle closes at 12pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and the link to buy tickets at £1 each is below. Funds raised will be used to fund the puppet show in school next week, the coach to the Young Voices concert and additional resources for the classrooms. Please do share this with family and friends.

<https://raffall.com/371706/enter-raffle-to-win-christmas-fundraiser-2024-hosted-by-raf-benson-community-primary-school>

**Christmas gifts** – With the cost of living crisis very much still around, we just wanted to let you know that Christmas gifts to teachers, whilst always very much appreciated, is never expected and a lovely note in a card goes a very long way.

**Clubs** – Club list and booking links for the Spring term will be going out on Monday. Clubs will be offered predominantly on a first come, first served basis however, we will also look at children who were on waiting lists for similar clubs previously so that there is fair access to afterschool clubs.

**Kind behaviour** – we have been notified of incidents before school where some of our older children are exhibiting unkind behaviour to each other as they wait for the gates to open at 8:45am. Please could you speak with your children to ensure that they are being kind and respectful to each other as they wait as they are being ambassadors of our school at this time. Thank you for your help with this.

**School Facebook Page** – Please do keep an eye on the school Facebook page as we post whole school events and activities that the children have been up to during the term – why not give the page a 'Like' too! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063451190152>

**Christmas Cards for classes** – It is that time of year where we love to see cards coming into school for the children and being posted into our special Christmas post box to be distributed during the week by our little helpers. Due to GDPR, we are unable to issue class lists however please put the child's first name and class and we'll do our best to ensure that it arrives safely.

**Parking in the school car park** – Sadly, we are still having some parents continue to park in the school car park at drop off and collection despite our previous requests. Please can parents use the car park beyond the school carpark to limit the amount of traffic in the school area during busy times.

I think that is all for this month – we have been up to quite a lot! If I do not see you over the next week or so, can I thank you for all the support you have given to school team over what has been one of the most challenging terms we have seen both physically and emotionally since Covid. Your amazing support and understanding has really been appreciated.

On behalf of the staff team, I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all back in the new year.

Best wishes



Steph Fawdry  
Headteacher