



16th December 2020

Newsletter No.13 2020~2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a calendar year like no other, we would like to thank the whole school community for their support and resilience during this long and demanding Autumn term. It has been wonderful to have the children in school for the vast majority of the time and we have been so proud of their attitude and how they have adapted to the changes.

I would also like to draw your attention to a few remaining matters.

Staffing

Sadly, as you know, we say goodbye and good luck to a few members of staff. Firstly, we give our very best wishes to **Mrs Greenfield** as she retires from teaching. She first started working at Bramcote Hills in 1998 and has taught across all of Key Stage 2 in that time. She has led various subjects within school including Art (helping the school to gain the Arts Mark accreditation), Geography and History. She takes with her many happy memories of leading residential trips to Ironbridge, Castleton, York and camping trips to Overton, Newark and Brackenhurst. A highly organised and well-prepared teacher, we thank her for her commitment and dedication to the school community for so many years.

Miss Wright leaves Bramcote Hills as her family relocates and we wish her every future happiness. Miss Wright has worked at the school for nine years, leading areas such as Reading and Music. She has taught in Foundation, year 1, 2 and 3 and we shall miss her calm and enthusiastic approach, which has always been appreciated by children and parents.

We are delighted for **Miss Furness** as she takes up her new role at Priory Junior School in the new year and thank her for her work at Bramcote Hills. Always ready with a smile, she will be missed by children and the staff team.

Mrs Higgins will be commencing her maternity leave after Christmas and we look forward to seeing her again in the not too distant future. We wish her and her husband every happiness at such an exciting time.

5C

I can confirm that, as Mrs Colombo will be taking over in 5G (to become 5C) for four days a week, the class will be taught by Mrs Haynes every Monday.

Thank You to the Staff Team

This year has been like no other and I would like to formally thank the entire staff for their dedication in such remarkably challenging times. The pandemic has affected everyone in all walks of life and, when I think about the way that staff have had to adapt with ever-changing guidelines and regulations, it is incredible how they have managed. Thank you colleagues.

Arrangements for Children who Test Positive During the Holiday

Please be aware that your responsibility for the safety of others extends into the holidays. **If a child starts to display symptoms on Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th, you will need to get them tested for Covid-19.** It is not sufficient just to isolate them for 10 days and not inform anyone. **You will need to call our *Out of Hours Covid Emergency Number 07809 737074* so that we can advise you and, if the subsequent test is positive, we will inform other members of their school bubble of the need to isolate.** The number will be operational between 10.00am and 2.00pm everyday until Christmas Eve. Remember, if a member of a household displays symptoms, all other people in that household must isolate.

If your child develops symptoms from Monday 21st December, you will still need to isolate and get them tested but you do not need to contact school. The last day that Public Health England could advise the school to contact parents / carers to track and trace is Thursday December 24th.

If your child develops symptoms towards the end of the holiday, they and all their close contacts will need to isolate for 10 days but we will not need to close a school bubble. We would still like you to tell us though and, again, the emergency number will be operational between 10.00am and 2.00pm on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd January.

Please note that the government have now changed the period of isolation from 14 days to 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Details of School Production

We have now finished the filming of the school production '*I'm Gonna Shine*'. We set out with the ambitious aim of trying to produce something to which the whole school together could contribute, at a time when, with bubbling and control measures, different year groups don't see much of each other.

We will soon be sending out the details of how to access this and this will require parents to use a password to access the school website page and then an additional password to be able to view the production.

Filming and recording a show has been a real challenge and, although it might not be like our normal productions, we have tried to give the children a sense of preparing for Christmas and also, parents and carers a chance to see the children, even if you can't be part of a live audience. Restrictions and guidelines limit how we could perform, sing, share space and props, nevertheless, we hope it helps you to enjoy this time of year. We are indebted to a band of parental volunteers who, with their expertise, have helped us to capture the children's performances. Thank you to Mrs Rostance, Mr Rostance, Mr West, Mr Steele-Benny, Mrs Ball and Mr Jackson. We literally couldn't have done it without them and they have given of their time freely at such a busy time of the year.

Synopsis

Gloria, the brightest star in all of heaven, takes centre stage on a tricky journey to Bethlehem as she lights the way for the three wise men. As Mary, Joseph and the shepherds also make the long journey, we meet Gabriel, the other angels and an angry King Herod. Will they all be able to reach Bethlehem safely to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus? You will have to see.

Due to the fact that the same character is played by different children in different bubbles, it might be helpful to know that Gloria can be recognised as she wears a gold star on her head, other stars have silver stars, the mini-stars have smaller stars (and L plates of course), angels wear silver tinsel and Gabriel has golden tinsel.

PTA Raffle

The results of our PTA Christmas raffle are shared on the school website in the PTA section. There is a print out of the winning numbers and a video of the draw (the Bafta might have to wait until next year) Thank you to all those members of the PTA who organised the raffle and to those of you who took part.

Happy Christmas and a Safe Holiday

We are aware that our school community is diverse and we love the richness of culture that this brings. For those of you who celebrate at this time of year, we wish you a very Happy Christmas. We hope that all our families have a safe holiday and look forward to a, hopefully, better 2021.

Thank you for all your support over such a challenging year.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Taylor
Head Teacher