



# Bramble Infant School & Nursery Newsletter



Friday 11th December 2020

Issue: 06

## Diary Dates:

**Mon 14th Dec:** Y2 Pocket Money Stall Day—Bring £1  
**Tues 15th Dec:** School Christmas Lunch  
**Tues 15th Dec:** Christmas Clothing Day  
**Tues 15th Dec:** Y1 Pocket Money Stall Day—Bring £1  
**Wed 16th Dec:** YR Pocket Money Stall Day - Bring £1  
**Fri 18th Dec:** Last Day of Autumn Term for school and term time only nursery children  
**Weds 23rd Dec:** Last day of term for all other nursery children  
**Mon 21st Dec—Fri 1st Jan** (Christmas break—School Closed)  
**Thurs 24th Dec—Fri 1st Jan** (Christmas break—Nursery Closed)  
**Mon 4th Jan:** INSET Day (School Closed)  
**Mon 4th Jan:** First day of term for nursery children  
**Tues 5th Jan:** First day of Spring Term

**Remaining INSET Days for 20/21:**  
Mon 4th Jan, Fri 23rd Jul (school only).

## Attendance

At this point in the year we would normally celebrate all those children that have 100% attendance in a special attendance assembly. This year we have many, many children that fall in this category and well done if you know that applies to you.

But we have taken the decision to temporarily suspend publicly celebrating 100% attendance as it would be unfair to penalise children that have had to isolate through no fault of their own.

## Christmas Performances

Despite not being allowed to have live audiences in school and nursery at the moment, we have still continued the tradition of performing nativities and performance at Christmas.

Our YR children have today recorded a wonderful nativity that will be made available to parents. Children in Y1 and Y2 have been rehearsing Christmas songs to perform via Tapestry. They will also be performing via Zoom to the residents and staff of St. Ronan's Care Home to spread the Christmas joy!

Dear Parents and Carers,



At the end of a long and challenging term, not to mention the long and challenging year we have all had, I want to say thank you to everyone. **Thank you** to **staff** for your continued hard work in providing excellent learning under difficult conditions. **Thank you** to **families** for your support in sticking to our safety measures and supporting learning. **Thank you** to the **children** for your enthusiasm, positivity and hard work.

Here's to a bright and prosperous new year and hopefully one in which we can all move forward and feel like life is becoming more normal. I will leave you with a poignant quote from Charlie Mackesy's excellent book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse':



Kind Regards

Mr O Bradley—Headteacher

## Spare Clothing

We are very quickly running out of spare clothing (especially underwear) for children to change into if they have an accident whilst at school. If your child has used our spare clothing please can you wash and return it as soon as possible. We would also be willing to accept any donations of clean, decent underwear, socks and tights to add to our stock.



## Christmas Contact Tracing

It has been announced this week that schools and nurseries have a duty to perform a coronavirus track and trace service for 6 days after the end of the term.

The school term finishes on Friday 18th December which means that staff will be contactable through to 24th December in the event of a child or member of staff testing positive. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 between Friday 18th and Thursday 24th December please inform school and nursery as a matter of priority. You can contact us using the details below:

**023 9282 8604** (The main admin office will be open until Wednesday 23rd December)

**covidalert@bramble.portsmouth.sch.uk** (any time)

The nursery term for stretched funded children finishes on Wednesday 23rd December. This means that our contact tracing service needs to run until Tuesday 29th December. If your stretch funded nursery child tests positive from 23rd December to 29th December you will need to contact us using the email address only as the office will be closed until 4th January.

Nursery reopens to all children on Monday 4th January. If your child is isolating, and we do not already know about this, please inform us on the morning of Monday 4th January and do not bring them in.

School reopens on Tuesday 5th January. If your child is isolating, and we do not already know about this, you will need to inform us on 4th January so teachers can prepare suitable remote learning materials.

## After School Activity Sessions

We have been overwhelmed by the number of children that are interested in attending our new after school activity sessions in the new year. Unfortunately, places are limited so we will be in contact with families to let you know if you have been successful or not in securing a place.

Due to the huge demand we will look to try to expand the number of spaces we can offer and we will let you know about this when our plans are finalised.

## After School Club Opening Hours

Next term we will be slightly extending the opening hours of our after school club on some evenings. The new operating times will be:

Monday: 3.30—5.00pm

Tuesday: 3.30—**5.30pm**

Wednesday: 3.30—**5.30pm**

Thursday: 3.30—**5.30pm**

Friday: 3.30—5.00pm

Children booked in on these days will have their bookings extended automatically. We will then review this later in the spring term to see if we can extend them even further.



## COVID Winter Grant Scheme

As part of Portsmouth City Council's allocation from the government's 'COVID Winter Grant Scheme' we are in a position to be able to offer a £30 food voucher to all families that receive benefits related free school meals.

This system will be the same as was previously used last academic year through the 'Edenred' system. All families that are eligible will receive an email on Wednesday 16th December from school with details about logging on and claiming your voucher.

It is really important that you follow the instructions and claim your voucher before 10.30am on Friday 18th December so that we can sort out any possible issues before school closes for Christmas. Unfortunately, staff will not be able to support with any enquires during the school holiday period.



# Our Learning



Our youngest children in **Primrose Class** have loved looking at books whether it be an adult reading a story to the group or looking at books independently. This week we have been using Christmas books to get everyone in the festive mood.

Over the last week the children in **Bluebell Class** have been finding out about different textures using their senses. They have also had lots of fun reading stories and exploring the garden.



The children in **Blackberry Class** have been enjoying exploring limes this week, using their senses to squeeze, feel and taste alongside using lots of describing words to extend their language.



Our children in the **Pre-School Class** have been creating some amazing Christmas art work of snowmen and reindeers. They have also been enjoying performing their musical compositions to their friends outside on a stage.



In **Year R** this week the children have been busy making their classrooms look very Christmassy. The children were independently making paper chains in their 'discover and do' time.

This week the **Year One** children have been completing their pop-up puppets that they designed. Next week they will evaluate them and decide what they would do differently if they were to make them again.



In **Year Two** the children have finished making their paper and paste animal sculptures. Look at this amazing Blue Tang and wonderful Ostrich. You will be able to find out what the children have learned about their animals very soon on Tapestry!