



Bradfield C of E (Aided) Primary School

14th December 2021

Dear families,

I have been rereading my Christmas letter from last year, (just to make sure I do not repeat myself!) and have been amused to read that my Christmas hope was an end to bubbles and tiers as the vaccination programme was about to take off. How little has changed! Whilst 2021 was not the end we had hoped for in Covid terms, and we may think we will be glad to see the back of it, there are always positives in every situation and I hope that you can focus on these over the festive period.

In school, the usual round of Christmas activities have begun. KS1 are busy today on their Christmas crafts – it is proving tricky to find Mrs Howlett, Mrs Hinckley and Miss Braithwaite amongst all the glitter, tinsel, and glue! Christmas songs are being played and being sung and KS2 have created the most beautiful wreaths and table decorations in preparation for our Christmas lunch later this week, at one point, year 3 looked like a forest!



Amongst all these traditional festive activities of course, more formal learning and assessment is taking place as teachers finish the topics for this term and monitor the progress of the children to see where they need to go next with their learning. Year 4 have a science day planned, all about the digestive system (not for the faint hearted!) and year 6 have been focusing on creating sculptures of WWI and II soldiers whilst writing some powerful monologues some of which would reduce you to tears.



For details about events, latest news etc please visit <https://www.bradfieldceprimary.co.uk>



As we reflect on the positives of this term, I would like to highlight The Orchard team who have worked so hard together to provide a fantastic resource for the children before and after school. The sense of calm, belonging and friendship is palpable during these sessions and this is a credit to Angie and her team. The range of activities provided is amazing and this week they have really outdone themselves with Christmas themed events. A heartfelt Thank You goes to them all.

It is also a time to recognise those people who we rely on, perhaps without realising, and whose quiet competence, good nature and wisdom sometimes go unnoticed because that is just what they do. So, I know I speak for many of you when I say another big "Thank You!" to Mrs Aslett and Mrs Handley- Archer who work tirelessly in the office to help make sure everything goes according to plan and try to head off any potential snags they see coming. Without them, everyone's lives would be much poorer.

And finally, I am not accustomed to saying goodbye to people at this time of year but as you know our wonderful Mrs Whitaker is leaving this week to take up the challenge of leading her own school. It is hard to put into words how much the school owes Mrs Whitaker for her dedication, energy and positive attitude during her time here. I, personally will miss her immensely but I know that she will make an enormous success of her new venture and wish her all the best.

Mr Tom Millward will be stepping into Mrs Whitaker's shoes as assistant Headteacher and Year 4 class teacher in January. He has had time in school over the past 6 weeks, has met the children and is keen to get started. He has recorded a short video message which you can [view by clicking this link](#). I know that you will give him a warm welcome at the beginning of term.

The positive comments, emails and messages you send are truly valued by staff and I would like to thank you all for your generosity of spirit during this immensely trying time. I hope that I can read this letter next year and laugh at the notion of having to include anything about testing or bubbles or risk assessments but who knows? What I do know is that we will continue to work together to ensure the very best possible education is in place for your children, whatever the national circumstances.

With my very best wishes for a happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Caroline Johnson

Important Health and Safety Note

With the move to Alert Level 3 and new government guidance please continue to be vigilant over the Christmas holiday. we would ask that you continue to test regularly at home in order to detect asymptomatic cases. Consider testing prior to meeting or visiting more vulnerable people.

The government advice is below.

England is moving to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant.

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- Wear a face covering in most indoor public places and on public transport
- [Get tested](#) and self-isolate if required
- Work from home, if you can
- [Get vaccinated](#)
- Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer

The Downs Consultation

The Downs School is currently consulting on its admissions arrangements for the academic year 2023-24. The consultation will run from Friday, 26 November 2021 to Friday, 7 January 2022. Please see the attached document outlining the changes.

Any responses to the proposed changes should be made to Mrs Tracy Silverthorne, PA to Deputy Head/Admissions Administrator, either in writing to her at The Downs School or by e-mailing her via tsilverthorne@thedownsschool.org The closing date for the receipt of all responses is Friday, 7 January 2022.

Winter Reading Scheme

If your child enjoyed this year's Summer Reading Challenge, they may be interested to hear about the current [Winter Mini Challenge](#). This is all online, so no need for children to collect anything in libraries. But there is a fun website, where children can find games and book-related activities, along with ideas for what to read next. You can set up a personal profile on the site and anyone who reads and logs **3 books by 16 January** can download a certificate and a limited-edition virtual badge. The website address is wintermini.org.uk.

