



Newsletter

Friday 25th November 2022

Issue 9



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Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

Message from Mr Day

What a delightful week it has been in school this week! The school has suddenly come alive with Christmas cheer as we officially begin our in-school countdown to Christmas. Corridors have been filled with the harmonies of children practising their songs for our carol concert on 9th December; the hall has been commandeered by key stage 1 children and staff as they rehearse their nativity performances and classrooms are awash with glitter as children make their decorations ready for our tree decorating ceremony on Thursday 1st December.

Whilst this can be a wonderful time of year, we also recognise that for some neurodivergent children (for example those with autism, ADHD, childhood trauma etc.), the change in daily school structures and extra-stimuli can be additional stressors. In school, we work hard to support these children so that they feel safe, secure and included. Take a look inside this week's newsletter to find out more about how Christmas can affect some children.

Have a great weekend

Mr Day

Dates for your Diary

Mon 28th Nov All Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Closed to Children for Staff Inset
Thurs 1st Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children decorate the school Christmas tree
Fri 2nd Dec 3.30-5.50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Fayre— Come along and join in the festivities and support the amazing PTFA in raising funds. Report cards issued in advance of Parents' Evening.
Wed 7th Dec 3.45-6.00pm	Parents' Evening—Online via booking system
Thurs 8th Dec 3.45-5.45pm	Parents' Evening—Online via booking system
Fri 9th Dec 1.30pm	Christmas Carol Concert—children and families to dress in Christmas jumpers.

We are ambitious for our success and the success of others.

We are caring citizens, shaping our communities.

We are passionate about everything and everyone.

We are the authors of our own lives.

Brookvale Primary School Newsletter



Attendance

Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	92.02%
Reception	92.22%
Year 1	91.18%
Year 2	85.82%
Year 3	91.91%
Year 4	97.05%
Year 5	94.83%
Year 6	91.42%

Equates to:



This week's Class

**Attendance Superstars
Are:**

Year 4

The class with highest attendance each week will receive an additional 15 minute playtime.

This week's

100% Attendance

Reward Winners are:

KS1: Aisha

KS2: Aliza



Years Rec, 1, 2, 3 & 6 –we need a much better week next week.

100% Attendance

Although overall attendance percentages have been generally poor across school this week, we have had a significant number of children who have been in 100% of the time. A huge well done to you all! Children with full attendance this week and next week will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a £10 Smyths' Toy voucher.

Reception - 24 children with full attendance

Year 1 - 22 children with full attendance

Year 2 - 20 children with full attendance

Year 3 - 24 children with full attendance

Year 4 - 27 children with full attendance

Year 5 - 26 children with full attendance

Year 5 - 20 children with full attendance

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Parents' Evenings

Please remember to use the School Cloud platform to book your online Parents' Evening appointment for either the 7th or 8th December.

The appointment booking system will close on Friday 2nd December 2022



Unfortunately, we are unable to appointments outside of these times and would kindly ask that separated parents make arrangements to join the same appointment.

If you need any support in booking your appointment, please contact Mrs Coulson on 0121 356 9973.

Christmas Events

We love to welcome our community into school at the different events we host across the year. Christmas time is a special time in school as it provides us with a number of opportunities to come together as a community. Below are a number of events, which you are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events/Performances

- Friday 2nd December—Christmas Fayre
- Friday 9th December—Carol Concert (We are now selling extra tickets. Call Mrs Coulson if you would like tickets for other family members)
- Monday 12th December—Family Christmas Lunch (Cabury/Lewis)
- Tuesday 13th December KS1 Nativity—All KS1 parents are welcome to attend
- Tuesday 13th December - Family Christmas Lunch (Phelps/Zephaniah)

Please do check the parent/family calendar issued at the beginning of the year for future events and class performances. Your attendance make these events even more special .

Christmas Trees

For those who celebrate the holiday, Christmas is, and should be, a special time for children and families. Unfortunately, the cost of Christmas can weigh heavily. We want to help! We have a small number of trees and decorations to donate to our families. A local college has also kindly donated 2 x 6ft real trees for our families—ready for immediate collection.



If you need a tree, speak with Mr Day or Mrs Coulson. Let's make Christmas magical!

Community Champion

A huge thank you to Dunelm, Erdington, for allowing us to nominate 15 children to receive a Christmas gift this year.

Thank You

We are very grateful for your generosity and community spirit.

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Christmas for Neurodiverse Children National Autistic Society Guidance

Christmas can be an exciting and fun time. But new activity can be overwhelming for some of us. The key to preparing for a successful Christmas is to plan and share what is important for you with those you are spending Christmas with. Many neurodiverse children/adults can find any kind of change difficult. Planning and preparation is key in making Christmas as enjoyable as possible.

Preparing

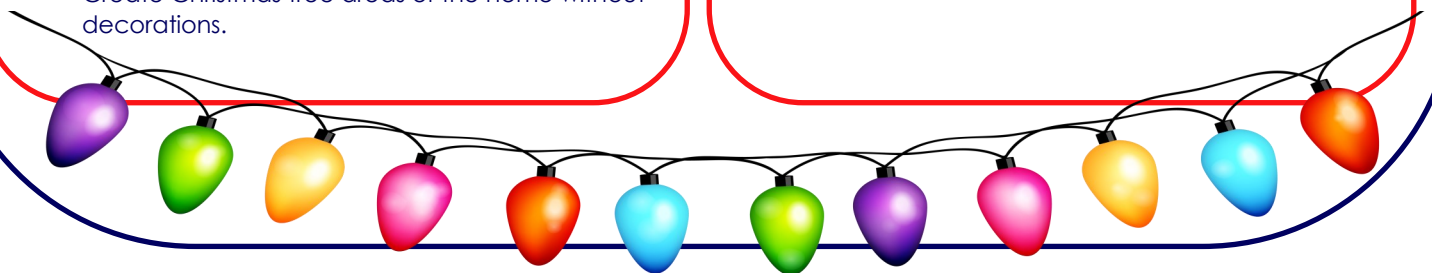
- Think about ways you can enjoy the festive season that work for you – don't feel pressured into doing things just because that's what other people do.
- Wherever possible, plan your Christmas in advance with your family, friends and any support services.
- Make sure all plans are shared and you know what you will be doing and when, and who else will be there.
- If it is helpful, use visual aids such as calendars, lists and schedules to help plan your Christmas.
- Think about and plan around sensory differences that could cause you distress or discomfort, consider ear defenders etc for times of potential sensory overload.
- Create or find a quiet space where you can take a break if you get overwhelmed. You may want this to be a completely Christmas-free area, particularly around the main days of Christmas.
- Don't just plan for Christmas Day, plan for the whole festive break and give yourself quiet days to recoup if needed.
- If you're visiting family and friends, tell them about anything that could help make your visit be as stress-free as possible. For instance, turning off Christmas lights, letting you know in advance what the food will be, sharing plans for activities and having a quiet space to escape to.

Decorations

- Many autistic people will have differing sensory needs; decorations for some are great whereas others may struggle and find them really overwhelming. You could:
- Plan the most suitable decorations for you and your home, including where best to have them and how many, if any.
- Consider decorating gradually, for example, you could put the Christmas tree in position, decorate it the next day, then put up other decorations even later.
- Create Christmas-free areas of the home without decorations.

Presents

- Presents can also be overwhelming: the number of them, the wrapping and unwrapping them; the unclear expectations about how to respond after receiving a present. You could try telling family and friends what your preference is in advance, including:
- The number of presents – make a list of presents you would like to receive and share this with your family and friends. This also removes any element of surprise, if you find that difficult.
- Explaining whether you want presents to be wrapped or not.



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content without signing up.

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