



Newsletter

Friday 22nd December 2023

Issue 12



@BPS_B23



Shaping Our Children's Futures, Together

Message from Mr Day

Well, we have come to the end of our first term and what a wonderful end to the term it has been.

This week saw Brookvale in full 'Operation Christmas' mode, with Christmas Lunches, Nativities, our PTFA Snow Ball, Santa's secret visit and End of Term Awards. On Wednesday, children and families were treated to a fantastic Nativity Performance by our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children who, this year, told the story of the birth of Jesus in their very cute and funny performance of 'The Donkey Seller.' Our children embraced the joyous spirit, infusing the timeless story with fun and laughter and interweaving the narrative with stand out performances of tracks, including 'Nothing ever happens around here—Eeyore' and 'Amazing things have happened.' I have to say there wasn't a dry eye in the house when children sang the penultimate song, 'Look at the wonderful baby' reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. There is always something magical and heartwarming about children singing at Christmas. A very well done to all of our children; you were exceptional.

Gifts for Children

Children were greeted to a wondrous sight on Thursday morning as they entered our hall and found that the big man in red, Santa himself, had paid a visit to the school during the night leaving each of them a gift. This magical visit came about after Mrs Bansal wrote to Santa in the North Pole and asked if the children of Brookvale were on the 'Nice List.' Santa immediately wrote back and said, 'No, Mrs Bansal. They are on the 'Great list.' With the help of a van provided by WysePower & Wysebase (thank you ever so much for your kindness), Santa was able to send an extra gift for every child in the school. The children were absolutely thrilled to receive their gifts and their faces would have melted even the Grinch's tiny heart. It was probably best summed up by one of the children, who talking to themselves as they walked away with their gift stated, **'I've waited for this day for so long and now my dream has come true.'** It doesn't get much better than that, does it?

PTFA Snow Ball

Wednesday evening was quite the spectacular occasion with the launch of our first ever PTFA Snow Ball. Children were transported into a winter wonderland, where frosty lighting illuminated our school hall in hues of blues and purples, snowflakes danced across the ceiling, voile drapes hung elegantly from the rafters and origami stars provided an enchanting sky for children to dance under. The children donned their very best part wear and danced the evening away to a mix of Christmas hits. What a night! Do take a look at our X platform (formerly Twitter) for photos of our events. I have to give a special thanks to the following people (apologies if I miss anyone), who volunteered their time to make this event extraordinary: Miss Gill, Miss Hooper, Mrs Saudar-gyte, Mr Wilkins, Mrs Smith, Miss McAuley, Miss Jones & Mr Howe, Ms Riaz, Ms D'Asta, Mrs Gill & Mrs Kerkhoff. You are all superstars!

Dates for your Diary

Mon 8th Jan	School closed for staff inset
Tues 9th Jan	Children return to school for the spring term Termly Events Calendar issued to families
Weds 10th Jan	Pantomime visit at Birmingham Hippodrome
Thurs 11th Jan	3.00-3.25pm PTFA Meeting - Join our fantastic PTFA and Mr Day and find out how you can support the school. All families welcome.
Fri 12th Jan	9.00-10.00am Parent Coffee Morning for all families – come along and share your views about our school.

See inside for my annual Christmas message.

Wishing our children, families, staff and wider community a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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.

Mr Day's Christmas Message

For those who attended our Carol Concert earlier in the month, you will know that I spoke at length about how, at Christmas, we can become preoccupied with the planning of festivities and procuring the perfect gift for loved ones. However, if we truly paused, just for a moment, we'd realise that we already have the perfect gift at our disposal, a gift that has a far greater value than anything money can buy; the gift of kindness.

As the festive period rapidly approaches, let us take this moment to reflect upon the infinite capacity for kindness that resides in each and every one of us. Christmas, like many of our other celebrations, such as Eid and Diwali, can be more than just a celebration; it can be a reminder of the remarkable power we possess to spread warmth and compassion to others. In today's world, which is often filled with challenges, uncertainties and a greater focus on the things which divide us, Christmas can become a beacon of hope. It can be a time when we open our hearts to the beauty of mankind. A time to focus on the aspects of our lives that unite us, even if we are inherently different, recognising the boundless potential of 'kindness' as a unifying force that transcends cultural boundaries and connects us all.

The spirit of Christmas teaches us that even the smallest gestures can have a profound effect. Whether it be extending a helping hand to a neighbour, sharing a meal with someone less fortunate, donating to a charity, or simply offering a smile to a stranger and asking 'How are you?', these acts of kindness can create ripples that extend far beyond the intended recipient and far beyond the Christmas period. Kindness multiplies and breeds kindness.

In the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, especially as we approach Christmas, it is easy to overlook the simple truth that kindness shows no bounds. It is an infinite resource that replenishes. Christmas serves as a poignant reminder that our capacity for empathy and generosity is limitless. Kindness is a gift we can unwrap and share, not only during the festive period but throughout the entire year.

Let us embrace the spirit of Christmas, not just in the giving and receiving of presents, but in the exchange of goodwill and understanding. By tapping into our infinite reservoir of kindness, we can create a world where compassion becomes our guiding light.

May this festive season inspire us to open our hearts and share the kindness that resides within us, lighting up the lives of those around us and fostering a sense of togetherness.



Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Support This Christmas

Below are the contact details for a number of organisations who can help families in need this Christmas:

- **Erdington Food Bank** — Erdington Six Ways Baptist Church, B24 8AD - M: 07474 683 927
- **Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS)** - Concerned about the safety or welfare of a child? Call CASS for advice—0121 303 1888 or the Police on 999 if the child is in immediate danger.
- **NSPCC—Worried about a child?** Call the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 (free phone)
- **Refuge (Domestic Violence)** - 0800 2000 247
- **Samaritans**—Whatever you are going through, a Samaritan is there to listen 24/7. Call 116 123 for free.
- **Hub of Hope** — A one-stop shop for support service in your local area. Hubofhope.co.uk
- **The Waiting Room**—A one-stop shop for support service in Birmingham and Solihull. the-waitingroom.org
- **Baby Aid Birmingham**— Baby Aid Birmingham helps families with children (aged 0—5 years old) with essential items, providing a lifeline for those at risk, or in crisis. Babyaidbirmingham.co.uk
- **The Trussell Trust** - Find a Food Bank in your local area. www.trusselltrust.org.uk
- **Shelter**—A resource for guidance on housing, including 'private renting, repairs, evictions, housing benefit, homelessness and more. 0800 800 4444 (free phone)



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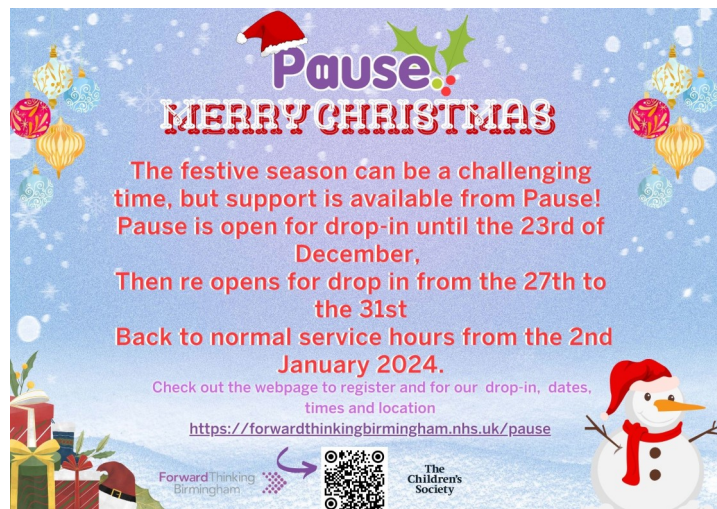
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Support at Christmas (cont)

Christmas can be tough, mentally. That is why it is important to know there's always someone you can talk to. The charities below are able to support if you are feeling low, anxious or depressed. 'Pause' also offer a mental health service for children under the age of 18.



mind	shout	SAMARITANS
0300 123 3393 Helpline mind.org.uk	Text SHOUT to 85258 24/7 text service giveusashout.org	116 123 24/7 helpline samaritans.org
YOUNG MINDS	CALM	PAPYRUS
Text YM to 85258 24/7 text service youngminds.org.uk	0800 58 58 58 Helpline for men thecalmzone.net	0800 068 4141 Under 35s Helpline papyrus-uk.org



Pause!
MERRY CHRISTMAS

The festive season can be a challenging time, but support is available from Pause! Pause is open for drop-in until the 23rd of December, Then re opens for drop in from the 27th to the 31st Back to normal service hours from the 2nd January 2024.

Check out the webpage to register and for our drop-in, dates, times and location
<https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>

Forward Thinking Birmingham | The Children's Society

Parent Council

Drop-In 'Listen and Learn' Sessions

It was a pleasure to be joined by different parents and family members at Tuesday's 'Listen and Learn sessions.' These are such valuable sessions for me, as a Headteacher, as your feedback helps to shape and guide practices in school. During the meeting, the following points were discussed:

School Trips and Residentials—There was a general consensus that parents would be happy for the school to host more school trips, and residential visits to begin in Year 4. There was, however, an acknowledgement that trip costs are continuing to rise and could impact families with more than one child. Parents suggested a payment plan scheme to spread costs but were grateful for the advance notice that school gives. Action: Mr Day will carry out a wider consultation in the spring term to ensure all families are able to access trips, without financial burden.

Swimming Year 5—A parent queried why children who were proficient in swimming 25m did not have to attend swimming in the autumn term. Mr Day explained that school's priority must be to ensure as many children as possible can swim their basic entitlement so as to reduce risk of drowning. Children who had not achieved this in Years 5 and 6 were therefore prioritised for swimming lessons. Children who have already attained 25m will attend additional swimming lessons in the spring term.

Relish Platforms—Parents shared that the Relish platform is complicated, cumbersome and that photos of food items can be misleading. Parents also raised that, on occasions, children have not been given their preferred menu option. Action: Mr Day to feed this back to the kitchen team and central catering team at the earliest convenience.

If you have any feedback, or ideas you would like us to consider, please come along to one of our monthly coffee mornings. Our next event is scheduled for 8.45-10.00am on Friday 12th January.

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Message of Thanks

To the Brookvale Team,

As we approach the end of what has been an incredible autumn term, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

Your dedication, hard work, love and care for our children and families is what makes this team very special.

Like many years in education, this (again) has been a year that has presented challenges, which we could not have anticipated, yet your commitment to excellence for our children and community has never wavered. Your tireless efforts keep our school moving forward and for that I am very grateful.

As we head off to celebrate the festive period with our loved ones, let us reflect on the accomplishments we've achieved together. Your teamwork and unwavering spirit have created a positive and vibrant school community that I am truly proud to lead and be part of.

On behalf of the entire leadership team, and also on behalf of the countless families who sing your praises, I extend a heartfelt thank you for all that you do.

It is my hope that Christmas brings you joy, warmth and well-deserved moments of relaxation.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here is to a prosperous and rewarding year ahead.

Mr Day

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Attendance

Year-to-Date

Whole School (Years 1 to 6)	96.81%
Reception	92.52%
Year 1	96.65%
Year 2	95.66%
Year 3	96.74%
Year 4	96.43%
Year 5	95.68%
Year 6	95.93%

Equates to:



This week's Class

Attendance Superstars

Are:

Year 6
(97.93%)

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

A huge well done to the 49 children who have achieved 100% attendance, year-to-date.

Attendance starts afresh in the New Year so make sure you are in every day to maximise your learning and be in the running for some great prizes.

100% Attendance Competition

Although attending school is mandatory and should be guided by intrinsic motivation, we also believe that children who, despite feeling under-the-weather or who have minor ailments, still come into school every day, choosing to maximise their learning opportunities. In the new year, attendance resets and gives all of our children the opportunity to achieve 100% attendance for the spring term. Children who are in full time in the spring term will be entered into a draw to be in with the chance of winning one of the following prizes.



Good luck, attendance superstars!



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Our Week in Pictures

Check out our X account @BPS_B23



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