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## **Baldersby Blog**

### **15.12.2020**

Dear Families

A huge thank you to all of you who supported our raffle and involving friends and work colleagues. We raised an enormous £1006! This is a truly amazing amount for a small school and is a real reflection on the wonderful support for the school. A big shout out needs to go to Sally Duggleby for organising most of the prizes and the rest of the friends' team for supporting with admin and logistics!

We are going to use the funds to buy IT equipment for coding, some Forest schools sessions and some towards the garden (vegetable seeds/plants). If we have monies left over we hope to be able to use this, along with the PE funding, to pay for swimming and the transport to get us there! (When we are allowed back to do swimming)

### **Advent Preparation**



We will be lighting the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle of advent this week in worship and the children will be filming the scenes of their Nativity Play. As with most things this year we have had to think of other ways of doing the traditional events. The juniors have written their version of the Christmas Story which is, a dove retelling the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ to its baby- an interesting perspective. We will be editing and compiling the story to share with families electronically by the end of term.

*\*Due to GDPR regulations and in line with our school policy we must ask that you do NOT share the video or link on any other social media platform as it is strictly for your private viewing only.*



## **Christmas Carols** 17.12.2020

We will be singing just a few traditional carols around the Christmas tree on Thursday after school, weather permitting. Please come and join us for mince pies and hot chocolate on the outside playground from 3.45pm

## **Christmas Organisation – last week of term**

Thursday is Christmas lunch day and all children have been put down for a hot Lunch unless we have been told otherwise. It will be strange not having lunch in church but I am sure it will be equally as delicious and joyful. Christmas cards will come home on Thursday in a sealed bag. (They have been left for the required quarantine time). All personal items from school will be brought home on Thursday in book bags, so the children will only need to bring a coat in on Friday.

There will be a small amount of homework set for the holidays however, this should not be too taxing and is intended to keep the cogs turning. It will be either in the practice books, or on the google classroom platform along with reading books and a library book. We realise this is a time for families to enjoy time together so the work is there, **should the children wish to access it** and we will be delighted to see any work the children do, but there is no expectation that it has to be completed.

## **School Money**

Mrs Carter has requested that all accounts are **up to date by Thursday** so she is able to finish all the end of year accounting please.

## **Covid update**

As I write the final blog of the 2020 I can still write that we have had no positive tests. We are very much in the minority of educational settings locally and nationally who have not yet had any cases, long may this continue until we all have the vaccine!

We remain in tier 2 and we will still be following all the statutory guidance which is applicable to this tier. Should any of this change any updates will be placed on the school website.

If you, or close family member within your bubble, have a positive Covid test over the holidays can you please email me ([headteacher@bsj.hlt.academy](mailto:headteacher@bsj.hlt.academy)) in case it falls in the period of needing to notify others of close contact.

Just to remind you the definition of close contact for tracing purposes is:

*a person who has had face-to-face contact (**within one metre**), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:*

- being coughed on
- having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
- having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
- contact **within one metre for one minute or longer** without face-to-face contact

Or a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes

A message from ...

### Friends of B.S.J

A quick update from the Friends of Baldersby St. James. This term we ran 3 fundraisers with the Smarties tubes, Christmas raffle and Christmas cards. We are thrilled to report that all three have been a great success!

Even in these difficult times you have all rallied round and exceeded our targets. The running total for this term is currently standing in excess of £1200!!

I think you will all agree this is amazing! The Friends would like to thank the parents and staff for all their efforts. As a thank you we have used some of the money to buy the children gifts for the end of term. We hope they enjoy them.

We are hoping to organise a Zoom meeting in the New Year. Everyone is welcome to join in and put any ideas forward for next year. We will be in touch to let you know when.



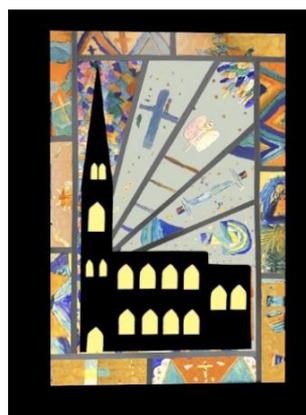
Thanks again and Merry Christmas

Don't forget we still have some fantastic **Baldersby Christmas cards** – be ahead of the game for next year and get yours now!

These are brilliant and are now available! There are 2 designs:



Infants



Juniors

**Some exciting things to look forward to in the New Year .....**

We have a new Chair of Governors. Mr David Judson is joining us as Chair from January 2021.

David has been supporting school as a Hope Learning Trust trustee since September. He has stepped down as a trustee from December and he has kindly offered to continue his support to Baldersby now in an official capacity as our Chair of Governors.

David brings a wealth of experience of school governance and I am very much looking forward to working with him and the rest of the governing body moving forward. David has asked me to pass on his wishes to you all for the festive season and he will be writing to you all in the New Year to introduce himself.

The children have been working with Sue in the kitchen to develop the school menu. We are going to look forward to some exciting new meals in 2021 – some favourites remain but look out for courgette and lemon cakes, fruit bowls, and ‘Jacket potato day’ with a variety of toppings! Menu to follow

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I am looking forward to welcoming Wolf back for some forest school sessions and we will (covid restrictions allowing) hopefully be going to the wood where Wolf runs his *Forest Quest activity days* so we can enjoy the full *Forest Quest* experience.

Mrs Chapman will be continuing to come and support IT and Music and we are looking at welcoming back external sports providers next term – again covid restrictions allowing.

We will be changing the afternoons slightly next year so that we have no formal break in the afternoon. This is due to the fact that the session is now slightly shorter due to pick up between 3.15pm- 3.30pm .We have been trialling this in the last 2 weeks for the odd days and the children and staff are really positive about it and says it allows them a longer session especially if they are in the middle of some exciting work -it helps not to have to ‘break the flow’. The infants will still have free flow access to their outside area.

And finally a thank you.....

As we move into the final school week of 2020, the end of a very strange year and indeed like no other I have experienced in my career, I would like to say that even in these very challenging times the children have been a real credit to you and to the school.

We have had one of the best attendance figures in the trust and the children and staff have all shown a real enthusiasm for school and their learning each and every day.

On behalf of Hope Learning Trust, myself, the governing body and all of the staff, we would like to thank you for your support this year and wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a training day)

***Just a reminder that we will finish after lunch at 1pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December***

Kind regards,

Merry Christmas and keep safe everyone

Steff Brown  
Head Teacher