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Friday 9th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

There have been some wonderful Christmas events taking place this week and, as usual, the children have been absolute stars and such a credit to themselves.

I had the genuine pleasure of watching the Year 2 Nativity performance on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning at St Peter's Church. All of the children should be very proud of themselves, the singing, narration and performances were excellent and I have no doubt that everyone who came had a wonderful time.

On Thursday, we hosted the Senior Citizen's Tea Party where almost every child in the school performed for our guests and Year 6 took on hosting duties. This is something that we have not been able to do for the past couple of years and I am really pleased that we have this event back in our calendar.

I've had positive feedback about our Christmas Jumper Swap Shop – both from a financial and ecological point of view. This is something that we'll be repeating next year as it went so well.

We have more events planned over the next week before we finally relax for the Christmas Holiday.

Parent Governor Election Update

Following my email to parents earlier this week, a reminder that ballot papers must be submitted by 3.30pm on Monday 12th December. Voting papers and envelopes are available at the school office and I will be sharing the 'winners' in next week's newsletter.

If you have missed any information, you can find the details on our dedicated school website page: [Parent Governor Election](#)

Christmas Events

Christingle Services

On Monday, the children will be taking part in Christingle Services in the school hall led by Mrs Perfect and Rev. Estella. This is a tradition that we've maintained for years and I'd like to express my gratitude to both Mrs Perfect and Rev. Estella for their time.

Year R Nativity

I hope that our Year R families are looking forward to a 'Wiggly Nativity' performance. This will be a seated performance and over the course of this week, parents have been booking tickets. Next week, we will be allocating seating. Please note that, in the interests of fairness, seating allocations will be random.

Carols in the Village

Not all of our community are able to make the journey to Bridge School and so, on Thursday 15th Dec, we will be visiting Bridge Haven, Mansfield Court and Saxon Lodge around the village to share some festive joy.



Year R Outside Area

This is short notice but we've only found out ourselves in the past few days.

Next week, work will begin on the replacement of the doors, windows in Year R and the exterior canopy. This will inevitably mean a great deal of disruption, particularly for the Year R classes. We are hoping to get all this completed over the Christmas Holidays but sadly this has not been possible.

From Monday, there will be no access outside the Year R classrooms. This means that Year R parents will need to drop their children off on the Key Stage 2 playground and then the Year R children will be walked around to their classes. Children will also need to be collected from this same area. The Key Stage 2 playground can be accessed from the bottom gate, i.e. through the staff car park.

From Monday to Wednesday, the current canopy will come down and then on Thursday the work to replace the windows starts. If all goes to plan (and why wouldn't it!) then by the 23rd Decemebr, we'll have new windows, doors and a canopy!

I realise that this is not ideal but this is the final step in getting our Year R classrooms back to capacity after the fire in the summer and it will all be worth it when completed.

BASC Availability

A few weeks ago I wrote in the newsletter that we were struggling to meet the demand for after-school club especially on particular days. Whilst historically, we have had a nominal capacity of 70 – we are now in a position where we have have no option but to reduce this.

From Monday, the BASC registers for the spring term will go live and the **number will be capped at 60 children** per evening. After Christmas, we will not be accepting any bookings that take us above 60 children. If you ned BASC after Christmas, then I would advise parents to book their sessions ASAP.

Woodpeckers

Attached along with this newsletter, you will find the inaugural Woodpeckers Committee Newsletter. There has been a great deal of work on the part of Woodpeckers to ensure the continuation of the nursery and I would encourage parents to complete the attached consultation: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z67RSH5>

Generosity

As we're approaching the end of this term, I just wanted to express my personal thanks and gratitude for the generosity that our families have shown over the past few weeks. It is no secret that families are strugglign at eth moment with increased costs and pressures but, as I was remarking to Rev. Estella on Thursday, the families of Bridge School have still managed to extend a spirit of generosity to those who are in need. Over the past month we have raised money for the Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, the Salvation Army and Save the Children – in total almost £2000. On top of this you are donating toys for the Salvation Army appeal, toiletries and supplies for the Canterbury Mosque appeal and chocolate oranges for our emergency workers.

It is heartening to know that even in difficult times, we are a community that recognises need and understands that Christmas is a time for giving.

With very best (festive) wishes,



Creativity, Excellence, Resilience

Compassion, Trust, Generosity, Forgiveness, Service

Celebration

Star Pupils

Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ Sylvie R (1CJ) - for her excellent superhero story using lots of exciting adjectives. <i>Mrs Jones</i> | ☆ Kayden P (3LC) for trying his hardest in lessons, playing nicely and being very honest. <i>Mr Chamberlain</i> |
| ☆ Kosmos G (1LA) for his writing this week – remembering to use adjectives and conjunctions in his superhero story. <i>Miss Andrews</i> | ☆ Zander S-A (4AH) for his enthusiasm and participation in English this week. <i>Mrs Harvey-Maw</i> |
| ☆ Harriet B (2SA) for being an outstanding narrator in our Nativity play. <i>Mrs Amelia</i> | ☆ Rene M (4ST) for always demonstrating excellent behaviours for learning and being a super role model. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i> |
| ☆ Farren Y (2GD) for a fantastic attitude and an amazing performance in our Year 2 Nativity. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ William C (5HA) for his assistance in helping with ICT, his immaculate manners and recording our reading 'scores on the doors'. <i>Miss Allison</i> |
| ☆ Elodie C (3JA) for showing excellent resilience with her learning this week and working really hard. <i>Mr Ablett</i> | ☆ Alfred K (5JS) for his enthusiasm with reading and quizzing this week. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ Bella H-B (3LC) for having a brilliant week at breakfast club and being ready to learn when entering the classroom. <i>Mrs Huggett</i> | ☆ Bella M (6JP) for her all round excellent effort, attitude and application to her learning. <i>Mr Perfect</i> |
| | ☆ Ellie S (6JW) for trying incredibly hard with her maths work and making terrific progress. <i>Mr Wren</i> |

News and Blogs

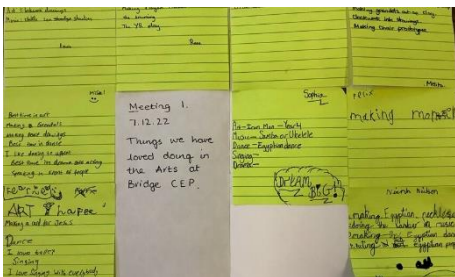
Highlights from the School Life section on the website.

[READ ALL BLOGS >](#)



Art Club - Discovery Arts Award

We are really proud of 10 wonderful artists who have achieved their Discovery Arts Award. A group of pupils from Year 5 and 6 have been attending a weekly art club with Mrs Smith and Mrs Tomsett. Taking inspiration from 'twisted fairy tales', the group have explored a range of media and techniques such as: clay sculptures; pen and ink drawings; large scale charcoal drawings...



Arts Council Meeting

At Bridge, we are very proud of our pupils' high quality art, music, dance and performing arts. We have a strong Arts team comprising of Mr Miles and Mrs Brooks (Music), Mrs Andrews (dance), Mrs Smith and Mrs Tomsett (Art and DT). The whole school has been working towards the Artsmark Gold award which we hope to achieve in 2023. As part of our Artsmark journey, our aim is to engage and empower our pupils and allow them to express their views about how the Arts are taught...

Upcoming Dates

All dates and events can be found on our school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

Monday 12th Dec	Christingle Services in school		
Tuesday 13th Dec	1LA visit to Marlowe Theatre	Year R Nativity (2pm)	Gulbenkian Carol Concert
Wednesday 14th Dec	Year R Nativity (9.30am) 1CJ visit to Marlowe Theatre		
Thursday 15th Dec	Carols in the Village		
Friday 16th Dec <i>Last day of term</i>	Christmas Dinner		

Monday 2nd Jan <i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday 3rd Jan
Wednesday 5th Jan
Thursday 6th Jan
Friday 7th Jan

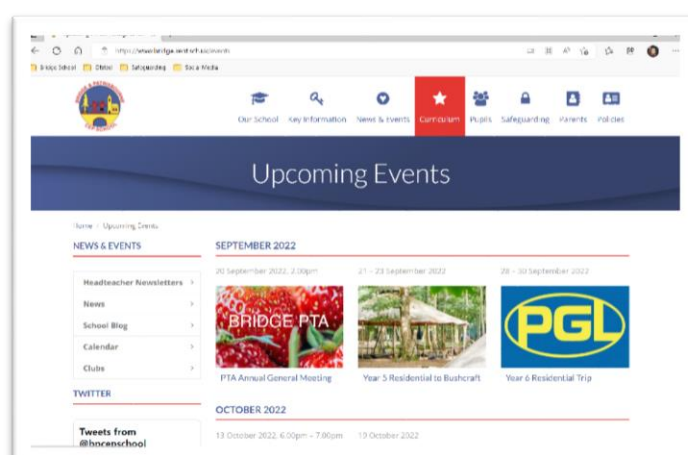
Monday 9th Jan
Tuesday 10th Jan
Wednesday 11th Jan
Thursday 12th Jan
Friday 13th Jan

Events for Parents

I know that parents appreciate a great deal of notice for significant events in the school calendar and therefore we have created an [events](#) page on our school website which has important dates for the whole school year.

We will do our very best to ensure that the dates published on the website are adhered to but there may be circumstances outside our control which means that there are changes.

If there are dates of other events you would like to know then please ask and we will publish these as well.



Dear Parent / Carers

I would like to thank you all for your continuing support with your child's reading. By you spending time with your child, reading with, discussing or sharing books, you are making a huge difference to both their learning journey and love for reading.

This email is to let you know that the Winter Mini Challenge for 2022 is up and running by the Reading Agency.

One of the recurring bits of feedback the Reading Agency received from the Summer Reading Challenge this year was from parents saying that their children loved the challenge and they wished that there were more challenges throughout the year, so they have introduced the Winter Mini challenge.

In case you are not familiar with the reading challenge, it is a nice easy online challenge where the children sign up and read a minimum of 3 books between now and February 20th. Being entirely online-based, there aren't any prizes to collect from the library for this one, but they are encouraging the children to visit the library once the challenge has been completed, to print off their certificates free of charge if they would like a physical copy.

I have been asked to pass this information on to the children and will hold some sort of celebration in school at the end of February once the children have collected their certificates.

The link to the website is [Summer Reading Challenge](#) which will take you directly to the Winter Mini landing page (I notice the link is a little misleadingly named).

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, and all the best for 2023.

Kind regards,
Helen Allison