



Weekly Newsletter



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Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Christmas has well and truly arrived at Benhall Infant School this week. The addition of our Christmas decorations around the corridor and the school hall has injected even more Christmas magic. The buzz of excitement from the children as they count down the days until Christmas is palpable and the teaching staff are doing an amazing job of keeping measured approach to keep this excitement going while ensuring the children are still access regular learning activities.

Reception

The Reception Team have been blowing our socks off this week with their mathematical understanding. We have been looking at shapes, focusing particularly on squares and rectangles. They have absolutely embraced all the new mathematical vocabulary and can talk all about quadrilaterals, corners, sides, rhombus' and use them in repeating patterns, art work inspired by Mondrian and problem solving using matchsticks to make shapes of different sizes. Most impressive is the way the children have been able to talk about what makes a square or rectangle and what doesn't. Even in Forest School the children were using sticks to make quadrilateral shapes. Wow! We are continuing to practise our reading by blending and segmenting words to read in many different ways for many different purposes. Thank you for letting us borrow your favourite books from home. This has been very special to share. I think we may have found an all time favourite book too. Sophia in Orange Class brought it in and was kind enough to share it with Yellow Class - thank you Sophia. It's called 'The Book With No Pictures', written by B.J.Novak and is just wonderful, funny and very clever! Every single child absolutely roared with laughter, as did us grown ups too. If you haven't read it, we would all highly recommend it.

Year 1

These weeks just keep whizzing by and with Christmas quickly approaching Year 1 have been hard at work practising their singing and dancing. This week we have also been discussing the changing seasons and enjoyed going on our wintry walk where we gathered lots of fabulous adjectives to use in our writing. In the studio, we looked at hot and cold colours and have been creating a wintry scene. With many of the trees left bare, Forest School was littered with leaves and we used this as an opportunity to take risks and jumped into a cushion of leaves! We had an absolute blast and this was hands down the highlight of the week. After such a busy week, we hope you all have a restful weekend.

Year 2

Our new text this week is the beautiful *Crow's Tale* by Naomi Howarth (it is worth a read if you haven't read it before.) It is a tale of friendship and bravery as the rainbow crow goes on a perilous adventure to find some warmth from the sun for his animal friends. We have learnt about how animals adapt in colder temperatures and have found out more about hibernation and migration. The children have been using mixed media in their artwork to create stunning rainbow crows - they are just breath-taking! In maths, Year 2 are revising what they have already learnt about coins by making amounts and finding totals. It would be great if you could let your children handle coins at home over the coming weeks and encourage them to add up any loose change around the house. Thank you for all the Christmas costumes that have been sent in already - it is very much appreciated. Enjoy the weekend everyone.

PTA News

- On Friday 3rd December the PTA are holding a non uniform day in return for hamper items :
 - Pre-School - children hamper items ie colouring pens, books, small toys
 - Reception - Christmas hamper items such as chocolate, bottles, mince pies, candles
 - Year 1 - chocolate hamper - anything chocolate related
 - Year 2 - Pamper hamper ie bath bombs, face masks etc
- Sparkly Christmas Windows - we are looking for houses to join our Sparkly Christmas Window Trail. Please email PTA@benhall.gloucs.sch.uk
- Asda Green Token - from 1st December the school have been chosen for the Green Token Scheme run by Asda. Information about the scheme can be found online <https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4415>

Parent App now Live

Parents App is now live and ready for you to download through your mobile app store. From next week all text messages will be sent through the Parent App so please download the App so you can continue to receive messages from School and Pre-School. Initially we will use the app to just communicate with you but there will be lots of features available that will be added soon. Today you will have been emailed your 'link up code' and App Store information.

Miss Morris and the Benhall Team xx