

Happy Friday!

Hello everyone, we are inching ever closer to Christmas and I think it is beginning to show! Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were able to enjoy a playtime as a flurry of snow fell and worked together to try and build a snowman. Sadly there wasn't quite enough to create anything more than a foot tall but their effort is to be commended! The Christmas **jumpers, dinner, advent calendars, decorations, music** and **performances** have helped to create a really festive feel. This has been topped off with the **wintery weather** we have been experiencing though this is due to become more mild as we



move into the last week of term. Children in **Years 2 to 6** all received a **Christmas activity pack** which made indoor play that bit more exciting on Thursday afternoon. These packs were very kindly donated by **Asda** which we were very grateful for. As we move into the final week of term, it is particularly important for us to all be vigilant around general **winter** and **tummy bugs**. We will be encouraging all children to be particularly thorough when **washing hands** and to be careful when **coughing** and **sneezing**. It would be very helpful if you could reinforce this message at home and ensure hands are thoroughly cleaned before school. I really hope that all children and staff are able to enjoy the Christmas break healthily - especially as we break up so late. Many thanks, Mr Routledge

Friday 23rd December

School will close for the Christmas holiday on Friday 23rd December. Parents and carers are invited to pick their children up at 1:30pm from their normal class entrance should they choose to. Otherwise, pick up time will be at 3:15pm as normal. Children who remain in school in the afternoon will enjoy Christmas themed activities.

Parking

Residents have been in touch again this week to ask parents to be **careful and courteous when parking** to avoid blocking drives. At this time of year, freezing conditions and gloomy skies make for **hazardous conditions** at pick up and drop off. Please endeavour to allow plenty of time to get to school safely and, where required, park that little bit further away to avoid blocking people in.

Times Tables Rockstars

Children in **Year 4** have been working exceptionally hard on their instant recall of multiplication and division facts on **TTRS**. Children in Years 3 to 6 all have access to TTRS and I often send them challenges to encourage them to work on their tables. We advocate a '**little and often**' approach to TTRS and spending 5-10 minutes every other day can make a massive difference to times **table knowledge, confidence** and ability to **calculate quickly** and **proficiently**. We will keep celebrating TTRS in school and would encourage you to access it at home where you can.



Holy Island

We reluctantly had to postpone our **Year 4** trip to **Holy Island** again due to poor weather. Had the trip been more local, we would have pressed ahead but with the icy conditions, forecasts of snow and **85 mile** round trip, we decided to err on the side of caution. We have pencilled in **Tuesday 28th February** as a new date for the

remaining Year 4 children to visit the island.

Christmas Parties

A further reminder than **Christmas parties** will take place over the next few days. Children from **Years 1-6** should come to school in their **normal school uniform** with party clothes in a bag to get changed into. Please can you ensure that shoes (and clothes) are appropriate for a school setting. If you would like to donate towards the costs of party food (rather than sending food in like we have in the past), we would be most appreciative.

Year 5 and 6 - Friday 16th December

Year 3 and 4 - Tuesday 20th December

Year 1 and 2 - Wednesday 21st December

Early Years - Thursday 22nd December (**children in Early Years **only** to come to school in their party clothes to save time getting changed*)

Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday all children (and staff!) were treated to a fantastic **Christmas dinner**. Christmas crackers, songs and wonderful food created a lovely festive atmosphere so a huge **thank you** to the catering and lunch staff for making it happen.

Holly and Ivy

On Wednesday, we welcomed the **Holly and Ivy** production into school for what I believe was their 17th appearance here. The children all enjoyed the performance enormously and it was wonderful to see and hear them joining in. Some of the children were praised for their incredible **rhythm** and confidence when joining in. We are looking forward to welcoming them back this time next year!



Out of School Clubs

This week, the children have had a festive time in our Out of School Club. Children drank **hot chocolate**, ate **candy canes** and did some festive **craft work**. Our younger children enjoyed their penultimate Little Movers session and are looking forward to their final session on Wednesday 21st December.

For further information - **email** beaconhillloosc@trinityyouth.org.uk **phone** 07512 300380

For bookings - www.tyaipal.org.uk

Some of our KS2 children enjoyed their latest art session with Mr Wright on Tuesday. There will be one more Christmas themed art session next week. After Christmas, Mr Wright intends to carry on the club with some more general art projects. Those children who unfortunately missed out this time, will be given priority for spaces in the club going forward.

Attendance

Very well done to **Reception** who recorded a fantastic overall attendance of **97.5%** for the week commencing Monday 5th December. This is particularly impressive considering the number of bugs going around!