

BRETHERTON ENDOWED C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

*Learning together, growing together, achieving together, caring together
within our Christian family.*



12TH December 2016



Dear Parents, Pupils & Friends,

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 13th Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 21st Christmas Carol Service at St John's Church at 9.15am

Wednesday 21st Mr Brindle will lead a festive Christmas sing along at 1.15pm

Wednesday 21st **School Closes - 2.00pm**

Christmas Production Performance Dates:

Dress Rehearsal- **Monday 12th December 2016 2.00pm**

Matinee Performance - **Wednesday 14th December 2016 2.00pm**

Evening Performance - **Thursday 15th December 2016 6.00pm**

(All seats allocated for all performances)

Year 5 will be singing at 'The Apiary' corner on Friday 16th December at 10 am, we have posted invitations (see attached) to the residents to join us in singing a few carols and anyone who lives in the area would be most welcome to join us.

Note from the PTFA: Deadline for the secret shopping room is **Tuesday 13th December**.

Unfortunately, due to needing to purchase the presents, no further can be accepted after that date.

Party food: Mr Brindle has organised the Christmas party food lists and they are on your child's classroom doors. If you feel able to help, please sign up for items for your child's party.

Bingo

Lancashire Music Service concert

Lancashire Music service have organised a concert for year 4 and year 5 to share their musical focus this term at **2.30 Thursday 15th December 2016** in the school hall. You are all most welcome and Christmas refreshments will be available.

Server and WIFI

PTFA and School Funds are contributing to the replacement of our Computer system at school this week. We are replacing our old server and Wi-Fi which will mean that our pupils will be able to access consistent WIFI throughout all areas of school (even outside if we need to). There will only be minor disruption to our computer systems on Wednesday to Friday this week. We will text to keep you updated with this.

'Oliver' at Tarleton

Year 5 and 6 were invited to attend the dress rehearsal for Oliver at Tarleton Academy last Tuesday. It was a great afternoon and gave them a real insight into a larger scale production. They said "It was great!"

Year 5 Design and Technology day at Penwortham Girls High School

(See attached letter)

Hope Journey at Croston Methodist Church for Year 2

Thanks to Year 2 for representing our school so well at the Hope Journey at Croston Methodist Church last week. Here are some of their accounts:

Mary and Joseph's Tent by Joseph Glew

First we sat down and listened to a story. After that the whistle blew and we moved to a different station. I liked everything about it because it was fun and the teachers made me laugh.

Bingo

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our Christmas Bingo last Thursday - in particular PTFA members who set up the hall, organized the prizes and sorted the food. It was a great atmosphere and we had many lucky winners! Special thank you to Tommy for superb bingo calling (and wearing his trademark sparkly waistcoat and dicky bow tie)

Parent forum feedback

Huge thanks to those who were able to attend the forum last week. It was a great open discussion about home school communication and a brief overview of some of the planned actions are:

- Dates for diary to be sent (1 page- paper copy) for the whole half term at start of half term including all events and clubs, including PTFA.
- Format of newsletter to change so clearer with some key focus areas- celebrating great experiences, pupil feedback of activities, Christian value focus, fundraising and charities, athletics Gold award winners, reminders of upcoming events, ticket sales etc and PTFA events and updates. It was felt that if dates were accurately communicated, newsletters could be fortnightly.
- Parents will be asked to sign up for email communications where possible - request to be sent out this half term ready for Spring term commencing. Cost of paper copies very high to school. Paper copies will be available for anyone not wishing to get the newsletter as email.
- For teacher led clubs, wherever possible, school will avoid cancellations and unless in emergencies will aim to provide a week notice with a text notification. Where clubs are weather dependent, an alternative provision in school will be offered to prevent last minute cancellations.
- Reminder texts will be sent a day before every trip/ event to remind parents where possible. Using the opener- REMINDER
- Texts to be used readily as a good way of communicating with parents. Opening with News: for important, Reminder: for reminder information.
- Website to be upgraded so it is easier to navigate especially with a smart phone and with the possibility of text alerts for important information. To include a class/ school calendar, class blogs highlighting school successes and pupils learning, key information and copies of newsletters.

Next agenda item is to look at communicating attainment and progress - looking at educational targets, sharing of progress and the format of parent's evenings and reports. How can school help parents understand the new progress measures of pupils and outcomes for year 2 and 6 SATS?

Sarah, our cook, has been off ill since the start of term and Jill had been making brilliant lunches for our children on school lunches. I have been advised that Sarah has now given notice to Lancashire Catering and will not be resuming her post at Bretherton. Lancashire Catering, who organise our school meals, will be advertising for a new cook but in the meantime, we would like to wish her all the best for the future and hope that her health continues to improve. If your child would like a school lunch, there are places available. Please contact the school office and they will add them to the schedule. We will be looking at a booking system for school lunches off the set menu provided beginning sometime in the Spring term. This will help prevent certain meals running out for children on the second sitting at lunch time and ensure children are eating a hearty meal.

Can you help at this special time of year?

Mr Brian Whaite is a regular visitor into school and worship and our children really enjoy the message of the bible and life that he shares. As part of our value of 'Generosity' this term, our Ethos group would like to ask for your help.

Mr Whaite is an active member of the Longton Community Church and one area in particular, Inside Out. It was set up to help those who are facing hardship who live on our doorstep.

Their projects range from gardening, cleaning and decorating, to providing furniture, clothing and food and they go into people's homes, doing whatever it takes to demonstrate the hope of Jesus.

At this busy time of year, a time where we are shopping for our family's Christmas wishes and food, we would like to ask if you could possibly buy an extra item to support those in our community who may be struggling. If you feel able to help, we would be grateful if you could donate any of the following items in order that he can help others on our behalf. We will present them to him at the start of next term so the last date for donations would be **20th December**.

Items would include:

Any household cleaning products, mops, buckets, rubber gloves, cloths, dishcloths, tea towels, brushes, dustpans, etc.

If you would like to know more please see the website below:

[http://www.longtoncommunitychurch.co.uk/Groups/217606/Longton Community Church/New Website/Serve Our Community/Inside Out/Inside Out.aspx](http://www.longtoncommunitychurch.co.uk/Groups/217606/Longton_Community_Church/New_Website/Serve_Our_Community/Inside_Out/Inside_Out.aspx)

Thank you for supporting our Christian Charitable work.

Thank you to Sam Boucher for his jokes this week- courtesy of his Advent Calendar. My favourite ones are:

*What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark?
Frost Bite!*

*What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Icebergers!*

This is our last newsletter before Christmas. One more chance for Christmas jokes!

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