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Baldersby Blog

10.12.2021



Our Nativity on Wednesday was amazing !

Dear Families

For me, Christmas really begins not by putting up the tree or the first mince pie (you seem to be able to get these in October these days!) but by watching the school nativity play.

I can honestly say that this years' nativity was one, if not **the** best, I have ever seen in all my years of teaching. I felt very emotional watching it and I am not sure if it was because it is most likely to be the last one for the school, or the tremendous performances by all the children, but it will definitely be one that will live with me for a very long time.



Thank you to the families and friends who joined us in Church Thanks go to the friends for providing refreshments. All the children really appreciated the audience.



A Sad Goodbye ☹️

Sadly today we have said goodbye to Miss Barrett. Miss Barrett has worked at the school for nearly 5 years. It is a sad day and one which I know is not by choice for Miss Barrett, or us, but just as the children all have security of places moving forward the staff also have to have employment security for the future.

On behalf of the school and the children I would like to thank Miss Barrett for her dedication and hard work and we all wish her the very best for her new adventure.

PE KITS WILL BE NEEDED IN SCHOOL FOR AN EXTRA PE LESSON ON MONDAY

News from the classes

Infant class

This week's blog is written by Will.

This week we have been designing gingerbread houses, just like the one in Hansel and Gretel and then next week we are going to make them. I have put chocolate buttons, smarties and some icing on mine, with a cola bottle door and a candy cane outside.

In Maths we were looking where we had gone wrong in our quizzes last week and I went a bit wrong at times, but that's ok because then I learn more things.

We went swimming and I was in the medium pool, we had to swim on our backs and on our fronts. We played a really fun game called shark and fish. The sharks had a woggle and the fish had no woggle. I was a fish.

I enjoyed performing in our school nativity, I was a shepherd and I liked singing the songs. Mrs Brown gave us a treat the next day for being so amazing.

Today in our classroom, our elf brought in another elf. Mrs Meneely said "Not another elf!" This week our elf has washed his clothes and hung them on a washing line, made a snow angel using flour, had his ears pierced with baubles, and today he is sleeping in a spotty sock with his friend sleeping in a stripy sock. Their pillow was our RWI mascot - Freddy the frog. When we were practising the nativity, the classroom was empty and the elf got the felt tip pen and he got some pictures of the infant children and he drew hats, glasses, ears and antlers on our pictures. Mrs Meneely took a photo.

Yesterday we made Christmas cards, we used pencils and finger paints, and then we made another example using the paintz.app on our computers. I can't wait for you to see them!

Mrs Meneely and Will

Junior Class

How is it that we are looking at the last week of term already? It has been another fantastic week in Junior class. We spent quite a bit of our time rehearsing the nativity and completing end of term tests but I am sure you will agree it was time well spent as the performance was amazing! The children all did a brilliant job in their tests and it is clear to see that they have learnt a lot this term, well done children!

In Geography this week, we continued our *ocean focus* and learnt about the different layers of the ocean. The children were all shocked to learn that sponges are animals and really enjoyed looking at some of the creepy creatures that you can find down in the *lower midnight* and *trench zones*. We all painted the ocean using different shades of blue to represent the layers and then used the following day to write facts and information around our oceans.

In History, we learnt all about **Boudicca**. The children were able to recall some of the facts that we learnt whilst watching the horrible histories in York. We spoke about what we do know as fact and some of the myths around Boudicca such as her body being buried under Kings Cross station.

It has been lovely to see how confident the children are becoming in their swimming lessons. I have to say how sensible and fast they are in changing before and after swimming. It is clear to see that COVID has had a big knock on effect on many of the children's swimming abilities and it is great to see they are making progress as swimming is such an essential skill to learn.

In PSHE (Jigsaw), we discussed the importance of not making assumptions about others. We looked at pictures of two children and had to assume different things about them. They made extremely important points that we should always try to get to know people first and compared it to the phrase 'Never judge a book by its cover'.

Mrs Ahmed

Email domains changing

Due to the merger of the two trust all school email addresses are changing over today 10.12.2021 to reflect the Trust name of **Hope Sentamu Learning Trust (HSLT)**

The name change is **very simple**, for example

OLD username/email address	headteacher@bsj.hlt.academy
NEW username/email address	headteacher@bsj.hslt.academy

Staff emails will be the same so:

s.meneely@bsj.hlt.academy will be:
s.meneely@bsj.hslt.academy

Office will be:

Hello@bsj.hslt.academy

Emails will still continue to bounce across from the old address for a short time but please note the new ones moving forward.

Swimming

As Mrs Ahmed has said, this week the children have made fantastic progress with some moving across into the big pool. We will be having 3 extra weeks after Christmas to build on the progress made by the children as we feel swimming is a very important life skill and who knows we may have pools shut down again! The Friends of the school are funding half of these extra weeks, and school the remainder. I am waiting for confirmation from the pool, but I hope it will be the same time on a Wednesday.

Covid update

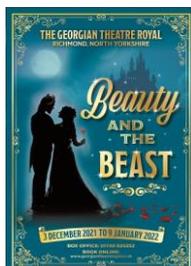
I am hoping that we will be able to continue as we are in school even with if we have increased restrictions and we have been lucky with very few cases. As I said last week it was inevitable really that variants would rise up to meet us. We just need to get everyone safely through the last week so we can all enjoy Christmas. I very much want to continue with our plans for Christmas Lunch in the church and going to the pantooh yes I do! However I will need to be driven by guidance, I will let you know on Monday that hopefully these events will still go ahead. Thank you for your understanding and if it should become necessary to change arrangements at short notice, I will give you as much notice as I can so keep an eye on parent texts.

We will be continuing to be vigilant with cleaning and handwashing to minimise transmission and there continues to be a clean at lunchtimes in high use areas. Please continue to check the school website and current Government guidance for Covid updates. If you, your child, or close family member, have a positive Covid test can you **please keep school informed**.

If a child is unwell and you have family members with positive covid please ask for a LFT or a PCR test ASAP (details on the letter that was sent out to you) as many children are turning out to be positive with or without symptoms. The latest information/ covid guidance from the Government can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Panto Visit – oh yes it is!

The performance starts at 10am so we will need to leave school at 8.45am please and don't forget the mid-morning healthy snack and a water bottle 😊





Christmas meals

We have put all the children down for a Christmas lunch on Thursday, please let us know if they do not wish to partake in a Turkey dinner ☺ this will be normal school lunch cost.

Friday (last Day) will be party food lunch and party games in the afternoon. This will be funded by school.

York Minster Christmas Tree festival



*Don't forget to go and visitand please
vote! The festival concludes on the 6th
January 2022*

Have a safe and relaxing weekend everyone

Head Teacher
Steff Brown

Dates for your diary:

14th December Panto (oh yes it is) @ Richmond Theatre
16th December Christmas lunch (in Church hopefully)
17th December School closes for Christmas @ 3.15pm

Please take note:

Training day for all staff 4th January 2022

*******Return to school for children 5th January 2022*******