

BISHOP JOHN ROBINSON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Edition No.2 November 2018

Welcome to the second addition of the Newsletter for 2018/19. A great deal has happened at BJR since the last newsletter including: 2 Residential visits - Peace Class (Y5) spent a night aboard HMS Belfast and Reverence Class (Y3) had their 'Night at the Museum - 2 Parent's evenings, 2 Parents as Partners meetings, 8 visits to the cinema, 1 Black History Month Celebration, 1 Pop-up Museum event AND an OFSTED Inspection! As you can see from the calendar of events for December (below) there is a lot still to come in the lead up to Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking teachers and support staff who are ensuring a high level of education for all of our children every day.



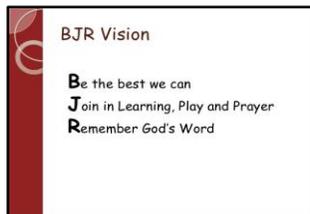
This month the children are learning the **Christian Value of Generosity**. As well as learning from bible stories such as Matthew 14:13-21 where Jesus feeds the 5000, children have also been engaged in acts of generosity such as contributing to the Children in Need campaign, and have been recognised for their generosity in our Friday celebration assemblies. In addition, this year the pupils at Bishop John Robinson Primary have decided that they would like to help out people in our local area who are in poverty.

They will be running their reverse advent calendar again - asking for toys/ sweets as usual (to go to families within the school who will not have much this Christmas) and items to go in to shoe boxes for local homeless people. Any donations of toys/sweets to go to families in need can be brought in to school from next week and will be very much appreciated. A list of these items was sent in a separate letter.

As you will be aware, the school had its **OFSTED inspection** on Tuesday 13th November. This short inspection (just 1 day) was to establish whether or not the school should retain its **GOOD** status, awarded in 2014. The draft report has been written and we are waiting for the outcome to be published on the OFSTED website which should happen over the next few weeks. Thank you to those parents who took the time to speak with the inspector, complete the recent parent questionnaire AND the PARENT VIEW survey. The school was seen at its very best thanks to the quality of education provided by school staff and the wonderful behaviour and excellent learning of the children.



Parents are reminded that the school will be closed on **Friday 30th November**. This **INSET day** will facilitate staff and families wishing to attend the funeral of **Rachel Wallder** who sadly passed away last month. The service will take place at Eltham Crematorium at 12:30. The family have informed me that all who wish to attend are welcome.



The outcomes of the [Parent Satisfaction Survey](#) were shared a few weeks ago. While the results were hugely positive, there were a number of comments asking for more homework for children. In addition, staff have reported to me that parents have requested support for tutoring and 11+ preparation, sometimes at a very young age. It is my view that the school's [homework policy](#) provides a good amount of homework for primary aged children. Apart from the introduction of more regular times-tables practice in the new year, there are no plans to increase the amount of homework given. Parents wishing to spend on tutoring should be mindful of the qualifications and experience of private tutors as well as safeguarding considerations. In our experience, a tutor is no guarantee of academic success either in selection tests or the end of KS2 SATs, in addition, passing the 11+ is no guarantee of a grammar school place. I also have a concern that children who spend lots of time studying at home rather than playing, relaxing, spending time with friends and family or experiencing the world around them, are at risk of under developed social and emotional skills essential for everyday life. In school this can manifest in an inability to socialise with peers, anger issues, inability to resolve conflict, inability to play and behaviour difficulties. In bible we learn..

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."
— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Children have only one chance/time/season to be children. Parents and teachers should work together to ensure a rich and varied childhood that offers a good balance of study, play, reading, prayer and exploration. This why at school we prioritise trips, events and playdays. Indeed, the second line of the school vision is for children to; "Join in learning, play and prayer". More information on the importance of play can be found on the internet including this useful article on the [NHS website](#) . I intend to invite parents to a more in depth discussion on this topic in the new year.

On the topic of play and encouraging active lifestyles, the school has used some of the funding given from the [PE and Sports Premium](#) to further improve provision in the playground. Part of the fund has been spent on the purchase of additional sports equipment which newly appointed child 'Play Leaders' will be organising and supervising. Also, in the next few weeks, expect to see the installation of some 'Outdoor Gym' equipment, similar to that found in local parks. It is hoped that this investment will give children even more opportunities to be active during playtimes. Parents collecting children at the end of the day are also welcome to use the equipment.





Important dates for Autumn Term (also available on the school website)

November	
28 th	Parents as Partners Meeting 9-10
30 th	School Closed - INSET Day
December	
5 th	Christmas Tree Dressing Service (TBC)
6 th	Outdoor Gym Equipment being delivered
7 th	Nasal Flu vaccination for YR-Y6
11 th	KS2 Pantomime - Snow White - £5 donation per child or parent
12 th	Infant Nativity @ St Paul's Church 10AM - Parents welcome
13 th	Junior Street Dance Assembly @10:15 - Parents welcome
17 th	Nursery Visit to Hall Place EYFS Winter wonderland
18 th	Reception Visit to Living Nativity London Zoo
19 th	EYFS and KS1 Pantomime - Jack's Giant Adventure - £5 donation per child or parent
20 th	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
21 st	Musical Christmas Service @ St Paul's 10AM - Parents welcome Last day of Autumn Term School closes @ 2:30
January	
7 th	School Closed - INSET Day
8 th	Back to school