



The Botwell Bulletin

Monday 16th December 2024

Upcoming events

Christmas Performances

Christmas has been in the air at Botwell over the last week, with our children performing in a range of fantastic nativities and concerts. Our Reception children were very busy performing 'Happy birthday Jesus' on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday! They did amazing job! Everywhere we go in school, we hear staff singing, 'We're having a party!'

Year 1 and 2 also performed on Tuesday and Wednesday, with their production of 'Little angel gets her wings.' They all did so well, with brilliant acting, singing and even solos.

Our junior children performed their 'Carols by Candlelight' on Tuesday evening in the church. Their singing was literally breath taking, especially the 'Carol of Bells.' We were also treated to Elijah playing the song 'Hallelujah' on the piano. It was such a blessed evening and the candles really added to the atmosphere.

Well done to all the children who took part in both the carol service and the nativities and to all the staff who made them possible. Thank you also to our FOB parents who provided mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies before the carol service.

- Wed 18th Dec – School Christmas dinner
- Thu 19th Dec – Party day (own clothes)
- Thu 19th Dec – Nursery party (stay & craft). Last day for Nursery
- **Fri 20th Dec – End of term @12.50pm (Rec/KS1) @1.00pm (KS2)**
- Mon 6th Jan 2025- INSET day for teachers (school closed)
- **Tue 7th Jan 2025– Children return to school**





iRock Concerts

Earlier this month, Botwell was rocking out with the two spectacular concerts performed by the iRock musicians and singers.

The children, who practise weekly, got to perform both to their parents and the rest of the school, showing off their amazing talent on a range of instruments.

Well done to everyone who performed. We know how hard you all practised for the concert. You can see each of the bands in the photos below.



Choir



Our choir have been extremely busy over the last couple of weeks performing at a number of events.

The week before last, they sang at the Plaza Lounge at Heathrow Airport, then last Tuesday they performed in the Carols by Candlelight service.



Last Friday, the choir brightened up the day of some pensioners when they visited an AGE UK care home to sing. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the concert and loved hearing the children sing.

On Saturday, some of our choir had the chance to visit Westminster Cathedral to sing in a carol concert, along with several other Catholic schools. They sang a range of Christmas carols, which sounded stunning when accompanied by the Cathedral organ. The venue was packed to the brim and it was such a great opportunity for the children to perform in such a magnificent building. The children behaved impeccably and did us proud!

Well done choir, you have definitely earned your Christmas break.

Jingle Jog



Our children did an amazing job on Friday as they took part in the annual 'Jingle Jog' to raise money for Harlington Hospice.

They all braved the cold, wet weather and ran as many times around our school track as they could in 20 minutes, brightening up the

playground in their Christmas jumpers.

Well done children who took part in the event and thank you to all the families who sponsored your children. The money raised will be going to a very worthwhile charity.

Thank you also to Miss Bedford for organising the event.

Parking

Please can we make sure that we are not parking in the alleyway next to the school where the corner shop is.

We have had many concerns regarding activities down there, including drugs, as well as other undertakings that are not fit for a school's bulletin or children's eyes. Furthermore, there are now signs up showing that people parking here will be fined (Please look on the walls and see it yourself).

Staff that work in the shops need access for this area and are constantly being blocked from getting to work or leaving. I hope that going forwards no one from our school community lets the rest of us down and illegally parks here or accesses the back of the shops from this point... it'll be an expensive Christmas if you do!

Welfare: Mrs Rayner

On Friday we said goodbye to Mrs Rayner one of our wonderful Welfare team. We wish her every luck with her new role in the NHS and thank her for the care she has given both the children and the staff on many occasions! Mrs Lanagan is holding the fort currently while we finalise recruitment.

Table top sale

On Wednesday, the Friends of Botwell will be hosting another table top sale. There will be sweets. Sweetie jars, Christmas puddings and bottles of mulled wine for sale and much, much more. Please do bring in some change and support the school, as all the proceeds go to the children.

Exceptional leave requests

We have had over 40 exceptional leave requests in the past two weeks, which is quite honestly astonishing. All have been denied. The children have 13 weeks holiday a year and as such it is expected that they have holidays at this point. All holidays in term time will be put forward for a fine and further action by the Local Authority.

End of day dismissal

We have been reviewing our end of day dismissal procedures over the past few weeks. We are a big school on a comparatively small site so it is a challenge.

A letter will be sent out later this week outlining how this will impact on your child's class and ultimately you, as we endeavour to make sure we are as safe as possible when handing over your child. This may mean lining up, standing somewhere difference etc. so we ask that you read carefully this document when it is sent out.

We hope that you can all be supportive of this as ultimately this is being done to keep your children safe.

Supporting those that find this time of year a challenge

Within our community we have a number of children and adults with autism. Christmas is a challenging time for these individuals and the below poem was stumbled upon which gives others who are neuro-typical a bit of an insight into the challenges faced:

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house...
The noises were different, with more people about.
I don't like not knowing, what to expect
I need my routine and space to reflect.
I want to keep eating, my usual food
Not talking to visitors, doesn't mean I'm rude.
I love all my presents and having no school
But it can feel overwhelming, with new rituals and rules.
I may not react, like other children do
But I really am grateful, for my presents from you.
So be gentle with me, be patient and kind
And remember your world, looks different to mine*

Slime Workshop



Some of our children were lucky enough to take part in a Slime Workshop delivered by a student from Global Academy.

The children loved playing with the slime and enjoyed the sensory experience.

They loved getting messy!

Christmas Cookie Recipe

Thank you to Gigi Ferrer for today's recipe of Christmas cookies. Parents, this would be a great recipe to make with your child over Christmas.



Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp Oats
- 4 Tbsp Plain Flour
- 1 Tbsp Butter
- 1/4 Banana
- 1 Tsp Cocoa powder
- 1/4 Tsp Mixed Spice
- 1 Tbsp Honey
- 1 Tsp Chocolate Drops
- Icing Sugar (sprinkle on top)

Christmas Cookies



Have your utensils ready!



To make the Christmas Cookies



Step 1

Preheat the oven to GM4 - 180c. Mash the banana and mix it in with honey and spice.



Step 2

Mix in the butter, flour, chocolate drops, oats, and cocoa powder in a bowl.



Step 3

Mix everything together so it comes together as a dough. If the mixture is too sticky, add some more flour, if it's too dry, add more honey. Create small balls and flatten them into cookies (makes 5).

Bake for 20- 25 mins and let them cool before eating! You can sprinkle some icing sugar on top. You can store them in a plastic container for up to 4 days.



Attendance

This week's class attendance is below. We have had a bout of chicken pox moving around the school which has affected the attendance in some classes this week. Well done to Reception I, 5B and 6W who still managed to keep their attendance at 96% or above.

Class	% of attendance
Reception C	92%
Reception D	94%
Reception I	96%
1B	86%
1H	87%
1W	89%
2C	64%
2L	86%
2P	95%
3B	89%
3M	90%
3P	66%
4A	93%
4B	94%
4N	95%
5B	96%
5J	92%
5S	91%
6B	91%
6S	86%
6W	97%



Prayer and Reflection

Yesterday was the third Sunday of Advent, Known as Gaudette Sunday. The term is derived from the Latin opening words of the introit antiphon, "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord always."

The third candle on the Advent wreath is pink and represents joy and anticipation as the birth of Our Lord draws nearer.

Isaiah 35:10

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

We pray together:

*God above, do good and avoid evil is so easy to say,
yet so hard to put into practice.*

*Be with us in each and every moment
of each and every day*

*so that we remain blameless
and worthy of your coming.*

Help us, Lord, not to dampen the joy of others.

*Remind us this week to rejoice always
and to pray without ceasing. Amen*

