

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a strong finish to the term! Pupils have worked incredibly hard all the way through to the end of term and attendance has recovered to over 90% across the school at a time where national figures sit in the mid-eighties. Well done everyone for showing such resilience throughout the term.

As is normal, the last few weeks have culminated into a sprint as we fit in EPraise trips and various festive activities. The EPraise shop has been well used by pupils with baking afternoons, trips to Costa and the recent Amazon voucher draw to name a few. There are more experiences coming online and today I have talked to the children about targeting an activity they want to work towards. It would be great to have these conversations at home too.

On Wednesday I was staggered to see so many pupils sit down to a full Christmas meal, all prepared on-site. Over 250 pupils were served across four year group sittings. There was a lovely atmosphere and pupils enjoyed their crackers and hats as much as the food. I should also mention we raised over £300 for the PTFA on Christmas Jumper Day, so thank you for supporting this.

Huge congratulations to pupils who represented the school on Wednesday evening in Bournemouth and again throughout the day on Thursday at St. Michael's Church. The choir sang beautifully and read their scripts with conviction. Again, the atmosphere at the Church was fabulous and although singing in face coverings proved challenging at times, it was a great success. Thanks to Mr Timmins, Mrs Binning, Mrs Richardson and Miss Joyner for their efforts, not least for the late night on Wednesday. I hope you enjoyed the video of the Service. If you haven't managed to watch it, you can access it from the ParentMail sent out last night.

As mentioned previously, we also say thank you and good luck to Mrs Stewart, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Cheadle as they embark on new adventures. Mr Gorgirzadeh and Mrs McGraw have spent the past six weeks working alongside colleagues to ensure a smooth transition.

As we look towards the new term please check your child's uniform, it is amazing how much they grow in a term. For example, skirts should finish just above the knee and when replacing school shoes, black leather formal shoes are required over black leather trainers. Pupils are welcome to wear a pair of ear studs, one in each ear lobe, but these must be studs. On the equipment front, pupils are expected to write with a blue handwriting pen. We also encourage pupils to provide their own glue stick along with the usual ruler, pencil and green and pink pens. We will continue to provide whiteboard pens. Thank you for your support with this.

As it stands, year 5 and 6 have a testing slot on the training day on Tuesday 4th January. Thanks to staff who are coming in to support this outside of their contractual hours. Year 7 and 8 will have their test on Wednesday 5th January for a return to school on Thursday 6th January. Apologies for any inconvenience caused as we fulfil directives from the DfE.

Thank you for your support throughout this term. It has thrown up many challenges for us all. I think we can assume the start of the New Year may well be similar. However, I think we can look forward to the new term taking confidence in the way pupils and staff have maintained a strong work ethic and have come together as a school community.

I hope you enjoy the various photos attached.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Christopher



In choir this week, we've had loads of fun travelling to St Peters' Church in Bournemouth and performing in Diverse Abilities Carol Concert on Wednesday evening and then performing for the whole school at St Michael's Church on Thursday. We all thoroughly enjoyed the events.

By Belle Parker and Zara Andrew