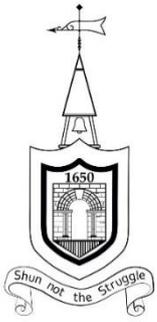


Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School

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HEADLINES

Issue 14 - Published 13th December 2017

[A BUMPER EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER!!!](#)

Staff News - At the end of this term, Mrs Sue Stanley, one of our Year 2 teachers will be leaving our staff family. Mrs Stanley has decided to take early retirement and we thank her for everything she has contributed to our school in so many ways. We wish Mrs Stanley a very happy and rewarding retirement - please don't forget us - you will always be part of the Bispham Endowed Family.

We recently welcomed Miss Carly Cropper and Miss Catherine Robinson to our staff team. They have joined our Lunchtime Staff Team and we hope they will be very happy working at our school.

We send our congratulations to Miss Catherine Power, one of our Reception Nursery Nurses, and her partner Mr Martin Ollerenshaw, who are expecting their first baby next May.

School Library - The School Library is now closed for borrowing. Please could all books be returned as soon as possible so that stock taking can be completed.

[Christmas Carol Services](#)

The **Nursery and Infant Carol Service** will take place in the **School Hall** on **Tuesday, 19th December at 9:15 a.m.** The children in Year 2 are leading our Carol Service - there will be readings, prayers, a Nativity tableau and a talk from Rev'd Simon. The children in Reception and Year 1 will be joining in with Christmas songs and carols. If you would like to join us at the Service please telephone the School Office to reserve either one or two seats. Seats are limited due to fire regulations and the space available in the hall.

The **Junior Carol Service** will take place in our **Parish Church of All Hallows** on **Wednesday, 20th December at 9:15a.m.** The children in Year 6 are leading this service which is a traditional service of readings, carols and prayers with a talk from Rev'd Simon. Children in the other year groups will be joining in with the carols.

On the morning of 20th December, please could junior parents and carers take their child **directly to The Barn** (the large hall) at **All Hallows Church** for 8:45 a.m. rather than drop them off at school. The children will be walking back to school supervised by staff and other adults. Please make sure that your child is wearing a suitable coat and also suitable shoes (not pumps) on this morning in case the weather is wet or frosty.

Please note that the doors to The Barn will **not be open before 8:45 a.m.** on this morning - this is the time when we start our supervision time. Children who are dropped off at school by mistake will remain in school with other staff until their own class returns.

If you would like to join us at the church service you are very welcome, but please be aware that due to limited space, some seating for visitors will be in the side transepts of the church and not in direct view of the children.

Lost Property - Our lost property bins are over-flowing with items of clothing, all of which are un-named. Any items which have not been claimed by the Christmas holidays will be disposed of. If your child has lost something this term you are welcome to come into school, via the School Office, and check the lost property bins.

Bags in School - Please could we ask that children do not bring large bags or ruc-sacs to school. Our cloakrooms are very limited in space and large bags often end up on the floor. Every child has a named peg which has space for their coat/outdoor clothing and for a drawstring bag for PE kit. Packed lunch boxes are stored on trolleys. Reading books and homework should be put in a school reading bag - available from the School Office priced £4.00. Children are also reminded that they should not bring toys of any kind (including footballs, stickers and 'game' cards) or personal pencil cases to school or to Breakfast Club or After School Club. Please note that school cannot accept responsibility for the loss or damage to items which we have asked children not to bring to school.

Christmas in Foundation Stage - Many parents, carers and other family members came along last Wednesday to enjoy Foundation Stage's 'Away in a Manger'. The Reception children and the Nursery children, some of whom are only just three years old, were fantastic and we are very proud of them all. Thank you to all the Foundation Stage staff for all their hard work in arranging the production.

Infant Production - A large number of parents, carers, other family members and guests watched the Year 1 production entitled 'Lights, Camel Action, It's Strictly Nativity' last week. The children performed brilliantly and we are very proud of them all. A **big thank you** to the staff in Year 1 who worked so hard to produce such a super celebration of Christmas.

Talented Singers - Last night nearly forty children from our Junior School Choir performed at the Blackpool Music Service's Annual Christmas Festival at The Empress Ballroom in The Winter Gardens. Some of our children also played in some of the Music Service's many bands and orchestras and two of our children sang with the Blackpool Youth Choir. The children sang and played fantastically and were extremely well behaved. All the performers were a credit to our school and we are very proud of them. A **huge thank you** to Mrs Anderton and Mrs McGlynn who train the choir and Mrs Hirst, Miss Hirst, Miss Hogg, Mrs Cox, Mr Harrison and Mrs Hall who helped to supervise the children during the afternoon rehearsal and during the evening performance.

Reception Admission Forms - Admission forms for children who are old enough to start school in September 2018 **MUST** be returned to the Schools Admission Team from Blackpool Council by **15th January 2018** at the **very latest**. Forms returned after this date will miss the deadline for the allocation of places.

Changes to Lunchtime Meal Arrangements - If your child is currently having a packed lunch and would like to change to a school dinner after the Christmas holidays then this can be arranged this week or next. If your child wishes to change from school meals to packed lunches then we need a minimum of **one week's notice in writing** and so this can be arranged this week too. Please see Miss James in the School Office if you do wish to arrange to change your child's meal arrangements for after the holiday.

Blackpool Children's University - Mrs Cox reminds the junior children who are members of the Children's University to return their activity forms for this half term once they have been signed by their activity leader. The forms can be returned to the School Library next week or in the first week after the Christmas holidays.

Indoor P.E. - This term a number of children have missed P.E. and outdoor games because they have no kit in school. P.E. kit should be left in school each week and only taken home to be washed at the end of each half term. Please could you also check that your child's pumps still fit them, as lessons have been missed recently because children could not get their pumps on. A number of children have also missed lessons because they have not had their ear-rings taken out at home. Staff are not able to remove ear-rings and we do not encourage children to remove their own ear-rings in school in case they then get lost. Ear-rings should also be removed on the days when your child has swimming, outdoor PE or attends a school club which involves sport or dance. **Thank you for your support in this matter.**

School Meals Grants - Parents and carers may not all be aware that quite a significant amount of the money coming from central government directly into our school budget each April is based on the number of school meals grants applied for by families in our school. **Next year for every child registered for Free School Meals, Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School will receive an extra £1,320 in their budget.** May we respectfully ask that families who think they are entitled to the school meals grants **do apply** for them, even if they do not actually want their child to have a school meal, as this means we can increase our income considerably? This includes infant children who are all provided with a school meal free of charge by the Government. The system is totally confidential and your child would not be identified in school. The School Office Team is very happy to assist parents and carers if they need any help or further information about school meals grants.

Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas holidays at **3:15 p.m.** on
THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 2017.

B's After School Club will finish as normal on this afternoon.

School will re-open at **8:45 a.m.** on **MONDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2018.**

Attendance and Punctuality News - Each week in assembly our % for attendance and the number of late marks given out in the previous week are shared with the staff and children and our class awards are presented. These are the figures for last week.

School Target for Attendance: 97% **School Target for Punctuality: 0 late marks**

Week ending 8th December: **95.8% attendance** **39 late marks!!!! (34 children)**
 (29 children had 1 late mark)
 (5 children had 2 late marks)

Classes with over 97% attendance RN, RP, 1L, 2J, 2K, 4F, 6B

Classes with over 98% attendance: R RN, RP, 1L, 2J, 2K, 6B

Classes with over 99% attendance: RN, RP, 1L

Classes with late marks		Class RN	1 late	Class RP	1 late
Class 1L	3 lates	Class 1M	5 lates	Class 2J	4 lates
Class 2K	0 lates	Class 3G	0 lates	Class 3H	6 lates
Class 4E	4 lates	Class 4F	1 late	Class 5C	5 lates
Class 5D	4 lates	Class 6A	2 lates	Class 6B	3 lates

Best Class for attendance: 1L

Classes with no late marks: 2K, 3G

Last week there were **509 minutes (nearly 8½ hours!!!!)** of learning time lost due to lateness and **2 children** had an unauthorised absence mark as they were so late in coming to school. There were **10 days** unauthorised absence due to holidays in school time.

Some children are regularly arriving late for school. Although school begins officially at 8:55 a.m. we ask that **ALL CHILDREN** are in the playground by 8:45 a.m. each morning ready to come into school. This gives us a calm, smooth start to the day which helps your child to be ready to learn when lessons begin. If your child is not already in their classroom by 8:55 a.m. when the buzzer goes, they will receive a **late mark** - these marks are then reported on their mid-term and end of year school reports. Children who are late often become worried and upset because they miss important information at the start of each day. Their classmates, who arrive on time, also become upset because the class cannot be awarded Bella Bear, our punctuality mascot, and the certificate that each class receives when they have no late marks. Parents and carers do have a responsibility to make sure that their child is on time for school. Please contact school if you are having any problems with your child(ren) arriving on time.

Absence from School - All schools have a Pupil Welfare Officer, employed by the Local Authority, who works to support school in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Our Pupil Welfare Officer, Mr Jeff Chandler, checks our registers each week and works with any families whose children have a high rate of absence or poor punctuality. This half term Mr Chandler has noticed that there are some children who are regularly off for one or two days each week, often just before or just after a weekend. These broken weeks are of concern as it means that the children's education is being regularly disrupted. Mr Chandler will continue to monitor these absences and will be making contact with families where low attendance and/or poor punctuality is of concern.

Mr Chandler also monitors the number of **persistent absentees** we have in school each term; these are children who have 90% or less attendance. We currently have **17 children** whose attendance is less than 85%; **31 children** whose attendance is less than 90% and **49 children** whose attendance is less than 93%.

As previously advised we **are not able to authorise an absence due to illness** for any child whose attendance rate is less than **93%** - i.e. any child who has already had **five days absence since 6th September** (for any reason, including illness and holidays in school time) - without first obtaining medical evidence. Such evidence could be an appointment card for the doctor, the hospital or the walk-in centre, the back of a prescription or a medication bottle/box prescribed by a medical practitioner. If you would like to discuss this matter with Mr Chandler, please contact the School Office to arrange a mutually convenient appointment time.

Keep up to date with letters sent home, school meals menus and school news on our school website at www.bispham-endowed.blackpool.sch.uk.

