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Brighstone Buzz

11th December 2009

www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk

NEWS FROM MISS JOHNSTON

I barely know where to start with my news this week . the school has been a hive of non-stop fun and learning! Firstly, huge congratulations to those children in Years 3 and 4 that took part in the multi-skills festival last Friday and came an excellent second place! Given that we were up against much larger schools, this is a fantastic achievement. Tuesday was a very busy day. I went into Newport with Year 4 and we had a superb morning in St Thomas Square carol singing. There was an excellent atmosphere in the square with many people joining in with our singing and we raised over £360 in just 90 minutes! This money will really help towards reducing the cost of the Year 4 trip to Burley next year. I also had the great pleasure of accompanying the Year 4 Eco-Schools Council representatives on a visit to County Hall to meet with Councillors Pugh and Bingham. The children really did grill the councillors on a variety of issues and very much enjoyed touring the Council rooms and comparing the tidiness of Councillor Pugh's office to mine! The children invited Councillor Pugh to their first meeting in January and he has accepted, so we look forward to welcoming him to Brighstone shortly. On Wednesday, Brian Edwards, the Director of Education visited the school and was thoroughly impressed by the high standard of learning and teaching he witnessed as well as the attitudes of the children. On Thursday, children in Years 3 and 4 went to the Methodist Church after school to sing carols as part of the opening of the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival. The BBC's Sally Taylor was in attendance and the children were amazing representatives of the school. Throughout this week, each class has hosted a Family Learning Morning, which have all been extremely well attended. I hope that those of you who have been in to the classroom enjoyed the experience, which we hope to repeat in the future. Many of the outcomes produced are now placed on our Tudor Christmas tree which is on display in St Mary's Church. Of course, we have also squeezed in a few rehearsals for our Tudor performance/nativity to be held at 1:15pm on Monday and we look forward to sharing that with you also. We are nearly at the end of term . children (and staff!) are very tired, but there is still much to do and we hope that everybody will enjoy the remaining few days. I'm sure that I will meet many of you at the Christmas Fair and nativity performance where you will see all the wonderful hard work and enthusiasm that your children have put in. Wishing you all well. Miss Johnston ☺

DIARY DATES

- 11th Dec . West Wight Lantern Parade @ 5:10pm
- 12th Dec . Christmas Fair 1-4pm
- 13th/14th . B.A.D Panto @ 6:30pm. **BY TICKET ONLY**
- 14th Dec . Tudor Nativity in St Mary's Church @ 1:15pm
- 15th Dec . Reception reindeer hunt!
- 15th Dec . Christmas dinner
- 16th Dec . Pre-school nativity in the school hall at 10am
- 17th Dec . Christmas Party
- 18th Dec . Last Day of term
- 4th Jan . INSET Day. **SCHOOL CLOSED. FAB OPEN**
- 5th Jan . Spring term starts at 8:25am.

Tudor Performance/Nativity - MONDAY

On Monday, children should come to school dressed in their school uniform, with their Tudor/nativity costume in a clearly named bag. We will ask them to get changed at the end of lunchtime. Our performance will be in St Mary's Church at 1:15pm and all are welcome to attend. As we will be re-arranging the seating in the church, we would be grateful if parents could help us to put it back together after the performance. You will be able to collect your child from school after the performance once they have returned to their classroom and are dismissed by their class teacher. Please assemble in the school playground outside your child's class and they will be released to you. If you are unable to attend and the performance finishes before the end of school, we will of course keep your child until 2:45pm.

MARY'S MARVELLOUS, MOUTH-WATERING, MOMENTOUS MEALS

- MONDAY:** Pizza, chips, beans and peas, followed by peaches and custard.
- TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS DINNER**
- WEDNESDAY:** Homemade beef burgers OR veggie burgers, peas, carrots followed by choco cake.
- THURSDAY: CHRISTMAS PARTY** . food including: pizza bites, sandwich triangles, cocktail sausages, vegetable crudité's, iced sponge, festive shortbread, jelly. **Please DO NOT bring packed lunches on this day.**
- FRIDAY:** Fish fingers, chips, peas and beans followed by Flapjack.

All the above subject to change. Crudité's and fresh fruit are always available.

Outstanding Monies

As we are approaching the end of the autumn term, please could you ensure that music, cooking, clubs and dinner monies are fully paid by **Wednesday 16th December AT THE LATEST.** Any money to be returned due to illness or trips will be sent out on Friday. If you are unsure of how much you owe, please telephone or email Suzanne.



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A reminder that this is being held tonight. It will be leaving Colwell Common at 5:10pm, proceeding through Totland and Freshwater villages, ending at Moa Place for an evening of festivities. Even if you haven't made a lantern, do please go along to the end fair and have some festive fun!

Books – available in the school library until 15/12/09 and delivered before the end of term:

Flashing Nose Antlers, £3, Good Food the Collection, £8, Essential Guitar Tutor, £3, Memory Comfort Pillow £10, Baby's 1st Year Frame £6, My Treasury of Fairy Tales £4, Ben 10 Comic Maker £5, Grow It Eat It £3, Doodles and Scribbles X 4, £3.50, Beaky the Duck Microwaveable Hottie, £7, Wind Up Lantern, £10, The Christmas 4CD Collection, £5, Colour Change Snowman £3,, The Magic Little Sleigh, £2, 30 Handcrafted Xmas Card Collection £10, Debbie Macomber X 3 Books.

FAB

A reminder that FAB club will be running during the Christmas break, except on the afternoon of Wednesday 23rd December, due to a lack of demand. It is vital that parents make use of this facility in order to maintain its long term viability. All payments must be made in advance to the school office. £10 for a morning session and £10 for an afternoon session.

Amanda also has some monies from the after school club outstanding and has requested that these are now paid weekly. A reminder that from the 1st January costs for the after school club will be as follows: 2:45-3:45pm - £4

3:45-4:45pm - £3
4:45-5:30pm - £3

Whenever possible, please book your child into FAB in advance to ensure that our adult ratios are appropriate for the number of children attending.

Absence

A reminder that if your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend school, we require you to telephone or email the school by 9am to explain their absence. All other absence must be requested on a leave of absence form which is available from the school office or on the school website.

Hip Hop Dance

A party for club participants from across the island, is being held on MONDAY, at Osborne Middle School, East Cowes, 5:30 - 9pm (you do not have to stay until the end).

The evening will consist of a normal warm up and dance class, showing routines learnt in class. Fun dance games and then disco music to dance to, snacks and soft drinks.

Cost is £2 per dancer - parents free and may stay if they wish. Sorry, no room for other siblings or friends, due to health and safety, For further information contact the dance tutor, Jan Prewer on : 241668

Christmas Fair- SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER 1-4pm

The fair is TOMORROW. Thank you to everyone who has donated raffle prizes. Tickets have been on sale from the school office and will also be on sale on the day. We still need your help!

1. Can you spare some time this evening to help set stalls etc up? If there were quite a few of us who were able to do this, it would not take very long at all. Half an hour could make all the difference!
2. Are you able to help to man a stall on the day? If you could spare just an hour between 1 and 4pm, or can help with the packing away afterwards, we'd be extremely grateful.
3. We still require cakes for the cake stall. If you are able to donate these, please bring them in just prior to the start of the fair. If supplied in a tin, please ensure that it displays your child's name so that we are able to return it to you.

If you are able to help with any of the above, please let Mandy Miles or Wendy Varley (from the BSA) or Suzanne in the school office know. If not, we'd love to see you in attendance at the fair and spending some money! See you tomorrow!

GOLDEN NEWS

My huge thanks to the BSA for their tireless hard work in preparing for and undertaking the school fair. An enormous amount of planning and preparation work goes into these events months in advance and the day itself can be extremely stressful and long! All monies raised will go towards providing those little extras for the children, for which I am very grateful. Please show your appreciation by supporting the BSA with the event and coming along to spend some money! Thank you.

The BSA also give up their time to sell tea and coffee on a weekly basis in Golden Assembly and during November raised £20.50. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, who are currently putting in many additional hours to ensure that your children are provided with the best possible opportunities for learning (and fun!) at an extremely busy time of year for everybody. It is very much appreciated. I could not do my job without you all.

Please note that last week's Golden Assembly was the last one until after the Christmas break, due to the demand for the hall and the many different and exciting events that we are all participating in.

the developments of B.A.D (Brighstone Amateur Dramatics Group) of Babes in the Wood. They will be performing this in the school hall performances starting at 6:30pm. Everybody is welcome to come along for each or £10 for a family and are available from Suzanne in the school their profits to the school. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Christmas Tree

We have no use for our wonderful Christmas tree currently in the school hall, after 18th December. Would you like it? If so, please contact Suzanne in the school office who would be pleased to receive a donation towards school funds!

On the questionnaire that I sent out at the beginning of term, many parents asked for greater understanding and clarification around how we mark children's work and set homework. I equally, have found these to be areas which require renewed attention and I have therefore re-written both the homework and marking policies. I attach to this newsletter parts of these policies that parents may find useful and will come in to operation from January. If parents wish to read the policies in full, they can be found with all other policies approved by the Governing Body this term, on our school website: <http://www.brightstoneprimary.org.uk/info?id=23>

The marking policy places greater emphasis on guiding pupils to the next steps in their learning in order to make continuous progress. The homework policy clearly lays out the responsibilities and expectations of school and home, in developing the learning partnership to enhance your child's progress.

If you have any further questions about either of these policies or would like guidance on how you can support your child's learning further, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, who will be happy to provide you with any information that you require. I will be monitoring the implementation of both of these policies closely next term and as always, would welcome feedback from parents.

HIP HOP CLUB

We are pleased to be able to offer hip-hop dance club on Wednesdays after school next half-term. Cost of £6 for the first half of the spring term, payable by 5th January to Suzanne in the office. If your child would like to be part of this club, please complete the response slip below by THURSDAY next week.

Hip Hop Dance Club

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

My child would like to join hip hop club on Wednesdays after school, starting on Wednesday 6th January.

Signed: _____

Breakfast Club

We currently operate a breakfast club 3 mornings a week and would like to be able to extend this service to every week day. However, we have very few children who are currently using this service. A reminder that we operate from 7:45am at a cost of £2 and breakfast can be provided if you wish.

After Christmas (from 5th January) the breakfast club will operate from the rooms occupied by the pre-school to provide greater capacity.

We would be grateful if you could complete this pro-forma to indicate your possible interest in this service. This is not a commitment, it will just inform us as to the demand for this service. Thank you.

Name of parent: _____ Number of children aged 3-10 who would use the facility: _____

Please delete as appropriate:

I would not use the breakfast club service

I would use the breakfast club: once /twice /three /four /five times a week

I would use the breakfast club on an occasional basis as required

Please return to the school office by 11th January. Thank you.

There are still a few places remaining in gym club after Christmas. Please contact Suzanne if your child would like a place. Cost £6 for the half-term. Held on Tuesdays.

Miss Johnston