

The Buzz



5th January



Learning and Achieving Through Love,
Courage and Respect

Dear parents, carers and children,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year, with opportunities to spend time with friends and family, as well as to relax and recuperate ready for the year ahead.



We had a fun-packed two days at the end of term. We all enjoyed a performance from our **musicians**, who showcased their learning with some festive tunes. We were all in awe of their amazing talents and hard work! I think you have inspired many more children to take up an instrument. Well done to you all, and thank you to Mr Stroud and Mrs Jackaman for helping to facilitate this.



On the Monday evening, some of our Y5 & Y6 children took part in **carol singing** around the village with SWAY. They made such a difference to local residents, who really enjoyed being serenaded on a cold winter's night. What a great thing to do for our local community. Thank you to the children and to SWAY for organising it.



On the last day of term, everyone enjoyed a delicious **Christmas dinner** cooked and served by Kerrie and Helen (thank you to you both!) while listening to Christmas music and laughing/groaning at Christmas cracker jokes. This was followed by a surprise visit from **Father Christmas**, who made the time to come and see the children in his busy run-up to Christmas. The children received presents from him and his elves (thank you to Katherine, Felicity and Nellie for donning the delightful elf costumes!) and enjoyed having a chat with him.



Following that very exciting visit, the children then returned to the hall for a fun performance by the school staff: **Bethlehemian Rhapsody**. They enjoyed all of it, but I seem to think that they particularly loved Mr Goldsmith appearing at the end as baby Jesus with a dummy in his mouth...!

More photos and videos of the Christmas activities are available on our Facebook page.

This week, the children returned with eagerness and bright smiles ready for the **new term**. New learning journeys have been started in all subjects and a new Collective Worship theme has been introduced.



Please be reminded that regular **attendance and punctuality** is important and that, even if your child may feel slightly unwell in the morning, if you bring them in we can keep an eye on them in school, as many children 'pick up' once they are with their friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank you** for your support over the autumn term, and I look forward to continuing to work together to do the very best for the children.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

With best wishes, Mrs Lennon and the Brighstone team



Collective Worship - Perseverance

This week, we have been thinking about Epiphany - Pushing Through.

We talked about the different characters in our school Nativity (some more authentic than others... Not sure there were floor managers around when Jesus was born!). We then talked about the season of the church calendar that begins on 6th January, which is called Epiphany. This is when we remember the visit of the Magi or wise men. We discussed that, even though they are always portrayed as being present at the birth of Jesus, it is more likely that their journey would have taken many months.

We saw that they showed great perseverance, courage, determination and belief in their travels following the star for so many miles. They could have given up, but they pushed through and kept going. They must have been convinced that the birth of Jesus was such an important event in history that it was worth all the hardships and risks.



Epiphany

Did you know that Epiphany means 'to show', 'to make known' or 'to reveal'?

An Epiphany Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ-child
Be yours this Epiphanytide and always.
Amen

"Let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end."
Hebrews 12.1-2

School Dinners

Children in **Year R, 1 and 2** are entitled to a 'universal' **free** school meal everyday.

Children in Years 3-6 are charged at **£2.90** per day.

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Pizza	Beef burger	Roast Turkey	Beef Bolognese	Fish fingers
Option 2	Tomato pasta	Veggie burger	Veggie pastry roll	Veggie Bolognese	Quorn nuggets
Dessert	Choc brownie	Crispy bar	Flapjack	Fruit cake	Ice cream

Poetry Corner

January

January is
a clean white sheet, newly-ironed;
an empty page;
a field of freshly-fallen snow
waiting to be mapped
by our footsteps.

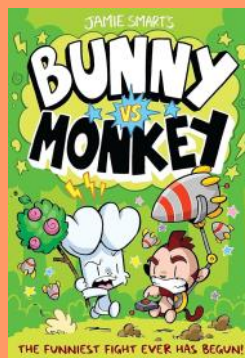
John Foster



Reading Recommendations

Each week we will include a book recommendation from a child and/or adult.

This week, Lilli recommends:



I recommend this book because it is really funny and it is like a comic book. There are lots of different short stories inside them. There are lots of books in the series.

They are also very hilarious to look at, because sometimes they attack each other and sometimes they help each other.

Bunny and Monkey are the main characters. There are other characters that are called what they are, such as Pig, Skunk and Beaver, who is very crazy.

Safeguarding

If you have a concern about a child you can call the police on 999 if you feel they are at risk of immediate harm

You can contact the NSPCC:

Contact the NSPCC Helpline

If you have any concerns at all about a child's safety or wellbeing, don't hesitate to contact us.

Call us or email help@nspcc.org.uk

0808 800 5000

[Find out more](#)

Or call children's services 0300 300 0117

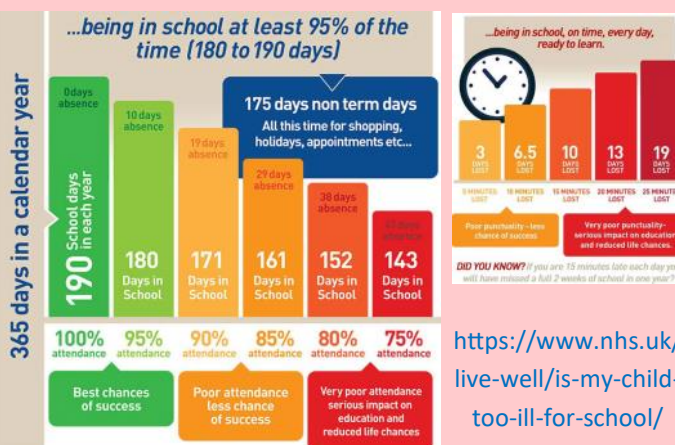


Attendance Matters!

Week Commencing 2nd January
Whole School attendance target: **96.5%**

Actual Attendance: **94.46%**

Late marks this week: **1**



IMPORTANT!

FBFREESTATUS.BLOGSPOT.COM

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- FOCUS ON A PASSION, NOT THE WAY YOU LOOK
- WORK OUT TO FEEL GOOD, NOT BE THINNER.
- STOP GOSSIPING
- GIVE ONE COMPLIMENT A DAY.
- GO A WHOLE DAY WITHOUT CHECKING YOUR EMAIL.
- DO RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
- CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER.
- TURN OFF YOUR PHONE ONE NIGHT A WEEK.
- REDUCE YOUR WASTE.
- VOLUNTEER

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Mindy Atwood designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to educational organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.01.2023



Next BSA meeting

Agenda BSA meeting Monday 8th 2024 @19.30

To be held at School and via "Teams" Email sent with login details.

Review Christmas activities, raffle, disco, secret present room, santa school visit, Christmas market, short discussion on next Christmas activities.

BSA shed modifications

Quiz in February 23rd Wilberforce hall

BSA jumble and toy swap shop

Mothers day 10th march

Easter hat competition Easter eggs for children 28th March

Wolverton folk and blues 11th may

Northcourt open garden 2nd June

Summer sizzler date and stalls (don't want to clash with the brighstone show)

Update on Funding decisions made by trustee's.

Accounts update:

All welcome!

If your message is **urgent** or about **attendance** contact Mrs Pelosi in the **office**:
01983 740285
office@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
Office Hours 8am - 4pm

If you would like to speak with the **Headteacher** Mrs Lennon, you can find her at the school gate every morning or you can call 740285 to make an appointment with her



For **general enquiries** you can call or email the office, text the school messaging service or send a message to our school **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/BrighstoneCEPrimarySchool>
Our Facebook page is open so you do not need a personal account to view it

If you have concerns about your child's **learning** and progress, email the class teacher in the first instance and allow at least 1 working day for a reply:

Years R, 1 & 2 - teacher.bumblebee@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
Years 3 & 4 - teacher.honeybee@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
Years 5 & 6 - teacher.ivybee@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

If you have concern regarding **safeguarding** or your **child's mental health and wellbeing** please contact Mrs Jones. You can speak to her on the playground every morning, call into the school office or email m.jones@brighstoneprimary.org.uk
safeguarding@brighstoneprimary.org.uk

Our **Newsletter** is published every Friday with key information for parents and carers. You can find it on our school website: <https://www.brighstoneprimary.org.uk/category/the-buzz/>

Contact us



If you have a **safeguarding** concern about a child outside of school hours you can call the police on 999 if you feel they are at risk of immediate harm or contact Children's Services on 0300 300 0117

School Day Timings

The school day is as follows:

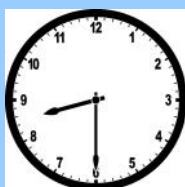
8.25am: Gates open

8.30am: School starts

3pm: School ends

3.10pm: Gates close

Many thanks.



Key dates this year

2023-2024 academic year

- Friday 9th February: Last day of term
- Monday 12th - Friday 16th February: Half term
- Monday 19th February: Back to school
- Tuesday 5th March: Parents Evening 3.15pm - 6pm
- Wednesday 6th March: Parents Evening 3.15pm - 5pm
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day
- Thursday 28th March: Last day of term
- Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April: Easter holidays
- Monday 15th April: Back to school
- Monday 29th April - Wednesday 1st May: Y4 residential at Tile Barn
- W/C 13th May: Y6 SATs
- Friday 24th May: Last day of term
- Monday 27th - Friday 31st May: Half term
- Monday 3rd June: School closed for staff development day
- Tuesday 4th June: Back to school
- Wednesday 18th - Friday 21st June: Y6 residential in London
- Friday 12th July: Reports go home
- Tuesday 16th July: Parents Evening 3.15pm - 6pm
- Thursday 25th July: Last day of term
- Friday 26th July: School closed for staff development day

Term dates are also available on our school website.

