

**Blakesley CE Primary School  
Blakesley  
NN12 8RD  
December 13th 2022**

### **Newsletter 6 T2**



#### **This way to Bethlehem**

Thank you to all of our children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and staff for producing three most wonderful Nativity performances of 'This Way to Bethlehem'. The narrators spoke so loudly and clearly, the innkeepers politely kept their doors shut, Joseph and Mary beamed when they finally found a stable, the shepherds herded the sheep skilfully, the Wise Men were so royal, the angels were angelic and the stars shone brightly. However, the biggest laugh of the night was given to the camels, and in particular Superstar Camel who entered the stage to the Rocky theme tune blaring out.

In our opinion, all of our children were superstars and we are sure that everyone who witnessed the show would agree whole -heartedly too.



#### **A new Christmas tradition**

After a successful performance of 'This Way To Bethlehem' by our Reception and KS1 children, everyone, parents included, were treated to a wonderful surprise. On the playground, 8 tractors appeared all adorned in bright, colourful Christmas decorations. We are so grateful for the enthusiasm and support shown by our farming community to bring about some festive cheer.



#### **Christingle**

Class 3 led our Christingle Service on Thursday morning in St Mary's church. Every pew was full of onlookers who admired the way in which all of the Year 3 and Year 4 children conducted the service. All of their lines were spoken confidently, transitions were smooth and the singing was really beautiful. So many parents stayed behind to listen to a repeat rendition of 'Hope of Heaven'.

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### **Community Carols**

Class 4 distributed invitations to our elderly community offering an afternoon of singing carols, mince pies and fellowship. Not only did a sizeable number attend on Friday afternoon, but also the Rt. Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom MP and Cllr Fiona Baker visited too. The children in Class 4 sang beautifully and were the most attentive and courteous of hosts making all of our guests feel quite at home. As they departed, each of our visitors were presented with a Christmas card, individually made by our pupils.

We are looking forward to holding community events like this again, soon.



### **Basketball**

Congratulations to Max and Lexi who were our Hotshots player of the month. Max has not only demonstrated some impressive skills but has shown how supportive he can be to younger players. He has the potential to be a coach, offering words of advice and encouragement to all. Lexi should be proud of the progress she has made when dribbling and shooting. In all matches, she perseveres whatever the score and always plays with a smile.

It has been amazing that 43 children signed up to basketball club, this term. That is 43% of our school. I am sure that must be a record percentage for pupil engagement in the sport, within a primary school.



### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Thom, Ernie and Herbie for being presented with their Beavers Chief Scout's Bronze Award. This is the highest award a Beaver can earn. It shows that they are adventurous, have helped their community and have learnt about the world. It also means that they have gained skills, worked as a team, completed all their Challenge awards and four Activity badges.

Not only are your Leaders proud of you but so are we. Well done boys.

### **The word gap**

Quite simply, the word gap refers to a lack of language. According to a recent study by Oxford University Press - Why Closing the Word Gap Matters: Oxford Language Report, there is now evidence that a growing number of children do not have a good enough vocabulary to learn effectively.

Why does it matter? 'Without enough language – a word gap – a child is seriously limited in their enjoyment of school and success beyond.' Children with a good vocabulary are four or five times more likely to do well at school and in the workplace, to develop strong relationships, and to have good mental health.

Reading and listening to a variety of books exposes children to new ideas, new places, new people, and, importantly, to new words and phrases. All this improves children's own language and understanding, their communication skills, and, in turn, their chances in life.

Please look at the attached document which suggests some possible presents or reads over the festive period.

### **Online at Christmas**

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, some will face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. However, fun family bonding over the festive period doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. A list of seasonal suggestions of how to make the most of the online world this Christmas is attached.

### **Electronic newsletter**

Please peruse our electronic version of this newsletter by following this link. Please feel free to share far and wide. Any feedback would be appreciated.

<https://sway.office.com/sWltKxViD5A7PI2k?ref=Link>

### **Forthcoming events**

- 14/12 School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (Dinners need booking via Dolce)
- 15/12 Carols around The Tree 9.30am Church Carol service with Readings by Class 4 (All welcome to attend.)
- 16/12 Last day of term
- 16/12 Praise Assembly
- 16/12 Last swimming session Y5Y6
- 16/12 3.30pm Christmas Raffle and Mince Pies
- 4/1/23 Wednesday School Re-opens

If there are aspects of the newsletter that you would like to discuss or if you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Laurie Hill  
Headteacher



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