



Thursday 17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached our final day of this term and so I write to wish you all a very happy Christmas. Clearly, for many this is probably going to be different this year, but I hope that however you are spending Christmas that it is an enjoyable time.

This term hasn't been without its challenges as we have all adjusted to new routines and procedures and dealt with Covid related absences. However, what I can say with confidence is that the children have been absolutely fantastic from the moment they returned in September. All staff have been committed to ensuring that life at Barrow Hedges has been as 'normal' as possible; focusing on closing gaps in learning but without narrowing our curriculum, as we have sought to continue to provide memorable and engaging learning experiences across all subjects. It has been a delight to see the children so happy in school. Although visits to lessons have been less frequent this term, I have very much enjoyed looking at the children's books, along with other members of the Senior Leadership Team. We are all so very proud of them.

Attached with this ParentMail you will find this half term's Hedgelines and an updated Parent Handbook. The reason for updating the Parent Handbook is that with new timetables for the Spring Term, there have been some changes to the PE days for some classes. Please check this document as we will continue to have children coming in to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. There are no changes for Reception. A letter about Covid will follow in a separate ParentMail and I ask that you read this carefully.

It continues to feel strange not to have parents in school and this was certainly the case when the children went onto the stage for their Christmas performances. However, the nativity highlights that even when things may seem bleak, if there is ingenuity, then miracles can still happen. So with this in mind, I am delighted to be able to confirm that all our Christmas productions have now been filmed and are able to be shared with parents, grandparents and other family members. Nursery and Reception performances are on Tapestry and KS1 and KS2 performances will be available on Teams from 2pm today. We are pleased to be sharing the KS2 concert on KS1 Teams too so that Year 1 and 2 parents can also enjoy this. I would like to say a special thank you to Mr Pearce for his wonderful filming and to Mr Brooker for all his work on the KS2 concert. I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for their tireless work this term. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to parents for your support. A number of you have already contributed to our School Fund on Parent Pay, as well as supporting us with various other fundraisers such as Elf Day yesterday. Thank you. School Fund will remain on Parent Pay throughout the school year and any donations are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank our governors for their work and support to the school community.



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I hope that you will enjoy watching our Christmas performances, just as we have. You may already be aware of just how talented Mr Brooker is and know that he has written a number of songs for Barrow Hedges. This year he has written a very special Covid Christmas Carol which is featured in the KS2 film. I thought that it would be a fitting close to my letter to share with you the words to this (see below).

On behalf of all the staff here at Barrow Hedges, I wish you a peaceful Christmas, but most of all a healthy one. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise wood".

Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher

Covid Christmas

Since Covid we've been marching to a very different drum,
Learning strange new rhythms, changing so much that we've done,
But we've all worked together as we get this battle won,
Yes we've all pulled together side by side.

Now days are getting shorter, Christmas time has come around,
We think of sleigh bells ringing and the snow deep on the ground,
We lookback on the year we've had and those who've helped us through
We thank them all for everything they do.

We think of those we've cared for us so selfless and so brave,
of doctors and of nurses and of all the lives they've saved
We count our blessings for our health, give thanks for what they've done
so grateful for their work as we all get this battle won.

This Christmas time we think of those who've cared for us
Of those who've worked to keep us safe and strong,
This year there's been so many people there for us
Who have kept us well and healthy all year long.

The charities and food banks that have done so much
Care workers who have kept on smiling through
Ev'ry TA ev'ry teacher, ev'ry priest and ev'ry preacher,
they're the ones who care for me, and care for you.
Ev'ry farmer each provider, ev'ry bus and lorry driver
need our thanks for what they do.

Some days don't feel so difficult some times it's not so bad,
with those we love around us, many things that make us glad
but darker hours are there as well we all know them at times,
but we support each other when they come

Look forward to the future when this strange times at an end,
back with those we cherish taking time to heal and mend,
knowing that loved ones are the ones that see us through,
when we feel the dark around us then we know their love surrounds us,

they're the ones who'll get us through these times somehow.
Ev'ry sister ev'ry brother, ev'ry father ev'ry mother are the ones who'll get us through.

We think about the Christmas story what it means each year
The baby in the manger and the star above so clear,
Peace on earth, good will to men we hear the angels say,
the wise men and the shepherds on their way

We think of Christmas times we've spend with those for whom we care
Of cards and presents and the Christmas food we love to share,
This year it might be different but the feeling is still clear
If our dear ones can't be round us we'll still know their love surrounds us
and we'll celebrate this Christmas come what may.
Even in the darkest days, still the Christmas message stays,
and we'll feel – it – shi-ning- through
Ev'ry Christmas bell that rings, ev'ry carol that we sing
Are the things- to -get -us -through
So happy Christ-mas-time-to-you.