



Headteacher Newsletter December 2024

Dear pupils and parents,

What a fun-filled, action-packed half term we've all had! As we near the end of term, we want to say a huge 'thank you' to all our parents and extended families who go above and beyond to support our school community- we really do appreciate it. The children have impressed us all by working very hard so far this year and it is nearly time for a well-earned rest for all.

Here is a reminder of some upcoming events:

Tuesday 17 th Dec	Junior Christmas party
Wednesday 18 th Dec	Christmas dinner
Thursday 19 th Dec	Bamford Christmas Panto 9.30am and 6pm @ St John's Church
Friday 20 th Dec	Last day in school - End of Term 3.30pm finish for all (NO HOMEWORK CLUB)
Monday 6 th Jan	Back to school for all
Thursday 9 th Jan	Year5/6 basketball @HVC
Thursday 23 rd Jan	Year 5/6 sports hall athletics @HVC

Inset days • Fri 14th Feb 2025 • Fri 23rd May 2025 • Thurs 24th July 2025

Bamford Christmas Panto

The children are extremely excited to share their panto performance with you soon. They have worked very hard to learn their lines and the songs and we are all looking forward to seeing you there. Please note that the running time is slightly longer than we are used to – we anticipate that it will run for approximately 1.5hrs but we hope you won't notice as you will be too wrapped up in all the pantomime 'booing' and cheering!

The Team here, wish to thank the parents for helping to make props and organise costumes. It has been of huge benefit and we can't wait to share the performance with you all.

Staffing

At the end of this term we say 'goodbye' to two members of staff in Oak – Mrs Maddock and Mrs Harding. Both will be missed by the team here and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Sadly, Kath Fathers, our midday supervisor, has also left the team. She has taken early retirement due to ill health. The children will miss Nana Kath at lunchtimes. We have really enjoyed working with Kath and we wish her all the best.

After School Clubs

It is increasingly difficult to identify faces across a dark playground. It would help us greatly if parents would come onto the school premises to collect children rather than waiting outside the gate on the road. This enables us to be 100% certain that all our children have been collected by their expected adult. It also allows us to pass on any messages. If you have a dog with you, you are welcome to carry it/wait by the top gate and give us a shout!

Attendance

As part of our commitment to ensuring every child reaches their full potential, we conduct a termly review of attendance. If your child's attendance is below 95% since September (for any reason), you will receive a standard letter this week.



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Why is Attendance Important?

Consistent attendance contributes to academic success, social development, and overall well-being. Every lesson counts, and we want our students to thrive!

If you wish to discuss how we can support your child further, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Chapman or Mrs Gemmell.

School Dinners

It was lovely to see so many parents joining us for lunch earlier this month. We have had lots of positive comments that we'd like to share:

What did you enjoy?

The food and the company!

Welcoming environment, encouraging children's healthy eating, only water no juice is great!

Lovely variety and beautifully cooked.

The salad bar was great. I loved how the children got the chance to choose what they wanted from there. There was also a choice of puddings! How lucky!

I also enjoyed the 'no pressure' nature of dinner time and Emma's welcoming nature with the children.

Seeing what the kids see but don't tell us. Salad bar! Well behaved kids.

Great fry up but really happy to see lots of fresh vegetables and fruit.

While we never had the pleasure of experiencing Mrs. Mason's efforts, it was clear that she was going to be a Very Hard Act To Follow, but as far as we can see Emma is doing that brilliantly, a thoroughly worthy successor. Well done her! We told her so, of course, but do please tell her again. She should be rightly proud of what she's doing. Great food... There was also the hugely beneficial for us collateral benefit of seeing what goes on "from the inside" (about which we (we imagine like most parents) get told very little on a day-to-day basis by our small person), seeing how these small persons react to each other in the school context, enabling us to feel much more "bound in" to and in touch with what's happening at school than we were before and, I think making us even more grateful than we were before for what we have at BPS.

Thank you again for welcoming parents in and to Emma. Lunch was delicious and it was so lovely to see how much the kids Really enjoy their school lunches in a calm and welcoming environment. Thank you X

The whole experience was brilliant, as I have said in a separate e-mail to Mrs. Gemmell and Mrs. Stoddart.

It was great, so sweet to see them in their environment and also clearing up nicely 😊😊

We really appreciate these positive comments and we have let Emma in the kitchen know how much you enjoyed your visit. The children really enjoyed the Christmas buffet lunch too. Look out for more theme lunches over the coming months. If you would like your child to trial school dinners, please speak to Mrs Stoddart in the office.

Sept 2025 Intake

If you have a little one who is due to start school in Sept 2025 and you would like to visit then please contact the school office to book an appointment. If you have friends or family with a child due to start school in Sept 2025, please let them know they are welcome to contact us to arrange a tour of our school. Applications can be made via the Council website and they close on 15th January 2025.

Kind regards

Jen Chapman, Deputy Headteacher

Kate Gemmell, Executive Headteacher