



Key Dates for your Diary....

Spring Term Starts:

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Midterm Break:

Mon 15th Feb to Fri 19th Feb 2021

School Closes for the Easter Break:

Fri 26th March 2021

Summer Term Begins:

Monday 12th April 2021

May Day Bank Holiday:

Monday 3rd May 2021

Midterm Break:

Mon 31st May to Fri 4th June 2021

Summer Term ends:

Friday 9th July 2021

All term dates can be found on our website

COVID 19

If your child shows symptoms of COVID 19 in the 48 hours following the close of school and tests positive please report this via either Studybugs or the school email:

office@churchhillinfants.bepschools.org



Message from the Deputy Head

Dear Parent / Carer,

Our newsletter at this time of year is usually packed full of the festive events that have taken place and photos of how the school community has come together in recent months to celebrate, commemorate and support each other. It unfortunately looks quite different and that is because school life has changed quite drastically this academic year in response to the pandemic, which continues to impact on us all. Unfortunately, the events of this year have been tough on pupils, parents and staff and we have all been juggling the difficulties and worries that have come our way. It would be easy to dwell on the negative aspects of COVID but having taken time this term to really reflect on what is important for our pupils, their families and staff I have been truly amazed by the efforts I have seen in such adverse times. I know each and every teacher in school was amazed at the way the pupils handled the return to education in August and they have continued to dazzle us with their fantastic attitudes to learning and desire to do well. They have a tough journey ahead of them this year as they try to 'catch up' on the lost learning and experiences, but we have been so impressed by the enthusiasm they have shown and the progress they have already made. I also have to pay tribute to the amazing staff at Church Hill Infants – staff across the whole school site have worked tirelessly to provide for our pupils and keep the school running when faced with significant staff shortages, social distancing rules and new routines and protocols. It really has been a team effort and I am sure you would join me in thanking every one of them for the vital role they have played.

I have been wowed this term by the teaching and learning that has taken place. The teaching staff re designed our Autumn 1 curriculum to ensure it met the needs of children that have been through such an unusual period of time, whilst giving them a re-newed joy and love of learning. I know that I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent in class and I have seen the staff and children demonstrate our school values over and over again as they journeyed through this term.

Thanks must also be given to you, the parents, who have had to juggle childcare, work commitments and other pressures during this time. We understand that it has not been easy to navigate home schooling, seesaw and Microsoft Teams and we appreciate your patience and continued support now and moving forward as we are unsure what the next few months will hold.

Finally, the whole school staff and Governors would like to wish you all a very peaceful, relaxing, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Mrs Elliott



Children In Need

This year, we supported Children in Need by wearing spots and being 'Spotastic'.

Thank you for your online donations for this worthwhile cause - in total we raised a massive **£154!!**



Remembrance Service

This year we held our service in the school grounds where a two minute silence was observed to remember those who gave their lives in conflict, with Mrs Parker-Bates playing the last post.

We were very proud of all the children who showed the upmost respect.



School Kitchen



A huge thank you must also go out to our Kitchen team and all of our lunchtime staff who have continued, in these challenging circumstances, to provide our children with a delicious, nutritious meal each day.

Christmas Dinner!

Most recently the children and staff have enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner. It was yummy, and as you can see from the pictures it went down a storm with all the children!



Free School Meals & the Pupil Premium

Whilst all our children receive a free school meal, it is still important to apply for "Free School Meals" through the Leicestershire County Council if you are entitled to do so, as this enables our school to vital "Pupil Premium" funding.

Pupil Premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England to raise attainment. For more information on how we spend our Pupil Premium allocation and the impact it has please see our website.

If your child is entitled to a "Free School Meal" we will support them further by providing a **uniform package, free milk after your child's 5th birthday and subsidised trips and clubs.**

To register your child for "Free School Meals" please either contact the school office for an application form or call School Food Support Service on 0116 3056588. Applying and registering for FSM is always confidential.



PTA



A big thank you to Mrs Wickins for being very resourceful in raising funds during the Autumn Term by arranging two very successful raffles with some amazing prizes which have raised a total of **£358!**

Mrs Wickins is always looking for other parents who could support with school events and fundraising. If you would like to get involved with the PTA or would like some further information, please email:

ptachurchhillinfantschool@gmail.com



Weather



With the upcoming cold spell of weather, we will announce closures by text, our website www.churchhillinfants.co.uk and on twitter. Please make sure that the school has a record of your **CURRENT** mobile number so that you can benefit from this service.

Can we also remind parents and carers to bring their children in suitable outdoor clothes, i.e. warm coats, hats, gloves and wellies.



School Admissions

Reminder: You must apply for your child to have a school place if they will be starting school for the first time in September 2021 or are leaving us at the end of year 2 to move to the Junior School.

- If your child will be four years old before 1st September 2021 and starting school for the first time the closing date for applications is **15th January 2021**.
- If your child is transferring from infant to junior school the closing date for applications is also **15th January 2021**.

To apply for your child's place, apply online at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions

For more information, **contact:** School Admissions on 0116 305 6684 or email:

admissions@leics.gov.uk



Staff Updates

We would like to wish Mrs Dickens all the very best as she awaits the arrival of her little bundle.



A warm welcome goes out to Mrs Cairns who is covering for Mrs Dickens whilst she is on maternity leave.

And finally...

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**