



Church Hill Infant School

20th December 2020

www.churchhillinfants.bepschools.org

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Tel.: 0116 269 2083

 @CHISThurmaston

Key Dates for your Diary....

Spring Term Starts:

Thursday 6th January 2022

Midterm Break:

Mon 14th Feb to Fri 18th Feb 2022

School Closes for the Easter Break:

Fri 8th April 2022

Summer Term Begins:

Monday 12th April 2022

May Day Bank Holiday:

Monday 2nd May 2022

Midterm Break:

Mon 30th May to Fri 3rd June 2022

Summer Term ends:

Thursday 7th July 2022

—please note this a change to the original date due to the Queens

Jubilee

All term dates can be found on our website

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### COVID 19

**Please do keep us informed of any symptoms and test results. If during the Christmas Break or before the**



## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer,

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of this long and tiring Autumn Term! It seems such a long time ago that we welcomed Year 1 and 2 back to school and saw our newest pupils joins us in Foundation Stage. I know that the whole school staff have been impressed with the way the children have settled and the fantastic learning attitudes and behaviours they have shown.

I often walk around the school to say good morning but also to see what children are learning. I could not be prouder of what I have seen from staff and pupils this term:

- independence and perseverance from children
- Pupils busy listening and learning
- Enthusiastic and exciting teaching
- Engaging work and topics
- Children that are happy to talk about and show me their work

Please make sure that you take a look at the Medium Term Plans that each year group will be sharing with you soon, these will indicate the learning for the Spring Term and we would like to remind you that we are still using seesaw to share class news and updates so please check in regularly.

We have been pleased with the amount of parents that have signed up to the Arbor App—this is going to be our method of communication and we will send out letters and updates regularly—this may be through in app messages or email depending on the message content. Please do take time to read the letters fully so that you are well informed of school events and news.

I would like to give the following thanks to the teams working at CHIS: to the teachers and teaching assistants who strive for the best for children's academic but also personal, social and emotional development, to the Office staff who have worked tirelessly through this busy and complex Christmas period, the premises team who have kept the school clean and helped to keep COVID cases low, and the kitchen and lunchtime staff who have ensured the children eat well as part of our healthy lifestyle beliefs.

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*



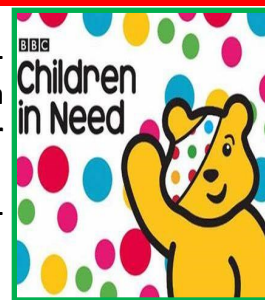
Teaching School Alliance

## Children In Need



This year, we supported Children in Need by wearing spots or stripes. Children enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities and helped to raise money for a fantastic cause.

Thank you once again for your generous donations—in total we raised a massive £172!!



## Remembrance Service

This year we reflected on the sacrifice of others during war and conflict in a variety of ways. Children learnt about remembrance in Year Group Assemblies. We held our service in the school grounds where we played 'The Last Post' and had a two minute silence / period of reflection.

We were very proud of our Year 1 and Year 2 School Council members who represented the school at the Thurmaston Memorial Service. They were a credit to the school and really demonstrated Church Hill standards.



## School Kitchen



Our kitchen team of Mrs Hunt, Mrs Vials and Mrs Gessey are always aiming high with the meals we offer and they have some exciting ideas for some themed days to allow children the opportunity to experience different foods (more information to follow shortly).

The children and staff really enjoyed their Christmas Lunch—it was delicious! Thank you again to our catering team.



## 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.

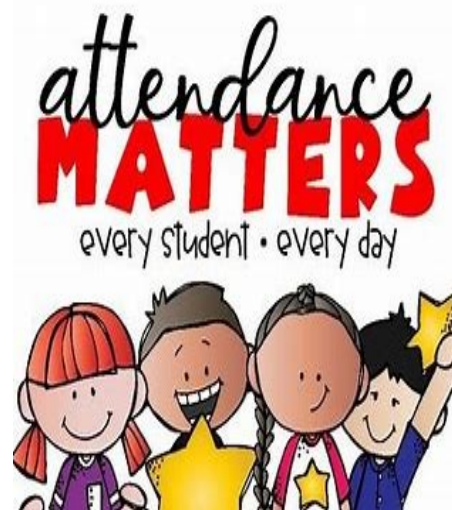
If your child is entitled to a "Free School Meal" we will support them further by providing a **uniform package, free milk after your child's 5th birthday and subsidised trips and clubs.**



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.

## Appointments, Exceptional Leave and Absence

- ♦ Whilst we appreciate that it can be difficult to make appointments in the current climate we would appreciate if appointments could be made outside of the school day. Recently we have had a number of children collected at different times and this can be quite disruptive for the child and the class.
- ♦ Please remember that it is in the school policy that holidays during term time will not be authorised and may be referred to the Local Authority for a fine.
- ♦ If your child needs to be absent for a short period of time due to exceptional circumstances / reasons then parents must complete an Exceptional Leave Request form. Once submitted this form will be reviewed by Mrs Elliott and a decision regarding the request will be sent to you.
- ♦ If your child is absent due to being unwell we would appreciate your support in reporting the absence. This can be done by leaving a phone message or by messaging the school on Arbor.



## Studybugs



The launch of our new communication system, Arbor, has been really successful and we would like to thank you all for your patience as the new system was set up and established.

As this system is now fully in place we will not need to use Studybugs anymore so from the end of this term—December 21st, Studybugs will not be used and staff will no longer check this.

If you experience any technical difficulties with Arbor please call the office and we will endeavour to rectify any issues.

## Christmas Performances

I hope by now you have had chance to view the videos that each year group has created of their Christmas Performances. What a wonderful way to finish the term—the children really enjoyed singing, narrating and dancing.



### Year 1 –Whoops-a-daisy, Angel

The children in WK and BB stunned me with their beautiful singing during their performance. They worked so hard to remember the words and really showed the school value of excellence. I am sure their parents are very proud!

### Year 2—Christmas Carols

It was lovely to hear the children performing not only some traditional carols but also some modern Christmas songs. The narrators spoke so beautifully and confidently—fantastic! Well done to classes LD, OM and CC for spreading some Christmas joy.

### EYFS / Yr 1— It's a baby!

The children looked fantastic in their costumes and impressed us with their confidence! The singing was brilliant and I was truly amazed by the narrators—lots of determination on show when I am sure everyone felt a little nervous.



## EYFS / Yr 1 latest news...

We have had a fabulous first term in Foundation Stage and we are so proud of how much progress all of the children have made. From spending time outdoors on the bikes and scooters to building obstacle courses using planks and crates, we have embraced all that the Autumn weather has thrown at us.

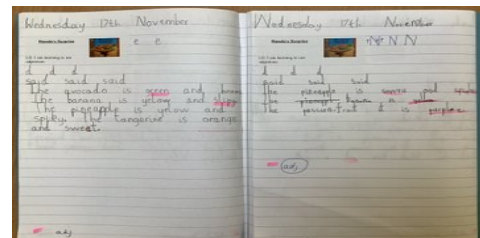


This term we have been learning about traditional tales including Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. We have loved re-enacting the stories in our role play areas and using small world figures to re-tell the story. A great achievement has been how good we have all got at phonics; recognising, blending and segmenting our sounds. We can't wait to see what Term 2 and 3 bring us! *Mrs Creighton*

## Year 1 updates ...



We have had lots of fun learning together in Year 1 this term, and our brains are definitely feeling much bigger! Our highlight has been going out of school to extend our learning. Our walk to visit the Thurmaston War Memorial as part of our Remembrance Day learning helped us to understand why it was important to our local community. It was brilliant to go to the theatre together for our end of term trip to the pantomime - it was SO much fun! (Oh no it wasn't! Oh yes it was!) *Mrs Basigara*



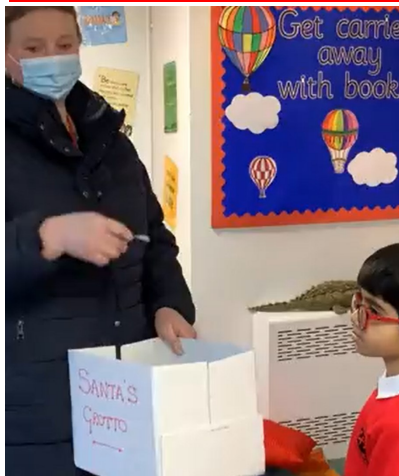
## Year 2 newsflash ...

The Year 2 children had to deal with some naughty elves last week. They had stolen our candy canes and frozen them in ice so we had to work out the best way to get them out! The children were brilliant investigators and also had to demonstrate their creative thinking as they helped the elves get to the top of the Christmas Tree in the afternoon. We have had a fun packed and busy term of learning. *Mrs Lissaman*





## PTA



A big thank you to Mrs Wickins for being very resourceful in raising funds during the Autumn Term by arranging Santa's grotto and the Christmas Raffle.

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

[ptachurchhillinfantschool@gmail.com](mailto:ptachurchhillinfantschool@gmail.com)



## Weather

With the possibility of cold weather spells in the next couple of months, we will announce closures by Arbor message, on our website [www.churchhillinfants.bepschools.org](http://www.churchhillinfants.bepschools.org) and on twitter. Please make sure that the school has a record of your **CURRENT** contact details / email address 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.



## Christmas Panto

### Loughborough Town Halls Performance of Aladdin

We all had a wonderful time visiting the Town Hall to see this years Pantomime Aladdin. The children really demonstrated Church Hill standards—they behaved so well and were all mesmerised by the staging, lights and singing!

The cast and crew did an amazing job of bringing the story to the stage.



## Staff Updates



Mrs Broom will not be returning after the Christmas holiday as her maternity leave commences. We would like to wish her all the very best as she awaits the arrival of her new addition to the family. We look forward to hearing the news of baby Brooms arrival.

Mrs Basigara will be teaching full time until February half term covering Mrs Broom's days. Further information about cover for the rest of the year will be shared in due course.

## And finally...

