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It's always exciting to be in a primary school at Christmas time and this year there is a real Christmas feeling in our school! The children are getting excited as they continue to prepare for their Christmas performances and the sound of singing in the school is a real delight! I was in a reception class earlier this week, and the children were listening to the teacher read a story. They were completely engrossed and totally 'in the moment', so much so that when Santa made a surprise appearance halfway through the story, the children all burst into spontaneous applause and I heard delighted shrieks of "It's Santa! It's Santa!" It was a real magic moment in that classroom and a lovely reminder of just what an exciting time Christmas is for the children.

We have lots of events planned for the next couple of weeks of term. We try to keep Facebook, Twitter and the website up to date with all of our events and also I have listed them at the end of the newsletter for you. Please join us if you can for the events. Some will need tickets so please contact the office if you are unsure.

I hope to see many of you in school over the next couple of weeks, if not I'll see you around school at the start and end of the day. It's been great talking to you this term and getting to know you. I have appreciated the honest feedback from many of you. We do always take views into consideration and try to explain the reasons behind our decisions but it is difficult to please everyone all the time, but please be assured we do our best!

Great news too...Brooklands raised £216 for the Royal British legion through the sale of poppies. Well done everyone!

Finally for this month, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Ms Ceri Hathaway



Christmas Jumper Day – Text Santa: You might have seen the publicity for this on ITV already. It's a national event and we have decided that it would be good for Brooklands to be part of it. On Friday 18th December, children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school if they have one. If not, they can decorate their own clothes with baubles or tinsel or decorations. We ask for a £1 donation for this so that we can send in a donation from Brooklands. 100% of your donations will be shared equally amongst Macmillan Cancer Support, Make-A-Wish® UK and Save the Children, going directly to support vital work both in the UK and abroad. More details can be found at www.itv.com/textsanta Of course this event is optional, and children who do not wish to participate may wear uniform as normal.

School Photographer: Many thanks for all of year feedback regarding the school photographs a couple of weeks ago. I am sorry that some of you were unhappy with the photos. We have taken this feedback on board and have passed on feedback to the photographers too. We are looking into the possibility of using a different company next time.





New School Logo: The children may have mentioned to you that in January we will be launching a new school logo. We had an exciting unveiling of it in assembly and the children all seemed to like it. Our school motto is 'where everyone shines' and we wanted our logo to reflect this and the fact that we are all a team together. You will see it more and more after it is launched in the New Year. The school council have also asked about whether we can renew and redesign our school uniform. In the New Year, we will be asking for your views as parents to see what we can do to update the uniform. Look out on Facebook and Twitter for announcements regarding that.

Christmas Fair: Thank you, on behalf of the PTA to all of you who attended our Christmas Fair last week. It was a resounding success and we managed to raise £500 for the school. We will shortly be ordering some electronic tablets with money raised by the PTA so thank you all for your generous contributions. Thanks also to all the parents and staff who worked so hard to make this event such a great success. There are plans for more PTA events over the coming months so please look out for these via our usual channels of communication.



Snow Plan & Inclement weather: We are enjoying unseasonably mild weather at the moment, but we can never tell when the weather is going to change. With this in mind, we have written guidance for parents on what to do if the weather is bad, or if there is snow. Details of this can be found on our website at www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk. The link is <http://www.brooklands.derbyshire.sch.uk/information/policies-procedures> Look under the tab of snow and bad weather. The information has been recently updated.

We do try to keep all our methods of communication updated. **Please ensure all your contact details are up to date** with the office as we regularly send out texts to parents as we realise not everyone uses Twitter and Facebook. We also aim to keep the school website up to date.

As well as the normal dates for your dairy please see the additional Christmas Dates:

Christmas Events:

- ▲ **Tuesday 8th December** - Key Stage 1 afternoon Performance to Parents – 2.00pm (Tickets needed in advance)
- ▲ **Tuesday 8th December** – Music evening – 5.30pm (Tickets needed in advance)
- ▲ **Wednesday 9th December** – School Christmas lunch
- ▲ **Thursday 10th December** – Key Stage 1 evening performance to parents – 5.45pm (Tickets needed in advance)
- ▲ **Monday 14th December** – Nursery Party
- ▲ **Tuesday 15th December** – Reception Performances for Parents: 9.45am for Mrs Thompson's Class' parents. 1.45pm for Miss Plumb's class' parents. Year 4 Party.
- ▲ **Wednesday 16th December** – Reception Party & Year 5 Party
- ▲ **Thursday 17th December** – Nursery Sing-a-long 9.30am & 1.15pm. Year 3 and Key Stage 1 Party
- ▲ **Friday 18th December** - Christmas Jumper Day & Year 6 party. End of term 3.15pm
- ▲ **Monday 4th January** – INSET day – School closed to pupils
- ▲ **Tuesday 5th January** – Children return to school.