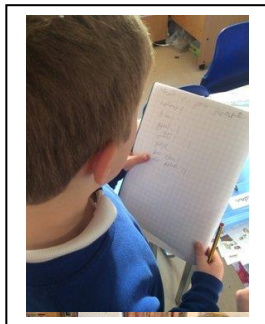




**Billingshurst Primary School**  
**Headteacher : Helen Williamson BSc (Hons) MA**  
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**Newsletter No.13**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parents / Carers



**House Cup**

Well done to Petworth who won the House Points Cup.

**Christmas Events**

Next week children will be watching the pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, having Christmas Lunch on Wednesday and having Christmas Parties on Thursday. On Thursday, children can wear their Christmas party type clothes such as jumpers, tinsel, a Christmas hat to school for the whole day.

**Inset Day**

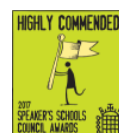
This week, the Department for Education gave schools the option to close for an Inset day on 18<sup>th</sup> December to ensure that the period of time that we are on call to operate the contact and trace needed if there is a confirmed case would be limited to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December not Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. We have not taken this option and the school is open until the end of the day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We do have an Inset day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and have already let you know this.

**COVID and the holidays**

We will be on call up until the 24<sup>th</sup> December to identify close contacts and bubbles of the need to self-isolate in the event of a confirmed COVID case after the end of term. If a case was confirmed, I would contact parents of all those who need to isolate by email with a letter. I would inform all other parents by email with another letter to explain what was happening. These letters would be supported by Public Health England. If you are required to isolate, you must do so, even if it is over the Christmas period.

In order to minimise the risk of this we need to carry on doing what we have been doing and to be as vigilant as possible. That is why we are not allowing children to share Christmas cards, or birthday sweets, to run clubs or mix bubbles in the class productions. We need you to support us by continuing to bring your children to school at the correct time, not send in Christmas cards or gifts for other children to school. Most importantly DO NOT send your children in with COVID symptoms. You may ruin a large number of people's Christmases and put lives at risk.

If any child tests positive at any time, please email the school's COVID email [covid19@billingshurstprimary.org.uk](mailto:covid19@billingshurstprimary.org.uk) This email is regularly monitored.



Please make sure that you follow guidelines for a safe Christmas and ensure that you help us keep everyone safe when the children return to school in January. Stick to the three households as a maximum over Christmas and reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We have been very, very lucky in that no children have had to be sent home because of a confirmed case in the school. The school has remained open for all children all term. We know there is a bit of luck in this but we also know that it is because we have been doing the right things in school to keep our children, staff and families safe. We need you to continue to do your bit over the holiday period to reduce the risk of having to close part or all of the school in January. We are all responsible and our actions have consequences for ourselves and others. I am sure you have all appreciated the school being fully open and not having to manage remote learning – let us make sure that this continues this and next term. Thank you to the vast majority of you who are so vigilant, careful and supportive in helping the school stay safe.

### **Important information on Free School Meal arrangements over the holidays**

In November, the government announced extra targeted financial support for those in need over the winter period. The support is designed to provide direct assistance to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals and covers the period from early December 2020 until the end of March 2021. WSCC is keen to ensure that a significant portion of the funding is utilised to support children and families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) over the Christmas Holiday and February half term.

*FSM-eligible families will be entitled to a £15 voucher per child, per week and will be contacted directly about how to claim this voucher.*

Those children and families that are not eligible for free school meals will be able to access support for food and essentials, should they be required, via the WSCC Community Hub. The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 08:00 am – 20:00 pm 7 days a week and will be operational throughout the Christmas holiday period. More information can be found online via the West Sussex County Council website.



### **BPS News**

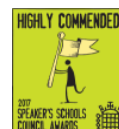
#### **Christmas Trugs raffle**

We are absolutely overwhelmed by the response to the Christmas trugs raffle, we have had a record-breaking year with this fundraising event and it puts us a lot closer to being able to fully renovate the KS1 library. This is an amazing result in such a difficult year. We can't wait to share the final total raised with you next week after it has been checked and verified.

A big well done to Nepal class who were named winners of the best trug, with Russia class and Wales class in second and third places. Nepal class will receive £50 to spend on a class treat in the future.

Huge congratulations to all 21 lucky Christmas trug winners and the winners of the Apple 4 series watch and Playstation 4 FIFA bundle. We are sure these will all be enjoyed massively over the Christmas break.

Your support of the trug for Crawley Open House has again been very much appreciated and they will be receiving their delivery tomorrow.





Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

*Helen Williamson*

Helen Williamson  
Headteacher

## **Letters Home This Week**

Year 6 – Blackland Farm Letter

## **Dates for Diary**

**Autumn Term -** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
**Half Term -** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Spring Term -** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021  
**Half Term -** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**INSET Day -** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Summer Term -** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021  
**Half Term -** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**INSET Day -** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**16<sup>th</sup> December -** Christmas Lunch

**17<sup>th</sup> December -** Christmas Jumper / Christmas Clothes Day