



Bentfield Primary School

**Christmas
Issue**

**Thursday 18th
December**

Messages from Mr Rogers

As we reach the final week of term, it is clear that everyone in school is well and truly in the throes of Christmas. The festive spirit has been evident everywhere, from the many Christmas parties and classroom activities to the wonderful performances that have taken place. I would like to congratulate Pine and Birch Classes (Years 1 and 2), as well as Apple and Cherry Classes (Nursery and Reception), for their brilliant nativity productions, which were enjoyed by all who attended and showcased the children's incredible confidence, enthusiasm, and wonderful singing, signing and acting. In other events, a huge thank you goes to our PTA for kindly organising the snow globe making activity, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. At the time of writing, there is still much to look forward to with Elfridges, our Christmas dinner, and the Christmas Fair and Carol Concert taking place before we break up.

Alongside the festive celebrations, this term has been packed with a wide range of enriching activities and events, and it has been most pleasing to reflect on all that has happened. Year 5 successfully completed their Bikeability training, developing a crucial understanding of how to cycle safely on the road, and also enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Stansted Aerozone. Year 2 stepped back in time with their visit to Stansted Mountfitchet Castle, bringing their history learning to life. Reception and Nursery children were enthralled by the visiting owl display, and the accompanying photographs were a lovely way to capture this memorable experience. Year 4 embraced challenge and teamwork during their outdoor and adventurous activities at Cheshunt Young Mariners, while Years 5 and 6 both took part in highly successful residential trips, which helped to build independence, resilience and lasting memories. These experiences are an invaluable part of our curriculum and would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and the support of families.

Haaniyah's Bench and Cherry Tree

Following our happiness day in July in memory of Haaniyah, we have now purchased the cherry blossom tree and bench and these are now in place next to the outdoor classroom. Year 6, tied pink ribbons around the tree and the bench as a way of displaying their individual memories and we look forward to the bench being used and the tree growing and blossoming as we reach the warmer months of next year. We hope this will provide a happy space to reflect the joy that Haaniyah brought to Bentfield. The remaining money will now be donated to Grove Cottage Nursery where Haaniyah enjoyed spending time.

**THANK
YOU!**

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our whole school community for your continued generosity and support. From my request earlier in the term, the donations we received to put towards purchasing consumable resources for science and design technology have been hugely appreciated and will directly enhance learning experiences for our children. Thank you also to everyone who has supported fundraising efforts throughout the term, especially our Children in Need and Save the Children Christmas jumper/non-uniform days, which raised over a combined £400. I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has helped put up Christmas decorations and lights, in particular Chris and Phil, who added the very impressive run of lights on the fences at the front of school. Finally, an extra special thank you must go to our amazing group of Reception class parents, who gave their time and energy to tidy, clean, sweep up and remove leaves and jet wash the Reception playground and equipment. Your hard work has made a real difference and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Finally, I'd like to say a massive congratulations to Tracy Thompson who has recently received a Community Achievement Award from Uttlesford District Council for her dedication in organising our annual Music in the Park event. For nearly a decade, Tracy has worked tirelessly to put on this fabulous event, which is not only enjoyed by so many families, but also raises an incredible amount of money to support our school. The months of work involved beforehand, as well as on the actual day of the event, is huge and it is most pleasing that she has been recognised for her amazing commitment. Well done from us all!

Farewell

Sadly, we say goodbye to one of our amazing LSAs, Liz Graham, who has worked at our school in this role for over six years (and previously as an MDA). We'd like to say a huge thank you for all you have done and wish you every success in the future.



School Choir News

Our school choir this year will be taking part in Young Voices at the O2 Arena in February. They have been working very hard to learn all of the songs alongside some Christmas songs. On 5th December, they visited the memory cafe at touchpoint to perform some Christmas and Young Voices songs. On 10th December, they then were invited to sing at Stansted Airport Railway station. They did a fantastic job, giving some Christmas cheer at touchpoint and at the station. We'd like to say a huge thank you to Touchpoint and the staff at the station for making us feel so welcome and giving us some goodies. We also managed to raise £123.94 towards the cost of the coach to Young Voices! Well done to everyone in the choir for all of their hard work.



Sports News

This term has seen a plethora of sporting achievements, not only in excellent finishing positions, but also in participation, where at many competitions

Bentfield have put in more teams than other local schools.



This term we have: taken part in the Uttlesford year 5/6 girls and boys football competitions; has teddy bear runs in school for reception, year 1 and 2; finished 2nd in the Stansted tag rugby tournament; had all teams qualify for the Uttlesford finals in cross country; had 2 teams from year 5/6 and 1 from year 3/4 through to the dodgeball finals; and 2 year 5/6 along with 2 year 3/4 teams qualify for the archery Uttlesford finals. A huge congratulations to Oscar, Josh and Annabelle who picked up individual medals in the cross-country and especially to Mia who picked up the gold! Our dodgeball and tag rugby teams took part in the Uttlesford finals this term, representing our school brilliantly. A special mention goes to the tag rugby team who finished 2nd out of the all teams in Uttlesford, narrowly missing out on first place by try difference only - a fantastic achievement! As well as all of the in person tournaments, from reception up to year 6, the children took part in the 'virtual challenges' where they did events at school and then results were sent off to be compared against other schools. Well done to the bronze medal winners: Ellie, Aurelia and Freddie; the silver medal winners: Lottie, Maita, Jessie, Daisy and Myles; and the gold medal winners: Ruby, Georgi, Jade, Louis, Ryver and Isaac. We'd like to thank all of the parents who have supported with lifts over the term for making it possible for so many children to take part in these events.



For all sports news at our school, including team photos, please see the [sports news](#) section on our school website.

Dates For your Diary

DECEMBER

Friday 19th	Last day of Autumn Term - All pupils finish at 1:30pm
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JANUARY

Monday 5th	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 6th	First Day of Spring Term
Monday 12th	Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Measurements
Thursday 15th	Closing Date for Reception Pupil applications for Sept 2026
Friday 16th	Swimming Gala

FEBRUARY

WC 16th	Half Term Holiday - Normal 3:20pm finish time on Friday 13th
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Class Emails for Bentfield

Apple Class - Nursery	apple@bentfield.essex.sch.uk	Chestnut Class - Year 3	chestnut@bentfield.essex.sch.uk
Cherry Class - Reception	cherry@bentfield.essex.sch.uk	Willow Class - Year 4	willow@bentfield.essex.sch.uk
Pine Class - Year 1	pine@bentfield.essex.sch.uk	Maple Class - Year 5	maple@bentfield.essex.sch.uk
Birch Class - Year 2	birch@bentfield.essex.sch.uk	Oak Class - Year 6	oak@bentfield.essex.sch.uk