

## Welcome:

Just when you begin to feel the gradual return to normality, other obstacles seem



to be thrown in your pathway. If it is not new variants of COVID-19 causing us to return to slightly stricter routines inside school, it is a very heavy (if not totally unexpected) fall of snow. Thankfully, the Christmas Fair was able to go ahead and in some ways the atmosphere was enhanced by the arrival of wintery weather.

Please do continue to bear with us as we re-arrange any affected events and we will need to send out various communications to different groups. We will always use teachers2parents as our main form of communication for emails and texts - some parents have commented that they find it easier NOT to use the App for this service.

In the run up to Christmas, we are working hard to ensure that all the children enjoy this magical time of year at school, please keep an eye on our social media posts for updates on activities that the children have been getting up to.

## EPTFA:

A massive thank you to all the EPTFA committee, volunteers, bakers and helping hands as well as everyone who came to support a



fantastic Christmas Fair on Saturday 27th November. The snowfall the previous day merely added to the festive atmosphere and we were so pleased that so many people took the opportunity for a snowy walk to come and support the work of the EPTFA and get themselves a gift or two, enjoy a cake and cup of tea or meet Santa himself - who was quite accustomed to these conditions! Initial estimates expect takings to be around £5000 which will go towards enhancing the experience of all children at EPS including funds towards a Christmas gift for each classroom as well as bigger projects such as playground improvements.



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## Football:

Our football season has started very well with success for all teams who have competed so far. The Y5 Boys played very well to come away from their league matches undefeated in 5 games with 4 wins



and a draw. They also managed to keep a clean sheet in every game - well done. The Y6 football team were knocked out of their tournament in the quarter finals having played some excellent, strong football, they just could not quite finish off what turned out to be their last match against Norton Free. Y3 & Y4 boys played in a round-robin tournament organised by Points Network, displaying some promising skills and teamwork. We look forward to cheering on the girls teams as their seasons start both indoor and outdoor over the next few weeks. Thanks to Mr Fretter and Mrs Evans for taking the teams as well as Jonathan Windle who volunteers his time to support our school football teams.

## Healthy Minds Champions

We would like to introduce you to our new Healthy Minds Champions who are working with Mrs Ramsey and our Education Mental Health Care Practitioner, Jacqui Wright to promote well-being across school. As a team our Champions meet weekly to generate ideas on how to support everyone to look after their mental health and emotional wellbeing. We will be gathering ideas from pupils across school and planning activities to further enhance well-being. Thank you to all those children who put their name forward to be a Champion; we were incredibly impressed with your ideas.



## Reading:

Reading is currently one of our whole school priorities, ensuring that we are doing everything we can so that every child develops a life long love of reading. Y4 took the opportunity to meet the renowned author, Jacqueline Wilson (virtually) who talked about her new book, *The Primrose Railway Children*, which is inspired by E. Nesbit's *The Railway Children*. She also gave tips for writing and talked about the importance of reading as often as possible.



We are also trying to increase the range of books that we have available for children to read and as part of our drive to promote diversity we have purchased a range of diverse and inclusive books to enhance our classroom libraries. These texts represent characters that are traditionally under-represented in children's books.

Themes include different types of families, physical disabilities, BAME main characters, real life heroes and medical conditions. We can't wait to start sharing them!



## Parental Survey:

Many thanks to everyone who completed the parent survey which ran throughout November. We will be discussing the results with our governors later on this term and look forward to communicating any changes as a result of this survey. We are delighted that a huge 99% of respondents reported that their child/children were happy at school and 96% consider that the children are well-taught.

## Snowflake Appeal:



As so often, we were totally overawed with the generosity of the EPS families. We have supported the Children's Hospital Snowflake Appeal for the last

4 years and this year we asked children to decorate a snowflake as well as reflect and ask questions of any times that they have needed the services of the Children's Hospital. A film featuring your snowflakes can be found [here](#). The total so far stands at a massive £1000 but there is still time to give - please visit our [Just Giving](#) page. Our display in the hall is already sparkling and we are looking forward to seeing the EPS snowflake shining brightly on the wall of the Hospital throughout the Christmas Season.

166%

£1,000

raised of £600 target  
by 71 supporters

## SEND Update:

Each month we plan to include in the newsletter a 'SEND Update' section, to update parents/carers on information relating to special educational needs and disabilities.

We put a lot of effort into transition and sharing information, but moving year groups can still be tricky... so in late September Ms Kay (our SEND-co) surveyed over 50% of the KS2 children with special educational needs, we wanted to find out how things are going and what we can do to improve things further. 100% of children spoke highly of their new teacher and the support they get at school. Topic lessons were very popular, and all reported enjoying break times!

This term we are proud to be delivering a wide range of interventions to support learning; from additional reading and phonics support to IDL, and interventions to support social skills from Lego therapy to social groups, as well as providing speech and language interventions needs and support for medical needs.

It is brilliant that external agencies are now up and running 'normally', close collaboration is so important us. This term we have benefitted from visits from speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, the ASD Team, ADHD nurses, secondary school SENCOs, MAST workers, Fusion Learning Support, Rowan Outreach, and 0-5 SEND Team.

## Cross Country:



A record number of runners turned out for cross country at Bradfield school earlier this month and there were some great, individual performances on a long, twisting course in beautiful, clear conditions. Unfortunately, the race at Norfolk Park was cancelled due to snow (first time ever we believe). Next race will be Saturday 22nd January @ Brunswick School.

## Coming Up: December 2021

**Fri 3:** Y2 Lions Santa Run activities @ Graves leisure

**Fri 3:** Y5 & Y6 visit from Paul Sturgess

Wk beginning **Mon 6:** Outside singing performances

**Mon 6:** Fire Engine visit EYFS, Y1 & Y2

**Mon 6:** Y6 Football Tournament

**Fri 10:** Modeshift Stars Platinum Award Party Day

**Tues 14:** Y5/Y6 Girls' Futsal Tournament @ EIS

**Fri 17:** Dress As You Please - End of Term

**Tues 4 January 2022:** INSET - school closed to pupils

**Wed 5:** Return to School

<https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/calendar/>