

# BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



*If children are happy, they will achieve!*

## Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

It has been so wonderful to see so many parents and family members in school over the last couple of weeks to attend Wow events. The children thoroughly love letting you into 'their world of learning' and we love seeing you all working with the children. Children, staff and parents have all given such positive feedback, and the rooms have been filled with Christmas cheer and glitter! We will definitely keep this events as a regular item throughout the year. Thank you all for making these events such a huge success

A huge thanks to the team from Air Bus who worked with us this Monday and Tuesday for our STEM workshops. The children were able to show off all of their knowledge about how planes stay in the air. The highlight of the visit was when they got to programme Spheros (robotic spheres). They were given the challenge of having to move the Sphero around a runway, collecting baggage, fuel etc. before taking off. The Spheros were a big hit and may become a late addition to Christmas Lists! Fantastic learning, and we will definitely be working with Air Bus again.

And the winner is **BLUE!!** Well done to the children in **Scott** who are this terms Treat Day winners and who will spend Friday morning with the Acro Team! The children in Scott will need to come to school on Friday dressed in comfortable sports gear ready for a fun filled morning of acrobatics and gymnastics. Please bring in uniform to change into afterwards.

The voting has begun for the best dressed Christmas tree competition at Mole Country Stores; the prize is a £50 voucher to spend in the store. If we win, we will be using the voucher to buy timber to improve the Reception outside area. So if you visit the store, please remember to vote for our rainbow tree! Thank you.

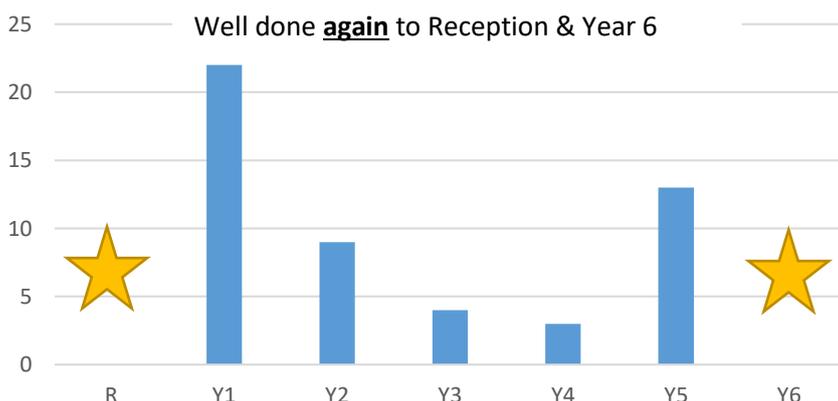
### Weekly Certificates

YR- Indie  
Y1 – Star & Jack  
Y2 - George  
Y3 – Harry  
Y4 - Scarlett  
Y5 - Noah  
Y6 – Lottie St

### Prefect Certificates

Y2 - Maddie  
Y6 – Finley

Number of lates this term



### Reading Awards

YR – Charlie  
Y1 – Alfie S  
Y2 – Alfie Y  
Y3 – Jacob  
Y4 - Alana  
Y5 – Joseph  
Y6 - Finley

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Well...WOW! Last week, we were all blown away by the outstanding performances by the youngest children in our school. The EYFS Nativity was simply glorious, and gave us all the 'Christmas feels' with such a beautiful performance of The Christmas story. Thank you to Nicola for her beautiful guitar-playing throughout, and to all the staff for helping make this such a magical event for all to enjoy, especially the children!

We were then treated to a bespoke performance written by our Musical drama specialist, Miss Buck of 'A winter's walk' where the grumpy badger learned to love life again with help from all the children with their lively performance full of Christmas cheer! I was beaming with pride throughout both productions, marvelling at how confident all the children were. It's not easy standing on that stage in front of so many people, but they nailed it! As I said on the night, watching all your faces watching your children with such pride was a pure joy. They are such a credit to you all, and the school. Thank you to all the staff and parents for helping these productions to go ahead and run so smoothly. I am a very proud Headteacher indeed. Now, to look forward to the magical KS2 Carol concert on Friday 20th December in the church. An event which marks the end of term, and starts the countdown to Christmas for the whole community.



At the end of term, we receive lots of messages of thanks from so many children and families, which is always so well received. Recently, we have received some 'middle of the term' emails and letters of gratitude and positivity about what the school are doing well, and when I shared these with staff, it boosted morale and spread such positivity; it really lifted spirits on a dark, winter's morning. It got me thinking about staff wellbeing. We do lots in school to ensure staff wellbeing is high on the agenda, as this cascades and makes for the happy school we are so proud of. One example of this is that we have 'secret buddy's' in our team who look after each other all year round, not just for Christmas, which is great fun and good for the soul. If you ever wonder why 'Jason Donovan' is in the school office, our secret buddy system is the answer! We also have a kindness arch in our corridor that children and staff use to report random acts of kindness, and children receive kindness points for a healthy wellbeing with class rewards. It made me think about our wellbeing culture further, and a simple way we can extend this out to parents/carers and families. How often do people take the time to give thanks and praise for the things that are going well, whether it's to a friend, a local supermarket, or your child's school? As a society, we will only often make contact if we have a query or a concern. So, with this in mind, I am proposing that we filter the message of kindness we encourage in our children and staff out to the families, with a simple idea, which will have a huge, positive impact! We are going to keep our postbox out all year round for any positive messages you feel the need to share. Kind words go such a long way, and will always be well-received. Thank you!

**NO ACT OF  
KINDNESS,  
NO MATTER HOW  
small  
IS EVER  
WASTED**



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At the start of the academic year, we changed our approach to teaching and learning in maths. We follow a proven method called 'CanDo Maths' because we believe everyone CAN DO MATHS. The principle is to focus on small, incremental steps, to build on maths knowledge and increase our skills, ready to apply in the wider world. The children practise the skill (do it), then reason regarding a misconception (prove it), and finally deepen their learning (use it) by answering open ended questions or problem solving. This is done everyday and builds on the previous days learning. This provides children with the necessary tools to apply mathematical understanding in a range of ways for all abilities. We want our children to leave Berkeley, feeling confident with applying maths in a range of contexts. The children have really responded well to the new approach and have already shown a greater confidence and enjoyment with maths. I have a regular stream of visitors to receive Headteacher's awards, who previously 'hated maths!'. Please see the attached document for some pupil voice to see the impact of these changes. As with all new initiatives, we do this to drive school improvement, and provide the best quality of education for all our learners.



## **Trustee opportunity (voluntary position)**

Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust (CBAT) is currently recruiting two Trustees (Non-Executive Directors). Trustees meet four to six times a year, usually at one of our schools, and are expected to work with the other Trustees to:

- Set the overall strategy of the Trust including overseeing the growth strategy
- Monitor the performance of all academies in the Trust ensuring that school improvement plans are enhancing the quality of education for all students
- Ensure that public funds are used effectively and appropriately.

CBAT is seeking talented individuals who have the ability to work strategically. Applications will be welcomed from individuals with education, public sector, charitable sector or business backgrounds, including from parents of children at any of the Trust's schools. Further information about CBAT can be found on our website at <http://www.cbat.academy/>. What are the benefits of becoming a Trustee? CBAT Trustees find the role challenging, interesting and deeply rewarding because they can see how their work contributes to the well-being and prospects of pupils, academies and communities. It gives them a real opportunity to make a difference. If you might be interested in applying to become Trustee, please contact David Dale, Clerk to the Trustees, email [david.dale@cbat.academy](mailto:david.dale@cbat.academy), for further information. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2020.



Last Friday saw the annual Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children. Everyone looked so festive and it was lovely to see so many Christmas knits! With your support we raised a fantastic £129.05. Thank you! Christmas jumpers are optional for the rest of this week!

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## Upcoming Events

Items **highlighted in blue** are for parental involvement/action. Other items are for information only.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas dinner  |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December   | Treat Day 2 for winning House                             |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December   | KS2 Family Carols around the tree at St.Mary's from 5-6pm |
| <b>Friday 20th December – Last day of the Autumn term</b><br><b>Tuesday 7th January– Children start back for the Spring term</b> |   |
| Monday 6th January   | INSET DAY   |
| Tuesday 7th January  | After school clubs start (6 weeks)                        |



Yours sincerely

Miss Robbins and all the team here at Berkeley Primary