



BEN RHYDDING PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Head Teacher: Mr G Hartford

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we come to the end of 2018 and the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the amazing support and commitment you continue to provide to the school. This is always very welcome and very much appreciated.

The children have had an exciting and busy term in school and have thoroughly enjoyed their learning. During Armistice week we all remembered those who fought for their countries in both WW1 and WW2 as well as the numerous wars that have, and still continue to be fought around the world. Some of our children contributed to the making of a memorial 'Rag Rug' and attended the unveiling of this Rag Rug at the City Library in Bradford. The whole school also observed the two-minute silence on the 11th of the 11th at 11 O'clock. Our assemblies for the week revolved around personal stories, poems and the story of the battlefield poppy.

We still haven't received a figure from the poppy appeal at Ben Rhydding Primary School for the money that we raised for Royal British Legion. However, we would like to thank you for your donations.

I would also like to thank you for your patience and understanding with regards to the school hall ceiling. The collapse of some ceiling tiles could not have happened at a worse time and we without St John's Church, our nativity simply would not have happened. The children and staff put on a brilliant performance and worked so incredibly hard to ensure that the 'Show must go on!' We are all so very proud of them.

So let's see what our classes have been up to this term.....

Reception class had such an exciting time visiting Ilkley Fire Station, this was part of their topic 'People who help us'. A real live 'tip out' happened and the children experienced an emergency happening there and then. I have enjoyed hearing all about it!

Year 1 have been learning all about the Polar Express Story and it's been super exciting to read their descriptive writing of what it's really like to be on the train – their imaginations have been running wild. Next week the children are going to be using a green screen to role play and record getting on and off the real 'Polar Express' – Toot! Toot!.

Year 2 has been all about the Christmas Nativity. They have been working their little socks off learning lines, acting, learning dance routines and more importantly learning all about comedic timing and what a performance it was – I was so proud watching the performance of a lifetime at St Johns Church – thank you to all of you.

Year 3 and Year 4 have turned themselves into fine ferroequinologists (that's people who study trains). They have been researching George Stephenson and his rocket and read all about The Railway Children. They have also designed a model train each to run down its own track and taken part in the exhibition at the Methodist Church building trains from Lego.

Year 5 & Year 6 have been knee deep in paint and cardboard producing the most amazing Anglo Saxon shields and broaches. They have also taken a trip to Leeds City Museum to look at Anglo Saxon Jewellery dating from the 7th to 11th centuries. The hoard of jewellery was once described as one of Leeds biggest ever finds. It has been wonderful. You may want to ask your child about Sutton Hoo.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 have also been enjoying the voluntary services of Mrs Green who has been teaching number and colours as well as verbs in French - Merci beaucoup Madame Vert.

Some of you will have noticed that our **Learning Lodge** outside has been cordoned off for some time. This was due to rotting wood on the floor making it unsafe for the children to use. The repairs were factored in to the schools fundraising plans. However, the reality of fixing it has come far sooner than we had planned and this was due to an anonymous silent donation of £500 donated specifically for the repair of the lodge. Thanks to the volunteer services of Mr Cumberland, Anna Cumberland, Mr Bruce and Mr Hubbard, the lodge is now fully repaired. I would just like to say how much this has been appreciated and a massive thank you!

Let's just stop for a moment and talk about our **amazing PTA**. A huge, huge shout out for the amazing Christmas Fair. I am also enjoying drinking my mug of tea from that was designed and drawn by the office team as part of yet another fundraiser initiative and I am also incredibly impressed with this year's school calendar, simply perfect!

We would also like to thank the **Wheatley Arms** for hosting our Christmas Sing-a-Long. The children yet again were fantastic and the community spirit of our parents is unbeatable. The Wheatley Arms presented us with a cheque for £462.72 which was very much appreciated (and needed) and will go some way to helping us with £1,500.00 costs for a number of school roof repairs.

This term we bid farewell to Mrs Robinson who has been at the school since 2009. Mrs Robinson is taking up a new role outside of the education system. We would like to wish her all the best and thank her for her drive and dedication to her role and the difference she has made to the numerous pupils she has supported throughout the school. We also say goodbye to Mr Lorimer, one of our long standing Local Authority School Governors. Mr Lorimer has been a Governor at the school for over 20 years and we would like to thank him for his contribution and wish him all the best for the future.

On behalf of the Governors and staff I would also like to welcome Mrs Gatenby on to the Governing Body as our new Parent Governor. Mrs Gatenby was successful in applying for this role during the autumn term and we all look forward to working with her in the future.

All that is left for me to say is that I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would like all our students to have a well-earned, fun filled break and hopefully return fully rested and ready for more 'deep and exciting' learning when they return. The Spring Term will begin at (8.00am for those of you who are at Wake Up Shake Up) on Monday 7th January 2019.

Kind regards,



Mr Glen Hartford
Head Teacher