

# Bryn Offa Newsletter

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Today I received one of our normal reports from the Education Welfare Officer, detailing the amount of absence in school. You may imagine that at this time of the year and in the current situation our attendance would be low. However, the Shropshire average for primary schools is 88% and ours is 97.49%, which is just 0.4% lower than the same time last year. This is great to see, and a good reflection on how safe our parents feel we are keeping their children.

One of the interesting things about the attendance in school as well as the overall figure, is that staff feel there is less illness generally in school than in previous years. It is very difficult to know what this is due to, but I like to feel that our increased efforts with hygiene to prevent the spread of Covid has also prevented the spread of milder illnesses. Once the situation with Covid is over, there is a good chance that we will keep some of the current procedures in place, such as hand sanitiser when the children arrive at school. We have used the same hand sanitiser for over five years now and it seems to cause fewer skin problems than other sanitisers.

As we move into the last couple of weeks of term, we move into the time of year when there are more coughs and colds than at any other time. I would ask parents to be even more vigilant than normal with regard to Covid symptoms in any family member. Even if you feel you may know the reason your child has a temperature, they must still be kept off school and tested. The testing procedure seems to be easier and quicker now with many families getting results within 24 hours of the test being done. Postal tests do tend to take longer so I would always advise getting a test done at a test centre if possible to enable the child to return to school as quickly as possible.

## **Lunch menu options**

We have had a few children in school recently becoming upset and saying they do not like what is available on the lunch menu when they order it with the class teachers in the morning and when they come to the hall to eat at lunchtime. To avoid this, it would be really helpful if parents could discuss the menu with their child before they come to school each morning. We do not have other options available so if your child does not like the menu on a particular day, please send them in with a packed lunch.

## **Change of date for Pupil Christmas Lunch**

Due to staffing arrangements in the kitchen, the Christmas Lunch for pupils next week has been moved to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The lunch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> will be chicken bakes and pasta. Normal school uniform should be worn please.

The Christmas Jumper Day for the children will still take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Bryn Offa Christmas Jumper Day- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

This year we are supporting Oswestry Food Bank who are going to be making Christmas hampers for the homeless and families in need.



Instead of bringing in a small monetary donation on this day, we would be really grateful if you could show your support by sending a donation of the following items:

- \* Men's socks (adult sizes)
- \* Household cleaning products
- \* Toiletries and personal cleaning products (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, flannels, face wipes, shower gel etc.)
- \* Pens, notebooks
- \* Children's toys/games
- \* Christmas crackers and serviettes
- \* Gifts for older children/teenagers – cards, headphones, games etc



No second hand items please- all donations should be new and in their original packaging. Please bring your donations into school on or before **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are not able to bring in an item, a small monetary donation would be great! **Normal school uniform should be worn** but the children can wear their favourite festive jumper/home decorated jumper in place of their normal school jumper. Please do not buy a Christmas jumper especially- a home decorated jumper would be fantastic



### **Name the Bryn Offa Reindeer!**

We have had so many fantastic name ideas from the children over the last week. Thank you so much to all the children who have taken part. After much deliberation by staff, we are delighted to announce the winning name for the Bryn Offa reindeer is going to be 'Sylvia' which was submitted by Edith Lewis in Class 1! We will put a photo of Sylvia in our newsletter as soon as she has been fully decorated.



### **Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy**

We are looking to appoint a Lunchtime Supervisor to complete our great lunch team. The position will involve working in the dining hall or outside to ensure the lunchtime at Bryn Offa is safe and enjoyable. The role will include supporting pupils to eat their lunch safely and in play activities. The successful applicant will provide basic first aid for the children (with all training provided). Applicants must be professional and polite in order to provide a good role model for our pupils. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact me at school.

### **Week commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

|                          |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday during school:   | Christmas Lunch for the pupils                                                         |
| Wednesday during school: | Christmas Jumper Day (children to bring in a small item by way of a donation as above) |
| Thursday during school:  | Guitar lessons (pm) Forest School for Class 1 (pm)                                     |

## Bryn Offa Value of the Month- Patience

'Love is patient and kind' Corinthians. 13:4

We need to be patient for Christmas and wait for Santa to bring our presents. God made a beautiful world and we had to be patient for Jesus to be born.  
Olivia Harrison-Jones (Class 3)

Please remember to check the class blogs and class homepages on our website regularly for class updates and photographs!



### Stars of the Week



**Ada Roberts** for being a very mature and responsible member of Class 1! She is always full of fun and an absolute ray of sunshine. Please keep it up Ada, well done!

**Edith Lewis** for always trying her best in class! She works hard and is making excellent progress. Edith is always smiling and is an absolute pleasure to have in Class 1. Well done Edith!

**Sam Farrington** for writing a fantastic letter to Father Christmas this week! He has sounded out some words independently and is making great progress. Well done Sam!

**Mia Oliver** for working so hard this term! This week in her writing she has included lots of interesting descriptions. Keep up the hard work Mia, well done!

**Bodhi Hodson** for being a wonderful character to have in Class 3! He is positive, kind and has a great attitude to learning. Bodhi is working brilliantly, especially in Maths, and is making great progress. Well done Bodhi!

**Olivia Harrison-Jones** for always coming to school with a bright smile and a positive attitude! She brightens Class 3's day with her lovely stories and great sense of humour. Keep up the great work Olivia, well done!

**Stanley Waters** for being a kind, polite and hardworking member of Class 3! He always has his hand up and never gives less than 100%. Stan is also a fantastic guru and always wants to help others. Well done Stan!

**Jack Law** for always challenging himself and throwing himself into every activity with enthusiasm! He is a pleasure to teach. Well done Jack!

**Molly Tuer** for being an absolute pleasure to teach because she always tries her best and challenges herself! She is also an excellent guru to the other children. Well done Molly!

**Elsie Harper** for working incredibly hard throughout this term! The results that Elsie has achieved this week are due to the wonderful effort that she puts into her learning each day. Well done Elsie!

**Megan Ford and Jen Park** for 'catch of the match' in Class 5's cricket PE lessons this week! Well done Megan and Jen!

**Sam Beattie** for the amazing effort that Sam has put in throughout this term! His progress has come as no surprise due to the effort that he puts into his learning, both in school and at home. Keep up the great work Sam, well done!