

Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School

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HEADLINES

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Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas holidays at **3:15 p.m. TOMORROW FRIDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 2018.**

BECC's After School Club will finish as normal on this afternoon.

School will re-open at **8:45 a.m. on MONDAY, 7TH JANUARY 2019**

Lower Junior Production - Last week a large number of parents, carers, family members and guests watched Year 4's production of 'A Centurion in Bethlehem'. The children performed brilliantly and we are very proud of them all. A big thank you to the staff who worked so hard to produce such a super celebration of Christmas.

Christmas Carol Services - It was good to share our Nursery and Infant and our Junior Christmas Services with so many parents, carers and other family members this week. A big thank you to those staff who worked hard to prepare for and arrange our services, especially to Miss Haslam who arranged the Nursery and Infant Service, to Mrs Bell who arranged the Junior Service. The children read and sang beautifully. We also thank Rev'd Simon, Rev'd Tom and Mr Stephen Taylor for the enormous contribution they make to our worship each week, but especially for helping us as we prepared to celebrate Christmas. Thanks also to members of All Hallows Church for their help before and after the Junior service.



Donations to Morafe School - Thanks to the generosity of the audiences at our Christmas Performances, we have been able to send a cheque for £200 to 'Morafe School, our partner school in Blomfontein, South Africa and one of our chosen school charities for this year. This will help to fund a specialist Setswana language teacher who supports the children with their learning in school. **An enormous thank you to everyone** who contributed to our collections.

Reception Admission Forms - Admission forms for children who are old enough to start school in September 2019 **MUST** be returned to the Schools Admission Team from Blackpool Council by **15th January 2019** at the **very latest**. Forms returned after this date will miss the deadline for the allocation of places.

Learning in School - You can find out what the children have been learning about in the Autumn term by viewing the **Bispham Blogs**. Visit the main blog at <http://beps.primaryblogger.co.uk> and you will then be able to find all the class blogs. Do feel free to comment on your child's work and talk about what they have been learning in school. We will be continuing with our blogging in the Spring term. Our blog pages also have links to useful websites that your child may enjoy using over the festive period.

BECCs Session Fees - Please could all outstanding fees for Breakfast and After School Club sessions be paid as soon as possible and before the Christmas holidays. Your child's place is at risk for the spring term if there are any fees owing.



Blackpool Children's University - Mrs Cox reminds the junior children who are members of the Children's University to return their activity forms for this half term once they have been signed by their activity leader. The forms can be returned to the School Library next week or in the first week after the Christmas holidays.



Nursery Places - We currently have some places available in our Nursery for children who are already three years or four years old or who will be three or four before 1st January 2019. We are also able to admit children as soon as they are three years old, as long as they are eligible for the two year old nursery grant. We offer a range of flexible session times which fit in with school hours. Please contact the School Office for further details. Please feel free to make other families in our local community aware of this.

Thank you - To all parents/carers and other family members, especially those whose children attend BECCs Breakfast and After School Clubs, for their support during the time that Electricity North West's contractors were 'digging up' the Council car park next to school. We appreciated your co-operation!!

Attendance and Punctuality News - Each week in assembly our % for attendance and the number of late marks given out in the previous week are shared with the staff and children and our class awards are presented. These are the figures for last week.

School Target for Attendance: 97% **School Target for Punctuality: 0 late marks**

Week ending 14th December: 97.4% attendance 48 late marks (38 children)
(33 children had 1 late mark each)
(1 child had 2 late marks)
(3 children had 3 late marks each)
(1 child had 4 late marks)

Classes with over 97% attendance: RN, 1M, 2J, 3G, 3H, 4E, 4F, 5C, 5D

Classes with over 98% attendance: RN, 2J, 4F, 5C, 5D

Classes with over 99% attendance: 5C, 5D

Classes with late marks		Class RN	2 lates	Class RP	1 late
Class 1L	1 late	Class 1M	8 lates	Class 2J	5 lates
Class 2K	1 late	Class 3G	3 lates	Class 3H	5 lates
Class 4E	5 lates	Class 4F	5 lates	Class 5C	2 lates
Class 5D	1 late	Class 6A	4 lates	Class 6B	5 lates

Best Class for attendance: 5D

Classes with no late marks: None

Last week there were **477 minutes (nearly 8 hours!!!!)** of learning time lost due to lateness and **1 child** had an unauthorised absence mark as they were so late in coming to school. There were **4 days** unauthorised absence due to holidays in school time.

Absence from School - All schools have a Pupil Welfare Officer, employed by the Local Authority, who works to support school in ensuring that children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Our Pupil Welfare Officer, Mr Jeff Chandler, checks our registers each week and works with any families whose children have a high rate of absence or poor punctuality. This half term Mr Chandler has noticed that there are some children who are regularly off for one or two days each week, often just before or just after a weekend. These broken weeks are of concern as it means that the children's education is being regularly disrupted. Mr Chandler will continue to monitor these absences and will be making contact with families where low attendance and/or poor punctuality is of concern.

Mr Chandler also monitors the number of **persistent absentees** we have in school each term; these are children who have 90% or less attendance. We currently have **8 children** whose attendance is less than 85%; **26 children** whose attendance is less than 90% and **72 children** whose attendance is less than 93%.

As previously advised we **are not able to authorise an absence due to illness** for any child whose attendance rate is less than **93%** - i.e. any child who has already had **five days absence since 5th September** (for any reason, including illness and holidays in school time) - without first obtaining medical evidence. Such evidence could be an appointment card for the doctor, the hospital or the walk-in centre, the back of a prescription or a medication bottle/box prescribed by a medical practitioner. If you would like to discuss this matter with Mr Chandler, please contact the School Office to arrange a mutually convenient appointment time.

As we come to the end of another term in school, may I thank everyone for their continued support. We appreciate and value greatly the excellent partnership we have with our parents, carers and families which helps us to achieve our aim of providing a high quality education in a happy school for your child. I also want to say a 'big thank you' to all the staff in school for all that they have done this term. We are very lucky indeed to have such a committed and hardworking team of staff.

On behalf of the children, staff and governors of Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School may I wish you a very, very happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.

Jo Hirst

**Jo Hirst
Headteacher**



Keep up to date with letters sent home, school meals menus and school news on our school website at www.bisphamendowed.co.uk

