

Christmas Newsletter

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time and this is very true in schools. There have been a host of activities going on at Brent Knoll including school trips, pantomimes, school journeys, music performances and shows. It has been good to see so many parents and carers at the events recently including Year 8 Victorian Tea Party, the secondary music performance, parents evening and the primary Christmas performance. Thank you for continuing support. This has also been a notable term in that we are saying goodbye to our headteacher Jon Sharpe who is retiring this Christmas after a long career in special education. There is a message from Jon in this newsletter.

Cyclethon



Children from Brent Knoll took part in a Cyclethon in Mayow Park in November to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care. The event organised by Paul Wilson was a great success. Children were sponsored to complete as many laps of the park as they could do supported by members of Brent Knoll's Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Thanks to the efforts of our children, the generosity of friends and family and the adults who helped organise the event over £1000 was raised for the charity.

Autism Accreditation

As part of the development of the school we are looking to achieve the National Autistic Society charter mark in Autism Accreditation. This award recognises an organisations understanding of and strategies to support young people with autism. It is a prestigious and important award that the school has been working towards for the last two years and it is hoped that the assessment review will take place next summer.

Message from Jon Sharpe

Where have the last 14 years gone and that it is time to start saying goodbyes? As my time as headteacher of Brent Knoll comes to a close I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your kind words, gifts and best wishes as well as all

your support over the years. It has been an absolute privilege to have been headteacher of such a wonderful school as Brent Knoll and to have been able to work in partnership with staff and parents to help create something truly special for our children. I couldn't have imagined over 30 years ago when I began my career as a PE teacher that I would have been able to experience working and leading such an excellent team and to have the opportunities and experiences that I have had. I will always have very fond memories of Brent Knoll which I believe continues to grow from strength to strength. I will be sad to leave friends and colleagues but there is so much of me invested in the school that I will never forget the wonderful experience that it has been. Thank you and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Victorian tea party



8B recently held a Victorian tea party as part of their curriculum studies. Pupils and adults dressed formally for the occasion and invited several distinguished guests including parents. The pupils played their roles to perfection introducing themselves to guests as Lord or Lady so and so and everyone enjoyed the experience.

Christmas Card Competition



Four of our pupils have been presented with prizes in the Chair of Lewisham Council's Christmas card competition. The overall winner of the competition was Lamar Swaby while Treasure Oke, Lily Lawless and Emeka Nwunemelu were all runners up. The four pupils were all invited to the Town Hall to have tea with the Council Chair and to be presented with their prizes and a printed version of the Christmas card.

Parent Governors

There are currently two vacancies for parent governors on the school governing body. The governors meet each half term as well as being closely involved with the school leadership team. If anyone is interested in becoming a school governor Liz Bailey, Chair of Governors, or Cassim Bakharia, Vice Chair, can be contacted through the school office for an informal chat and discussion about the role.

Parking around the school

Could parents/visitors to the school please avoid parking on the double yellow lines and zig-zags around the school. We have received several complaints from neighbours as parking can cause a hazard for pedestrians and we are aware that parking tickets have been issued by wardens. Thank you.

Spring term important dates

Wednesday 4th January – start of new term

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February – half term holiday

Monday 20th March – Easter music concert

Thursday 23rd March – Parents evening

Thursday 30th March – Achievements Assembly and end of term

Friday 31st March – Staff training day