



Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached our final day of this term and so I write to wish you all an enjoyable break, some rest and relaxation and a very happy Christmas. I sincerely hope that you are able to spend time with family and friends.

I don't really want to write once again about how this term hasn't been without its challenges, as of course, we are all too aware of this. Instead, I want to focus on all the positives, and there are so many.

As always, the children have worked extremely hard and enjoyed a range of memorable learning experiences. Senior and middle leaders continue to monitor the children's progress through lesson visits, looking at the children's books and talking to groups of children. We are always so impressed. This kind of monitoring ensures that we are continually evaluating what is working well and where further improvements can be made. It is a pleasure to work with such committed, passionate and hard working staff.

From time to time, in addition to our internal monitoring, we also have external audits on different aspect of the school's work. I am absolutely delighted to inform you about one such audit which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Receiving the recognition, last week, of our excellent safeguarding work and being informed that we have been given a **Platinum Award for Safeguarding** is such great news for Barrow Hedges. **I ask that you read my other letter entitled 'Safeguarding Audit' attached with this ParentMail.**

Later this afternoon, you will be sent **this half term's Hedgelines** and a **separate document with confirmation of the PE days for next term**. Children will continue to come into school wearing their PE kit. As always, please do ensure that your child is dressed in accordance with our Uniform Policy.

It continues to feel strange not to have parents in school and this was certainly the case once again when the Reception and KS1 children went onto the stage for their Christmas performances. As I said last year, the nativity highlights that even when things may seem bleak, if there is ingenuity, then miracles can still happen and once again, the teachers and Mr Pearce, with his talented filming, have put together some super performances. These have been uploaded to Teams for KS1, Tapestry for Nursery and via WeTransfer for Reception (please check your emails) so that parents, grandparents and other family members can enjoy these. It is absolutely imperative that our Acceptable User Agreements are complied with and that these videos are only shared with family and are not placed on any form of social media. This is of the utmost importance for safeguarding reasons. I would also



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like to say a special thank you to Ms Pericloeus, Mr Brooker and all the KS2 teachers for their hard work in putting together four super singing events in our playground, this week and last. It was wonderful to have parents join us outdoors for these and well done again to the children for their lovely singing and poems.

The Reception and Year 1 children enjoyed their Magic Shows on Wednesday afternoon and all the children enjoyed a wonderful Elf Day and we have raised approx. £1300 from this day - thank you to our hard working PTA for organising this lovely event. We have also raised £950 from our Christmas Hamper Raffle. All this money raised goes directly back into school for the benefit of the children. Thank you to parents for your support with these fundraisers. We will obviously be revisiting when our discos can be rescheduled.

At this time of year, we have a charity collection, this year our buckets were out at the KS2 singing events. Thanks to your generous contributions we are sending off approx. £280 to the Royal Marsden.

Miss Holmes, Maple Class Teacher, will be leaving us today as she is moving on to new adventures ahead – she has decided to do missionary work. Mrs Johnson will also be ‘officially’ leaving as a Teaching Assistant, although is continuing to do tutoring and small group work with us as part of our Pupil Premium and Recovery Funding, so we are delighted about that. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to both for their hard work at Barrow Hedges.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for their tireless work this term. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to parents for your support and to our governors for their work and support for our school community.

On behalf of all the staff here at Barrow Hedges, I wish you a peaceful Christmas, but most of all a healthy one. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards,

*Louise wood*

Mrs Louise Wood  
Headteacher

