

12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Lovely Being at Berrywood

Today I have spent my first full day this term at Berrywood with both children and members of staff being present. It has been lovely to be back in an environment I know so well, surrounded by so many familiar and friendly faces. We are, of course, a massive school community, but I am determined to maintain strong relationships and to be very much connected to every aspect of our work throughout this period of secondment. For the remainder of September, I will be in Berrywood for one day a week, with this increasing to two days a week from the beginning of October. Beyond that is still undecided and will depend on circumstances.

I am in daily contact with Mrs. Adams, and it is terrific to see her doing such a phenomenal job of leading the school day-to-day. There is so much involved in running a school like Berrywood, especially as we really do try to go the extra mile in all our provision. I would like to thank Mrs. Adams and the whole team for so positively making the adjustments that have been necessary this term. Obviously, I really hope your new school year experiences as parents have been problem-free and positive too. Please do talk to us if this is not the case, and we will endeavour to work with you to get things back on track... not always easy, but I guarantee we will try..

### Year 5 & 6 Pantomime & Cantata

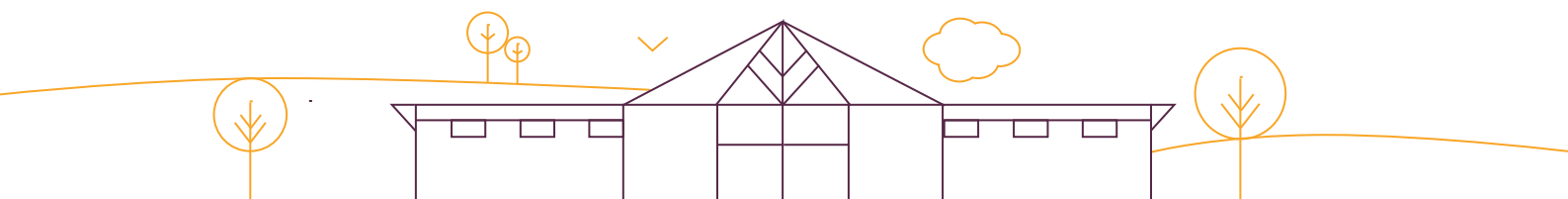
We have had a fantastic level of response from Year 5 and 6 children seeking to join the after-school drama club, who will ultimately go on to perform Berrywood's first pantomime this Christmas. We know this will be a lot of dedicated hard work by children and staff alike, but also a huge amount of fun along the way, which promises to be a new and really quite special experience.

We have also received some parental feedback expressing sadness at the loss of the cantata for Year 5 and 6 children as a result of putting on the pantomime. **We have therefore decided to make *half a U-turn* and reinstate the afternoon (school time) cantata performance for all year 5 and 6 children.** There won't be an evening cantata for this age group as attendance at these has dwindled over the years.

This amended decision means that all Berrywood children in every year group will take part in a Christmas performance to which parents will be invited... and we get to put on a very special pantomime too.

### Car Parking Woes

We are again in receipt of multiple complaints from local residents regarding Berrywood parents parking illegally and anti-socially in the residential roads near the school. I cannot stress enough how difficult this makes community relations. We fully recognize and understand the pressures and challenges of the school run. However, we all surely have a duty to behave in ways that are respectful of property and that minimize the negative impact on others. Please also remember and respect that the school car park is for members of staff and permit holders only.



### Fund Raising Opportunities

There are often very simple and relatively low-cost ways in which you can help raise greatly appreciated funds for the school. Please see below for two such examples:

- **David Lloyd** in West End have kindly selected our school for an amazing offer. They are offering our parents, staff and families a 7-day pass at their club for only £10. **The £10 will go directly to school funds.** The £10 allows 2 parents and 2 children access to the club for a period of 7 consecutive days.

This offer runs from now until Friday 27th September, so the last day someone could pay, book and start their 7 days would be next Friday 20th September.

If you are interested in taking up this offer, please login to the school Scopay and make the £10 payment. Please note, if you are not interested in this offer, ignore the option to pay on Scopay against your account, it will be removed in due course. Once you have made the payment, please email [afarrell@berrywoodprimary.co.uk](mailto:afarrell@berrywoodprimary.co.uk). She will send you a QR code for you to register with the tennis club. Someone from the tennis club will then make contact with you to arrange your pass. We hope you agree that this is a fantastic offer alongside raising much needed funds for the school.

- Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with **Asda**, who have made millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. In order to raise money for us, all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. **Also, every time somebody opts in and selects Berrywood, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot, whether you do any shopping or not!**

Another way can be through direct sponsorship. On Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, I am running in my first marathon, and I will be seeking to raise some money for the Berrywood School Association (BSA) through any kind and generous sponsorship from the Berrywood community. Please look out for further details of how to go about sponsoring me in the next newsletter.