

## Newsletter 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Welcome to Autumn 2

Welcome back to all Berrywood families, we hope you had a peaceful and enjoyable half-term break. I hope also that you have found the parents' evenings taking place this week to be both productive and positive. Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks and admiration to the teaching staff team for undertaking these meetings across two evenings in the week. On top of everything else the modern-day teacher is required to do; this is by no means an easy feat. Thank you to everyone on our staff for your continued care and commitment to the children of this school.

The second half of autumn is obviously heavily slanted towards the planning of Christmas celebrations and events. As you may have seen from the letter sent home yesterday, there is a very busy schedule indeed! This year, we are putting on a pantomime written by Miss Lowe called '*Jacques and the Berrywood Beanstalk*'. Although the cast is made up of pupils from Years 5 & 6, we very much hope that the impact will be more widely felt and positively received across the school community. This is a massive undertaking and could significantly enhance our already strong performing arts offer. For the families of pupils in the cast, please look out next week for a letter specifically about the pantomime.

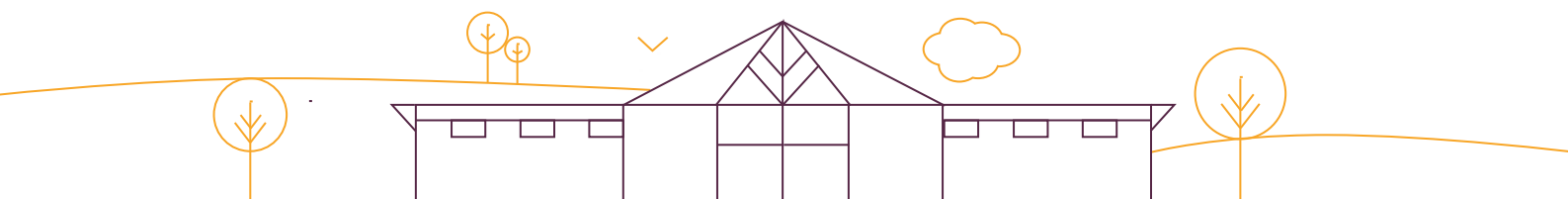
### Berrywood Fireworks

Thank you to all the many Berrywood families who attended this event through the traditional route of purchasing tickets and coming into the school grounds. I am sorry to those families that were queueing for longer than we had hoped outside. We were obviously not intending for the entry process to take as long, so we will look at making this more efficient next year. Hopefully it did not detract from your enjoyment too much. I know we definitely got all ticket holders in before the fireworks began.

Thank you also to the team of parents and staff who volunteered their time to make the event possible. These events do not run themselves and do require the active support of enough members of the school community in order to be viable. Had we have had more volunteers we would have been able to set up more stalls and had more people to check tickets and speed up the entry... here's hoping for next time.

We were a little disappointed to see between 200 - 300 people on Maunsell Way and Locke Road watching the fireworks. I fully understand that some people had very young children and were maybe trying out the experience. I am also very conscious of the financial pressure being felt by many people at this time, and would like to emphasise that we do try very hard to keep the cost of all things to a bare minimum at Berrywood. However, the fireworks company booking alone was £4,395 and therefore it was simply not possible to lower the ticket price any further.

**SAVE THE DATE...**Our next BSA event is the Christmas Fayre on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5.00 – 7.00pm.**



**Harvest & Shoe Box Donations**

Our annual shoe box appeal organised by the Rotary Club was again very successful with 96 precious boxes being shipped off from Berrywood laden with Christmas presents for orphaned children in Eastern Europe.

Your very generous Harvest donations have again gone to the Southampton City Mission food bank, which continues to do such vital work in supporting individuals and families nearer to home living in food poverty.

Thank you for the kindness of these amazing gifts and donations.

**Berrywood Social Media**

If you haven't checked out our accounts recently then please do take a look at our Facebook and Instagram accounts: **@berrywood\_primary\_school**

Lots to see and quickly get up to date with, including the assembly themes for the week as well as the latest news and up-coming events.