

Newsletter 13th December 2024

Festive Fun

It is no exaggeration to describe Berrywood as a *very* busy place during the festive season. This began in earnest last week with our Year R Nativity performances. It was lovely to see the children dressed in traditional costumes singing all our favourite Christmas songs. Thank you so much to our Year R parents for coming along to support them and getting our Christmas celebrations off to such a happy start.

On Friday 6th December it was the turn of the Berrywood Christmas Fayre to take centre stage. Thank you to all those who came along in fairly challenging weather conditions to support! The choir were amazing, the Berrywood Market was beautiful, the food seemed to go down very well... and of course the Busking Band made their customary appearance and the opportunity for a sing-a-long. Thanks to your support and generosity, this year we managed to make a stunning £3951 in profit.

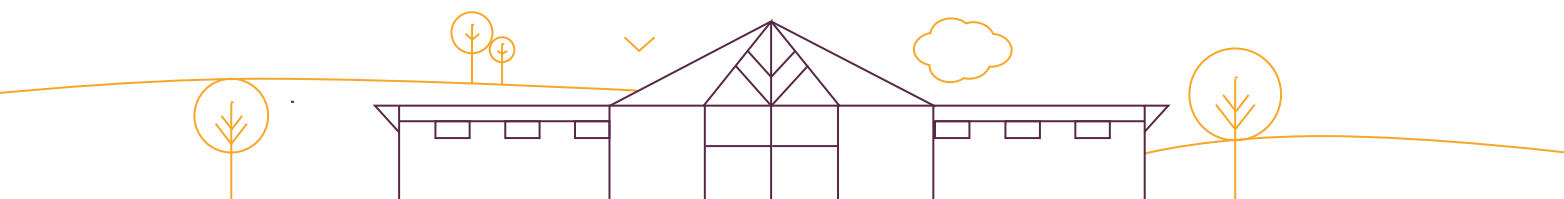
This week 60 of our Year 5 & 6 children formed two separate casts to put on multiple performances of *Jaq and the Berrywood Beanstalk*. This has been a very successful venture into the pantomime genre for us, so much so that we will firm plans to establish the Berrywood pantomime as an annual feature in our performing arts range. Well done to all the children who took part. Collectively you were superb and there were some exceptional individual performances. I would like to also add special thanks and congratulations to Miss Lowe and the creative arts team for making this such a successful initiation.

The logistical effort and cost implications are not insignificant. For example, we lose the function of our Hall for the week and the tiered seating alone cost £2,000 to hire. However, the high-quality opportunity that this has provided to so many eager children is more than worth the investment of time and resources. We are already looking forward to next Christmas and would therefore like to flag this up to our current Year 4 & Year 5 families.

Next week we have our Year 1 & 2, Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performances taking place on the school Courtyard. The children have been rehearsing hard for these, and we know that they will put on great shows for their families to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there to join us in these lovely celebratory events.

Secondment Arrangements

My secondment to Fair Oak Junior School will continue into the spring term. My time between the two schools will now be split equally, with the intention that I will be in both schools on most days. The secondment is happening due to the extended leave of absence for the head teacher at Fair Oak. Mrs Adams will continue to be the acting head teacher when I am not in school. The exact duration of this arrangement is not known, but it can be stated that this will not endure beyond the spring term.



Staff Vacancies

Next week an advert will go live for a Special Needs Assistant vacancy at Berrywood. Please do take a look if this is an area in which you have experience or expertise and you are interested in joining the team. Alternatively, you may know of someone who also fits the description above and might consider taking on a role at this fabulous school. We are also looking to recruit more Midday Supervisors to help with lunch times. Please visit the HCC vacancies website for more information on either role or email office@berrywoodprimary.co.uk for an application pack.

Poppy Appeal

Our poppy appeal this year raised £397.77 for the Royal British Legion. Huge thanks for your generosity towards this cause.

Optional Early Finish Reminder

If you haven't yet completed the optional early finish form For Friday 20th December then please do so. A reminder that this is also our Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day. It should be a really enjoyable end to a busy term. Happy Christmas Berrywood.