

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Happy New Term**

It is lovely to be writing such an overwhelmingly upbeat newsletter to welcome you all back for a new school term. The information and descriptions of school life below do, I believe, capture the positivity of Berrywood and hopefully provide you as parents with at least a sprinkling of joy to brighten the darker days of winter.

There is very little that gives me greater pride than a successful school trip. Especially when members of the public make the effort to comment on how respectfully Berrywood pupils have behaved whilst visiting a centre. The recent Year 5 trip to the Science Centre in Winchester is one such example. Thank you so much to the Year 5 children for representing themselves and their school so admirably. Thank you to the marvellous parent volunteers for supporting them, and, of course, thank you to all the staff for your efforts in making the day so successful.

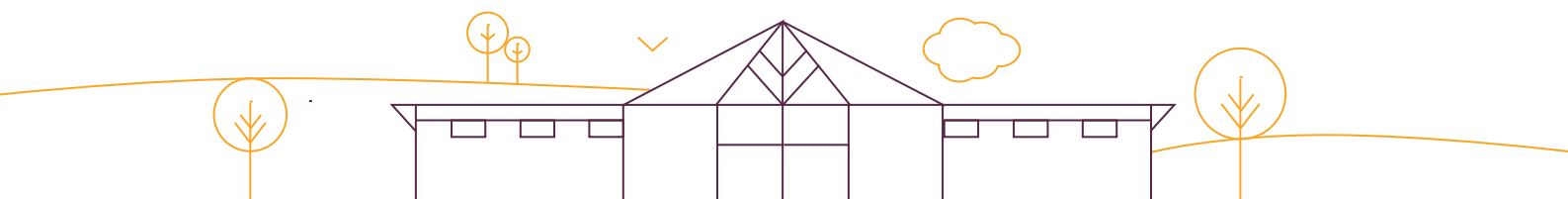
Staying with the theme of pride and joy... oh my Market days! Possibly not too many parents know this, but there is now a very special room in Berrywood called the Market Days Pod. Stepping inside this room, it is difficult not to be inspired and transported into a kingdom of crafting, enterprise, and creativity. It is beautiful and the type of place that you simply want to be in. This is all the children's handiwork, nurtured and supported by a team of unbelievably talented and caring professionals. Please make a note to visit when you are next at school, maybe during the next parents' evenings on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. If you are unsure where to go, a member of staff will happily point you in the right direction.

I think it is fair to say that excitement is mounting about the upcoming stargazing opportunity for Year 5 pupils. Fingers crossed that the sky remains clear enough for great viewing. Following his dummy run yesterday, Mr. Roy reports that he was able to see two planets with the naked eye, as well as the rings of Saturn, through his telescope! My understanding is that Mr. Miles (husband of the wonderful Mrs. Miles in Year 5) is bringing in a particularly powerful telescope that will allow the children taking part to get incredibly close to the wonders of our solar system... If you haven't yet signed your Year 5 child up for this, and you are able to attend, then please do so before it is too late!

### **Berrywood's Stories Before Snuggles**

The school leadership dynamo that is Mrs. Adams has been at it again! In keeping with our drive to ensure every child gains the essential early reading skills and falls in love with books, this new initiative invites children and families into school for evenings of reading and snuggles in their PJs. Being part of and sharing these experiences helps to establish the fantastic routines of daily reading with your child, which research proves is so beneficial to their educational success. Please click the link for further information <https://forms.gle/xsL12HJWLWRDaH4KA>

Mrs. Adams has also asked me to mention that our reading book vending machine is about to be replenished with new reading books. Even more reason to make sure your child reads regularly at home and gets their weekly stamps for reading at least four times at home!





### **BSA Annual General Meeting**

The BSA Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, between 6.00 - 7.00pm in the school hall. As always, every parent is welcome to attend. If you are maybe interested in getting more involved, then this is the event to attend. You may also want to seek out Esther Douglas or Catherine Goodall, who have been committee members these past couple of years.

Finding the time to volunteer for anything is, of course, challenging in an era when life seems so busy and our working hours just seem to get longer. However, having a closer connection to your child's primary school is pretty rewarding and even beneficial. Additionally, you can be involved with the BSA as little or as much as you wish, and the more helping hands we have, the lighter the load. Here's hoping for a good showing at the AGM.

Kind regards,

Mr Reilly