



# The Botwell Bulletin

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear families,

Throughout last week, being the first week back after Christmas, it was wonderful to hear the children sharing what they got up to and who they saw. It was great seeing so many of you on the gate but those who I've missed I wish you a very happy new year.

We are already a week in but it feels like we've been back longer as so much has already been happening in the school. Reflecting back on the last (rather long,) half term and the plethora of things that happened fills me with pride and I am very humbled by our children and staff. Productions, carols, cinemas to name a few events, are truly a joy to see. My thanks to our staff and the 'Friends of Botwell' (our PTA,) who make these aspirations a reality for the children.

On behalf of all members of staff, please accept a heartfelt thank you for all the cards, gifts and kind words at the end of the last term. This half term is considerably shorter but is often the one where the children make the most amount of progress so please ensure that your child is in school in good time. It seems to be the same families that are struggling with this, which is something the school has prioritised to improve as it has such a detrimental impact on the children's progress, as well as their confidence whilst stopping the learning of the entire class who have already settled.

As we start week 2 of this term and are facing some very cold weather please make sure your child is dressed for the weather and any clothing items are labelled clearly with their name.

## **Crazy Hair Day (FOB event)**

Our Friends of Botwell have organised a Crazy Hair Day as their next fundraising venture. This exciting event will be happening on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb (the last day of the half term) and we cannot wait to see what interesting hairstyles your children can come up with. The children can also wear their own clothes with prizes for the children that have the most inventive hair clothing combo. Please make sure that the clothing is appropriate i.e. Not stopping the child from undertaking the activities through the day and please please no makeup.

All money raised will be put into the Friends of Botwell fund which will be spent on our children. There will be buckets on the gates in the morning.

## **Social Media**

We have had further incidents whereby children, who have phones, are accessing things on their phones that they really shouldn't. **TIC TOK, Snap Chat, Facebook and Instagram are all rated for 13 years and over.** This is done for a reason to keep children safe. Allowing your child to access these platforms exposes your child to risk and is identified therefore a form of neglect. We cannot stress how important this is, as when it goes wrong, which it does frequently, and there are forms of bullying and child on child abuse, it is schools that have to pick up the

## Upcoming

- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – Hobgoblin Theatre to visit Reception and Year 5
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Jan – Reception Screening
- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Keeping Safe Week
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> – Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Y6 bikeability
- Tue 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Dog's Trust workshops
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Keeping children safe on devices parent workshop
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Crazy hair day
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – End of half term

pieces. Please help us to keep your child safe and delete the app. We will be having a workshop soon on how to keep the children safe online and this will be covered. Do ask a member of staff for help with devices, we are more than happy to support you with this.

### **Parish Car Park**

Thank you for all the support from everyone in relation to this. It is a shame that it came to a head due to a child narrowly being missed to make it happen. We are working with the parish to help them put in some traffic control mechanisms, but until then Mr Oakley and other staff will continue to stand out there in the morning. Once the installation has happened this will be the same for after school too as this is also of great concern to us all.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Following the Christmas season, we have now entered Ordinary Time in the Church's Liturgical Year. During this time, through the Gospels, we are journeying with Jesus on his mission throughout His time on Earth.

When He was on Earth, Jesus helped many people to change their lives for the better. He helped them to stop being selfish, because being selfish only made them and other people unhappy. He showed them how they could change and how they could make things right again. We are grateful for 'ordinary time' to remind us that God is always there to help us live as Christians.

*Prayer:*

*For this day, we give you thanks,  
Gracious God,  
because you gave us another day to love you  
and to love each other.*

*On this ordinary day in ordinary time,  
we will worship you, Loving God.*

*Amen.*

