

Christmas is definitely on its way! It's been lovely watching the Christmas Bazaar this afternoon and listening to the Year 2 children during their rehearsal for the Christmas nativity performance this week. We're really sorry parents cannot join us in person for a second year, but we will film their performances, along with the Nursery performance, and send the link to parents.

Please come along tomorrow and support our Friends Christmas Fair from 11-3pm on the top playground. The team have worked incredibly hard over the last few months and we're all hoping it will be a great success. Remember we are raising money for a new climbing frame on the lower playground.

Year 6 Shakespeare play – live!

Year 6 are very pleased to announce the completion of their film version of Shakespeare's The Tempest.

The children and staff had a fantastic time creating this and hope families of the Year 6 children will thoroughly enjoy watching it from home. Year 6 have been sent a link to the full version. See below the an abridged version.

<https://shakespeareschoolsfilmfestival.org/birch-hill-primary-school.html>



Edibles Community Dig

Despite the wind, rain and sleet a few brave volunteers came out to help clear our Edible Playground ready for our new planting season in the Spring Term, which staff and children alike are looking forward too. Thank you! And a special thank you to Emily and Lewis Grayson for all their hard work. Watch out for more opportunities throughout the year to explore this fantastic area. Here are the 'before and



Staffing Update

Mrs Chantal Watson will now be taking up the post until the end of the summer term as the replacement for Mrs Emma Woodward. Mrs Watson will be in school next Thursday and Friday covering Mrs Woodward and Thursday 16th December to meet the children and the rest of the team.

Mrs Natasha Stevenson, our Teaching Assistant in 4G, will be leaving us at the end of term to take up a post with the NHS. I would like to thank her for all of her hard work and support she has provided for our children over the last two years and wish her all the best for the future.

Bikeability

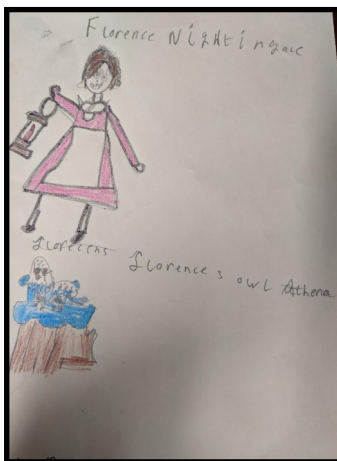
Well done to Y5 who have participated in the Bikeability training session over the last week. It's been great seeing the children developing their confidence and skills on the playground before going out on the local roads.

Young Voices

After speaking with the Local Authority and several local schools, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel our Young Voices trip to the O2 in January. We will be talking to the organisers to explore getting a refund and will keep parents updated.

Year 2 Topic: Should We Remember Florence and Mary ?

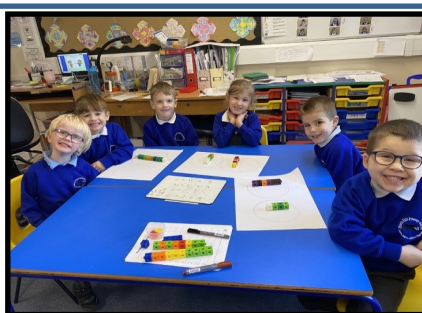
Year 2 have enjoyed exploring and finding out about the life of Florence Nightingale this term. We started the term by diving into the history of the Crimean War before finding out about the many changes Florence Nightingale made to hospitals at the time. Florence's fascinating diary entries have inspired us to write our own! We are now looking forward to jumping into the shoes of Florence Nightingale and writing diary entries from the perspective of the 'Lady with the Lamp'.



Reminders

Uniform—Just a few reminders about our uniform policy. We ask that children don't wear large bows or headbands to school, they should be small and plain. Also, girls tights or socks should be grey, white or black. Stripey or bright colours are not acceptable.

Lunches/snacks—as part of our Healthy Schools please ensure your child does not have chocolate bars or chocolate cake in their lunchbox or for their break time snack. Thank you for your cooperation.



Year 1 Maths

The children in Year 1 have been working collaboratively to find different ways to make 10 in maths this week. They really enjoyed the task.

Sienna in Year 3 is fundraising for Little Princess Trust by having her hair cut and donating it to the charity! She would really appreciate your support.

You can donate to her JustGiving page by clicking here:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephanie-rance1?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=stephanie-rance1&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=1caa482821d419483dfdc48e5c5a2f8.









Dates for the Diary

Friends' Christmas Fair	Saturday 4th December - 11am—3pm
Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation)	Friday 10th December
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 15th December—Please book online
Early Years & KS1 Nativity Performance	Coming soon online
End of Term	Friday 17th December
INSET Day	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Start of Term	Wednesday 5th January 2022

Library events over Christmas

See attached flyers from the BFC Library service for several events over the Christmas holidays.

Letters/Attachments coming home this week:

-  BFC Library Creative writing
-  BFC Library Explore learning Dec 21
-  BFC Library Winter wonderland
-  Lexicon Xmas Star flyer
-  November 2021 COVID-19 letter for parents and carers
-  Xmas Lunch Flyer 2021