

**Please see the attached letter.**

What a term and what a year it has been – like many of you, I guess you are all looking forward to 2022. What the last 12 months have shown us again is the importance of school – both to support children's learning, their wellbeing, but also connecting and supporting parents and wider families. I know one thing parents missed during last year's lockdown was not being able to see other parents at drop off and collection. It really does show the TOGETHER strand of our school motto. We want all of our children, and families to feel safe and happy coming to school and every staff member has worked incredibly hard over the last year to help achieve this. This time of year is usually busy with lots of shared activities and celebrations including; Christmas lunch, Nativity performances, Christmas Carol concerts and whole school assemblies. It is a real shame we can't all come together and share this special time of year together. However, the staff have worked incredibly hard to bring some special Christmas spirit and ensure the children enjoy themselves. Many thanks also to everyone involved in running all of our Christmas activities over the last month, and also to Friends for all of their support and hard work. On behalf of the all of the staff and governors, I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Reception Nativity



Reception have been very busy learning songs for our own Christmas sing-a-long. We learnt and sang Twinkle Twinkle Little star; When Santa Got stuck Up The Chimney; Away in a Manger; I'm a little snowman; and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Reception parents don't forget to listen to our lovely singing on Tapestry!

## Year 2 Christmas Performance

The Year 2 children along with the help of Year 1 and Reception worked extremely hard this term on our nativity play - Lights! Camel! Action! They have done some amazing acting and beautiful singing. We hope you enjoy the silly, super fun songs and the downright adorable dances!

All of our children and staff in Key Stage 1 would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!





### Nursery Nativity

Nursery have been extra busy celebrating Christmas. We made wreaths, cards, penguins, robins and calendars to take home. We also performed our Nativity Play where we told the story of Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. We also had a Christmas party and Christmas party lunch for those who stay all day.



### Sapphire Class

We are excited to share with you the new name for the SRP, which will now be known as **Sapphire Class**. A well-known precious stone, blue in colour to match the colours of Birch Hill, and the birthstone of September, when the SRP opened – Sapphires are believed to bring gifts of fulfilment, joy, prosperity, inner peace and beauty... it could not reflect the ethos and character of our class more perfectly. We are sure you'll agree!

This term children have had a wonderful opportunity to spend regular time with Bailey, the dog from 'PetsasTherapy'. They have really enjoyed, feeding him treats, sensory time with him, and opportunities to walk him around our school grounds, as well as reading with him and his lovely owner Jackie.

It has been a busy festive time in Sapphire Class recently, with some of the children working hard on their KS1 nativity – we have been so impressed with the way they have represented our class so brilliantly in learning the songs and dances and performing with such 'sparkle'! We have all enjoyed some fairy-cake baking and a wide range of Christmas crafts alongside our Literacy and Maths learning centred on 'The Gingerbread Man' – a story we have learned to retell with lovely fabulous expression!

The children have demonstrated wonderful commitment to their learning both independently and within small groups and we have been so pleased to see such focus on cooperation and compromise.

We are very proud of you all Sapphire Class!

### Christmas Jumper Day

The children really enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers last Friday. Thank you for all your donations, we raised just over £274 for Save the Children!



### Nurture

The children in Rainbow Room this term have been learning about the festive celebrations that different countries celebrate at this time of year. We had a celebration ourselves as three children Graduated from the Rainbow Room as they have made wonderful progress. We are looking forward to welcoming our new children

in January. We completed our term with the children writing their letters to Santa. Merry Christmas from us all in the Rainbow Room.



### Friends

Wow! How lovely the Christmas Fair was. The atmosphere was wonderful and the choir (Soulful Voices) were amazing. Also the children decorations were such a fantastic touch and loved by everyone who purchased one. Santa told me he loved reading stories to all the children and now they are all on his list for Christmas Eve. Thank you so much to everyone that came and all our volunteers on the Friday and Saturday. All the stall holders were so pleased and they will be back for our next big event.

So it was a real success. We raised a fantastic £931.09. We had also purchased two sum-up card machines in the sale and these proved to be a brilliant investment. So we now have these for all our events. Bank transfer has been so useful and we will certainly continue to offer that too.

We are well on our way to 3/4 of our target for the new climbing frame and flooring, which is an amazing achievement. Thank you to everyone for helping.

We have sent a small gift home today with each child to say thank you and a Merry Christmas from us all at the friends team.

We are looking forward to meeting in January to organise events so we can smash our target. We will send details as soon as we have them. If you feel you can help in any way, have fundraising ideas or just want to know what we've got planned, please join us.

Best wishes Happy Christmas and New Year.

The Friends Team x



### Poppy Appeal 2021

A huge thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion and their Poppy Appeal. We raised an amazing £555.31.



***A Merry Christmas and  
a very Happy New Year  
from  
Everyone at Birch Hill  
Primary School***

End of Term	Friday 17th December
INSET Day	Tuesday 4th January 2022
Start of Term	Wednesday 5th January 2022
School Photographs	Wednesday 26th January 2022

### Letters/Attachments coming home this week:

COVID Parent Update 17th Dec 2021