



“Inspiring Learning”

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Wow! What an amazing end to a very special term at Bellingham Middle School. It has been a pleasure to see so many children giving generously to their school and wider community. Thank you to all families and friends for supporting BMS events over the past few days...

First, a merry band of carol singers ventured out into Bellingham as part of the late night shopping evening in the village. Children sang beautifully outside under Christmas lights to the community before also performing at St Cuthbert's Church, where our impressive Eco-Christmas Tree was displayed with other entries into the Co-op's Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to Ms Wilson for leading our carol singing; to Mrs Robinson and our school eco-team for creating our tree and to all the pupils who gave up their time to give pleasure to others. Many thanks also to Mrs Basing for helping pupils to make beautiful decorations for the BMSPTCA stall.



On Saturday night, our concert singers took part in “See His Star Shining Bright”, their Christmas concert with the North Tyne and Redewater Choral Society, conducted by John Roper. This joint event was a first for our school and saw the combined choirs perform to a packed hall. It was a wonderful occasion, bringing people of all ages together to enjoy beautiful festive music. We are grateful to Madame Grey and Ms Wilson for supporting the children's singing, and also to Julia Kennard, from Durham Cathedral's Chorister School, who continues to share her expertise and accompaniment for the benefit of BMS pupils. Well done to all the children who did us proud!





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We would like to thank all families and friends who have so generously supported BMSPTCA fundraising for BMS pupils, including wonderful festive stalls at all of our recent school events and out in the local community. An amazing £656.70 has been raised, some of which has already been put to good use for current BMS pupils. The children were delighted to be presented with new AR reading books in assembly this week together with recent releases of children’s novels for our library. We were also very grateful for the lovely surprise of new computer mice. Our thanks must also go to Diane Whyte, from local florists *Purple Haze*, who helped pupils make beautiful table centrepieces for Christmas on Tuesday afternoon, also organised by the BMSPTCA. We are sure these will look stunning on tables at Christmas time.



On Tuesday evening, it was great to see so many BMS families and friends supporting our *Christmas Cracker* festive performance night. Particular congratulations are due to the cast members of *Christmas Is Forever*, who rehearsed for just two weeks to bring this slick spy spoof to the stage. We have certainly found some new rising stars, ready for our big summer production in 2020! Thank you to all the pupils and staff who worked so hard over such a short space of time to pull off an absolute cracker of an evening for all to enjoy.





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On Thursday morning, pupils competed in our Christmas House Quiz, led by Mr Ramshaw. Congratulations to the overall winners: Kestrel House, and well done to the pupils in the highest scoring team (Osprey 1): William, Meadow, Owen and Ebony. On Thursday afternoon, BMS pupils held their Christmas Talent Show; this collection of variety acts, created entirely by the children, entertained everyone and impressed the judges, who awarded prizes as follows: Hugh's karate act (1st place), Y8's Hip Hop Nutcracker and Emma's Jig & Twizzle clog dancing (joint 2nd place) and Lucy, Lily and Beth's karate act The Defenders in 3rd place. A special prize for originality was awarded to Grace and Ebony's Bellingham Babies in a Box act; their rendition of *Baby Shark* made the audience roar with laughter.



None of the above would have been possible without the unstinting and generous support of BMS staff. I would like to thank each one of them for going above and beyond each day to make BMS full of special memories for children and their families. In particular, Mr Ramshaw for being our amazing sound department at many festive events; Mr Robson and his team for looking after the site at this busy time, and Sylvia Lawson and her team, whose Christmas catering has been so appreciated.



“Children are very happy here.” (Ofsted 2019)

On behalf of BMS staff, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas together and all the best for 2020!

Kind regards,

Helen Samuels,
Acting Headteacher



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Autumn Term 2019 100% Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
Hugh Edward Mason Anna Chantelle Lucy Elise	Angus Sam Lily E Ebony Dan Arthur	Bob Emma Emily Elena Amy Hayden Anna H Lucy F Owen Jenny	Amy Charlie Imogen Will

MEMOS AND REMINDERS



Bike Helmets: Your child **must** wear a bike helmet as he or she cycles to or from our school. We will let you know if we notice your child without a helmet and have to insist that he or she does not ride until one is worn. Please remind your child to stay safe on our roads by wearing a helmet. Further Bikeability training will be available next term.

Contacting school if your child is ill: Could all parents please inform us by 9.15 am if your child is not able to attend school due to illness. You can leave a message on the answerphone if the line is busy or email: middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk

Dinner Money: Please pay on the day or weekly from September. It is not possible to put credit on a tab. We would never see a child go hungry; however, we cannot afford to subsidise your child's meal. If you require free school meals for your child, then please apply to Northumberland County Council. Call: 01670 623592 or apply online, using the link below. Thank you for your support.

[Click here to apply for free school meals](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Fri 20th Dec	Carol Service at St Cuthbert's Church 11am
Fri 20th Dec	End of Autumn Term
Mon 6th Jan	Teacher Training Day
Tues 7th Jan	Pupils return to school
Fri 10th Jan	Whole School Panto Trip to Theatre Royal, Newcastle

