



“Inspiring Learning”

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Well, it's finally here and the run-down to our end of term was going relatively smoothly until the announcement from the Government yesterday about the start of term! I've been attending online meetings for most of today and have written to you separately with finer details. Should there be any further news over the holidays, I will of course keep you posted through our Facebook page and our Parentmail system.

I think pupils, and staff, are ready for a relaxing break. It's been a long term and we're thrilled with how our pupils have remained resilient throughout and faced every challenge head-on. It's been a final week of festive fun with hot chocolate, films, parties, games....and we hope we've managed to end the term with some Christmas magic considering all of the current restrictions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting us as a school so well during this term, but on a personal note, would like to thank you for being so welcoming and supportive throughout my first term here at BMS. We will definitely get to have a coffee morning soon...I hope!

Have a wonderful, safe festive break and enjoy spending time with loved ones.

Lindsay Hamilton

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

We hope you have managed to see our Christmas videos shared on Facebook today! Although it is very different to normal end of term celebrations, we hope you agree that the singing and dancing was super, but most importantly, everyone who wanted to be part of the videos had a great time with Mr Bradford. Please remember not to share these videos on social media as we don't have parental permission for some of our pupils to be on the internet.

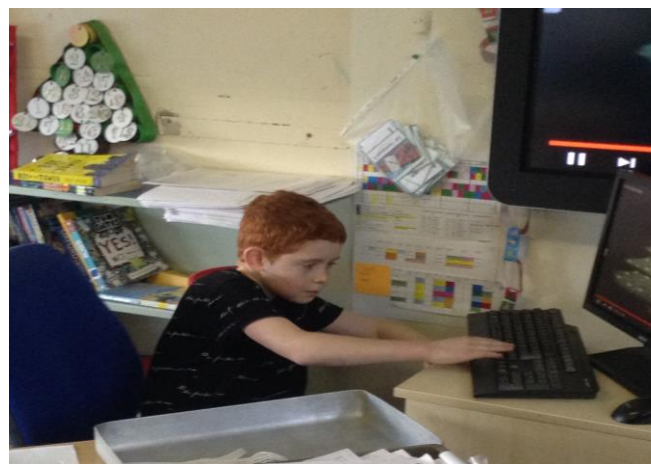




“Inspiring Learning”

Christmas Bubble Parties!

A great time was had by all in our bubble parties! Form tutors had prepared lots of different games and activities so that pupils could begin to wind down after a busy term and enjoy being together with their form. As usual, Mrs Lawson had prepared delicious party lunches!



DJ Mason helping out with the Christmas tunes!





“Inspiring Learning” JUST A REMINDER...

There seems to be more families self-isolating this week and we all need to be vigilant over the next few weeks. Please follow the guidance below if your child tests positive during the Christmas holidays.

If a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than** 48 hours since being in school.



School **should not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

<https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk/>

Up until (and including) 24th December, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**.



Please inform school using the following email:

middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk

This email will be checked daily from 19th – 24th December between 9am and 11am. School will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. As our final teaching day is on Friday 18th December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24th December.

VERY HIGH ALERT (TIER 3) RULES FOR NORTHUMBERLAND



We're here to keep you safe and well.

If you or anyone in your family needs a bit of extra support, please get in touch...

- Perhaps your financial circumstances have changed with reduced hours, redundancy or benefit changes.
- Worried about winter bills or financial pressures.
- You may have concerns around shopping, or making sure prescriptions are delivered on time.
- Feeling lonely, overwhelmed or struggling with mental health.
- Worried about someone experiencing domestic abuse or concerned about a neighbour.



Phone us on **01670 620 015** 9am-6pm, 7 days a week

northumberland.gov.uk/communitiestogether

NCT@northumberland.gov.uk



Northumberland restrictions:



You can't mix with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, indoors, in private gardens or beer gardens.



Bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants are closed, except for takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.



Indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas, theatres and tourist venues are closed.



Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites and guest houses are closed.



People are advised not to travel to and from tier three areas.





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We have been trying for several months now to solve the problem of our footpath which becomes flooded after a heavy downpour, making it very difficult for pupils to enter school grounds without their feet becoming wet. We've had the drains in this area cleaned and cleared of any blockages several times, but it seems this has not solved the problem. However, I am pleased to say that only this week, a company visited our site and they are going to put new drains onto the actual path, which will ensure rain water drains quickly. Until this happens, Mr Robson is going to check the path each morning when he opens up. If the path is unsuitable for pupils, then he will not open the double wooden gates. Our pupils have been told that if they see the wooden gates shut, then they should access school through the main glass doors. A member of staff will be on duty at this point to monitor their entry into school. This does mean that our school gates will be closed to cars from 8:30am so that pupils can access our main doors safely.



Reviewing and improving our curriculum is always high on our school improvement agenda. We're really excited to announce that from January 2021, pupils in Y7 and Y8 will have a weekly careers lesson. Up until now, careers education and guidance has been delivered during PSHE lessons, but from the start of next term, pupils will study careers and various career paths in much greater detail, providing them with clear knowledge about their possible future options. It is vital our pupils have as much information as possible, considering both neighbouring high schools require pupils to make informed option choices in Y9. Further details regarding the content of these sessions will be shared with you in January when we publish our curriculum overviews.

We're really thrilled to have finished our very own sensory room at BMS, ready to use next term! Sensory spaces in schools have been shown to decrease negative behaviors and improve student engagement. We've ensured that our room has sensory products for calming, auditory needs, developing motor skills, as well as resources for tactile needs. Although this photo doesn't really do the full room justice, it's nice to be able to show the fantastic lighting. It also includes a black-out tent, traverse climbing wall, squashy mats, music, projected lighting.....and many more fantastic things!

Huge thanks go to Mrs Fletcher and Mr Robson for making this happen so quickly!





"Inspiring Learning"

This half term during their Enrichment Project, Year 8 have been working on a design and engineering topic called 'Post a Pringle'. The brief they were given was to design and make packaging that could be used to post a pringle crisp through the Royal Mail.

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions this wasn't possible, however each package was put through rigorous testing methods including gravity, impact, drop and submerging tests. None of the pringles made it out of these tests in one piece! However, the 'Great Things Come In Small Packages' team were most successful in keeping their crisp relatively intact! Well done to Katie and Hayden, and a special mention to Connor and Harriet who contributed to the design of the winning package.



Well done, Katie
and Hayden!



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Monday 4th January

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January

Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 6th January

Autumn term begins for all pupils in Y5 and Y6, and, for pupils in Y7 and Y8 who are children of key workers, or who fit the criteria listed on today's letter

Monday 11th January

School opens for all pupils

Friday 12th February

School closes for Spring half-term

Protect yourself • Protect others Protect Northumberland



Wash your hands



Keep your distance



Wear face covering

What you can do:



Meet in a group of up to six in outdoor spaces, such as parks, beaches or countryside.



Organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue, however, higher-risk contact activity should not take place.



Walk or cycle where possible, plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes when travelling.



Attend schools, universities and colleges.



Visit Places of Worship but you must not attend with anyone outside your support bubble.



Provide care or assistance to someone vulnerable, provide respite for a carer or as a volunteer.



Shops, gyms and personal care services (such as hairdressing) can reopen (if Covid-secure).



Attend weddings ceremonies with up to 15 people and funerals with up to 30 people.



Single adult households can still form exclusive support bubbles and children will be able to move between homes if their parents are separated.

For more information on the new restrictions visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus
If you need help or support phone 0345 600 6400



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