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Our Value of the Month for November is **Friendship** and for December is **Kindness**

November and December 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last half term, the pupils worked so hard and showed their excellent manners. The children told us how much they enjoyed their Halloween disco treat and it was lovely to see them enjoying their well-deserved reward. Congratulations go to Blue Team who earned a non-uniform day by achieving the most stars. We look forward to seeing which team wins this at the end of this term. We have now started the second Autumn half term and this one is always very busy as we lead up to Christmas. We have lots planned and this newsletter provides dates and times for events but as always, please contact the office if you would like any further information.

Adam Bushnell Visit in September



Last half term we enjoyed a visit from author Adam Bushnell. He started his day with a story telling assembly to capture the children's imaginations when he told us a legend. He then worked with each class to develop their creative writing skills and the children really enjoyed this. The entries for our 'Book in a Box' competition were excellent and Adam Bushnell kindly judged this for us. Each winner was given a signed copy of his book to enjoy reading at home. This was on the day our school was officially declared open 50 years ago on 26th September so we all enjoyed having our visitor in to make this day special.

Anti-Bullying Week 11th to 15th November



The theme for this year is 'Choose Respect' where the Anti-Bullying Alliance hope to promote a celebration of what makes us unique. We will be supporting the campaign during this week with a range of activities focusing on the theme of anti-bullying.

Remembrance Day Monday 11th November



Our School Councillors are taking poppies around school each day to sell with all donations going to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you for your kind donations. We will be having our own Remembrance Assembly in school on Monday 11th November where each class will share what they have been learning about in their focused work on this national event.

Children in Need Friday 15th November



Our School Councillors met with Miss Hartley and discussed Children in Need. They decided the theme should be 'crazy hair day' and children can wear non-uniform or their Pudsey clothes when they come in on Friday 15th November. We look forward to seeing the crazy hairstyles! Donations are warmly welcomed.

Christmas Fair Wednesday 20th November from 3.20pm to 5.00pm



This year our Christmas Fair is on Wednesday 20th November starting at 3.20pm. Children can come in non-uniform on Friday 8th November if they would like and we would be very grateful for a donation for our raffle/tombola/toy stall, etc. We have a range of stalls at the event as well as refreshments and children can also come along with parents and meet Santa Claus. We look forward to seeing you.

Autumn term Parents' Evenings Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th November

This term you will be invited into school to speak to the class teacher and look at your child's work. This gives you an opportunity to look at your child's progress and discuss their learning with the teacher. A text message will be sent out so you can click and book a slot. Please note that nursery parents are contacted by our school office to book an appointment so they will not receive the text. Our teachers are available at the start and end of each day to meet and greet parents but this meeting provides an opportunity to focus on your child's strengths in their learning and next steps to help them.

Bournmoor Village Christmas Tree Light Switch on Friday 29th November from 5.30pm



On Friday 29th November from 5.30pm families are invited to the annual Christmas tree light switch on. The Scouts and Salvation Army will be there and children will get a free selection box. Bournmoor Parish Council have also kindly supplied our school with tree decorations to paint and if your child wants to take it to the light switch on, they can hang it on the village Christmas tree. The event begins from 5.30pm with the official light switch on at 6pm.

Supporting Local Projects

We aim to support our local community and one of the ways we do this is by gathering donations for the Food Bank so we would like to thank you for your recent generous donations. The County Durham Foodbank at Drum Industrial Estate in Chester-le-Street weighed the food taken along and the donation was equivalent to 19 meals for families. Mr Greenwell took the food along on our behalf and said that donations are always welcome so they were very pleased to have our support. If you have any spare dried goods (i.e. pasta or rice) or any tins of food then we would be pleased to accept them and pass them to this local service. Food can be brought in at any time leading up to Christmas.

Christmas Post Box from 2nd December

Each year children can bring their Christmas cards into school for their friends and put them in our post box. This year our School Council will be sorting them out and delivering them to each class. Your child can post their Christmas cards from Monday 2nd December. Please ensure that each envelope has the pupil's name on and which class they are in so our delivery team can get them to the children.

Christmas Card Designs

Children have been invited to make a Christmas card by two groups in our local community and will be doing this in school. The pupils have been invited by our local church St Barnabas and also Durham Constabulary's Chief Constable to design their own Christmas cards which will be put on display. The children's designs will be displayed by Rev Walton in St Barnabas and we may also be lucky enough to have one chosen as their winning Christmas card design.

Christmas Jumper Day 12th December

On Thursday 12th December children can join in with Christmas Jumper Day and raise funds for St Cuthbert's Hospice. On that day children can wear their festive jumpers if they have one and please note non-uniform is also allowed. Donations towards this would be very welcome on that day and we will pass all proceeds on to the hospice.

Christmas Performances for Infants and Juniors – 17th & 18th December

Our Christmas performances are on Tuesday 17th December and Wednesday 18th December. You will receive your tickets for this when your child brings them home closer to the time. A text will be sent on the day they come home so you know to expect them. Please read the letter with the tickets as it explains how we allow families to choose who comes on which day to enjoy the performances. The infant show starts at 9.30am followed by the junior one at 10.30am (on both days) so if you have children in both key stages, you can see them on the same morning.

Policies and Information

We keep a range of policies and helpful information on our school website. We hope you find this useful and please ask the office if you require a paper copy. Please click this link to access the 'Policies' part of our website:

<https://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/key-information/school-policies/>

Governor Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for 1 Parent Governor and would be keen to hear from you if you would like to find out more. You can speak to Mrs Snowdon about this and also look at the <https://www.nga.org/> website which sets out the role, expectations and provides details about this strategic position within school.

Attendance

Each term we look at attendance as part of our ongoing monitoring and you will receive a letter with your child's attendance certificate. There are a number of pupils currently on track to achieve 100% by the end of term which is on Friday 20th December. On the last day of term, all pupils with 100% will receive a wrist band in recognition of this great achievement. Also, in July the year group with the highest attendance goes on a free trip as a reward. We wanted to say thank you to parents for telephoning the office when their child is off school before 9am. We thank you for ensuring your child arrives at school on time so they are registered and learning with their class from the start of our day. Below is our current % attendance for each year group and also the current national averages for Y1 – Y6 from 4/9 to 5/11/24:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6
School	89.7%	96.5%	94.5%	95.9%	93.2%	92.1%	94.8%
National average (to date)		95%	95.5%	95.7%	95.6%	95.5%	95.2%

Our list of school holidays and PD days are available on our school website and by clicking on the link below. You can also find full details of holiday dates on the Durham County website. School holiday dates and PD days for 2024-25:

<https://bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/School-holidays-and-PD-days-2024-2025.pdf>

Please note our next teacher training day is on Friday 22nd November and school is closed to pupils on this day. We close on Friday 20th December 2024 for the Christmas Holidays and re-open to pupils on Monday 6th January 2025.

Yours sincerely, *L A Snowdon* Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)