

The Bolham Bullet

ISSUE 723 21st December 2018

Dear Parent, Carer, Friends

Each year we sit down to write our Christmas Bolham Bullet and when we start reflecting on the past 12 months we always seem to say- wow, did we really achieve all of that? The answer is of course yes we did it as one big Bolham family; the commitment and support of our staff, governors, parents, carers and friends really is amazing and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you continue to do to make our school such a special place to be.

As you know, we received our OfSted Inspection on Tuesday 18th December; whilst this came as a surprise the week before Christmas it was not as shock as we have not stood still as a school and continue to strive for excellence on a daily basis. We believe that our school delivers the same high quality teaching and achievement regardless of OfSted being present or not. Having said that we cannot overstate the pressure an OfSted Inspection brings to the Governing Body and the staff as such we would like to sincerely thank everyone for their hard work and dedication during the inspection and throughout the year. We will receive the OfSted report in early January 2019 and then have the opportunity to respond to it before national validation at which point we will be able to advise staff and parents of the outcome.

Our academic achievements in 2018 have continued to be good and teachers and teaching assistants are supporting our children to be the very best they can be. We have always been challenged by small cohorts at Bolham which can at times adversely skew our data results, but we pride ourselves in treating each child as an individual and meeting their own teaching and learning needs as part of a classroom of children. The curriculum continues to be balanced and varied with time being spent looking at Art, Music, Drama and Foreign Languages. Design and Technology, Sport and PE alongside the traditional subjects of Maths, English, Science and Humanities are all actively taught across year groups.

2018 saw Bolham once again completing the Exmoor Challenge as three teams worked their way across Exmoor on a 16-mile route which they had to navigate as a team in one day. We were represented at the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition with teams talking on a factual subject for 15 minutes and answering questions, Bolham was once again commended on its high standard. Jaguar Challenge continues to be a big part of the Year 5 activities with Mr Dickinson giving up his own time to support the children in designing, building and racing their cars whilst also securing sponsorship and presenting their projects to a panel of experts. We entered Tiverton in Bloom once again and achieved First Prize for the Suffragette Garden and we also retained our School Games Silver Award for our competitive PE provision. Bolham Singers have continued to delight audiences with their performances both at Cullompton Community College and more recently at the Christmas Fayre. The children have also supported those in need both their local and wider community with fund raising events for CHAT and Children in Need.

The school welcomed new governors and staff throughout the year and also said some goodbyes. We would like to thank those that have joined us for their hard work with our existing staff and thank those who have left and wish them all well as they pursue new opportunities. There are currently two vacancies on our Governing Body for Community Governors, these are representatives from our local community who do not have children at the school who can contribute their skills to the development of the wider education of the children within their community. If anyone knows of anyone who may wish to be considered for this role, please do ask them to contact the School.

We would like to once again thank Friends of Bolham School(FOBS) for all the fundraising and exciting activities they have put on throughout the year to enable additional resources and opportunities to be funded for the school. It is a very challenging time financially for all schools and Bolham is no exception

Diary Dates

21st December - Last Day of term

7th January - Non Pupil Day

8th January - TERM STARTS

18th - 22nd February - Half term

5th-23rd April - Easter holidays

13th May - KS2 SATS week

27th-31st May - Half term

10th June - Phonics test week Year 1 only

13th-14th June - Class 3 Residential

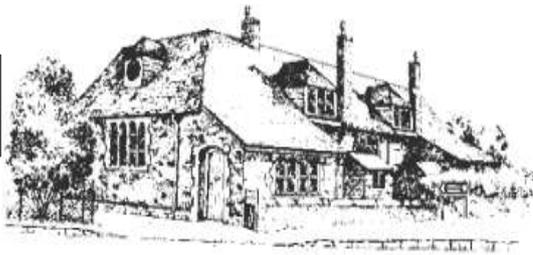
19th-21st June - Class 4 Residential

5th July - Sports Day

12th July - Reserve Sports Day

18th July - Class 4 performance

19th July - Leavers Assembly



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especially given its size; if it were not for the support of FOBS many school trips, experiences and equipment would not be purchased. We were delighted to see the completion of the new library this year in addition to the continued purchase of laptops and support of music provision. FOBS meet once a term to discuss fundraising ideas and to discuss any purchases planned, all parents and friends are welcome to attend these meetings. Volunteers to help support FOBS would equally be welcome as without them our children would miss out on many wonderful experiences.

Finally, we would like to thank the children themselves for their behaviour and attitude to learning, our parents, carers and friends for the support they give to the school and of course the staff who work so incredibly hard to deliver a well -rounded and exciting education experience.

We hope you all enjoy a well- deserved break over the Christmas Period and wish every one of you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

'Together we aspire, together we achieve'

Best Wishes

Stephen Moakes- Chair of Governors

Denise Woodgate- Headteacher

OFSTED UPDATE

Thank you to everyone for all their support and kind wishes on Tuesday. The final Ofsted report will arrive during the middle of January when we will be able to share the findings of Her Majesty's Inspector, Tracy Hannon.

GREEN TEAM

Thank you for attending the Bolham carol service last night and helping us have a paper free event. We have raised an amazing £302.04, which will be split between St Peters church and local charity CHAT.

Thank you once again.

Alex Brameld - Chair of the Green Team

Gethin White - Vice Chair of the Green Team

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SCHOOL MEALS

On Tuesday 8th January, the menu will be on week 3 starting with Salmon and Broccoli pasta bake.

WOMEN'S REFUGEE CENTRE DONATIONS

Thank you very much indeed for the incredibly generous donations received from Bolham families for the Women's Refugee Centre over in Northern France. Your donations are being delivered to the collection point this weekend and will arrive in France before Christmas and will make a real difference to the families being supported there. Many thanks once again.

Abi Dent