



November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now into the second half of our autumn term. I hope you had a chance to relax over the half term holidays and enjoy some family time together under current pandemic circumstances. We are so pleased to see all our wonderful children in school and have been so impressed with how resilient our pupils have been and continue to be.

FAITH IN OUR SCHOOL

Our Vision

With God's help, our school provides children with a safe, inspiring and nurturing learning environment. A place where children and community can thrive, achieve and develop life-long skills. Rich learning experiences will ignite desire to learn, achieving success. By raising aspirations and instilling self-belief, children are enabled to lead a fulfilled life, contributing to the community and beyond.

Compassion



Compassion is the value children will be reflecting on in our collective worship this half-term, through collective worship in class and in assembly.

Goodbye and Good Luck Miss White

We finished last half term having to say goodbye to Miss White. It was a virtual goodbye to maintain all our bubbles in school and the pupils all worked hard to create an amazing video to express how sad we are to say goodbye and how grateful we are for all she has achieved in her time as Principal. Each class made a beautiful card to help her remember us all as she starts her new role.





Welcoming Mrs Whetham

We will be recruiting a new Principal to start in September 2021. To make sure we maintain continuity and high standards for the rest of this academic year, myself, Mrs Woollard and Mrs Rumford will jointly take the role of Associate Principal and work closely with the Trust and a consultant Headteacher to lead the school. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome Mrs Whetham to Westminster. Mrs Whetham is an experienced Headteacher from Halifax and we are really looking forward to working with her as we continue to build on the strengths of the school.



Covid update

As you will be aware, the Government has placed the country into new national restrictions from 5th November until 2nd December. School will remain open and children must come to school.

Unfortunately, the government guidance for schools during this period of national restrictions is that we are unable to run after school clubs which we were hoping could start this week.

Part of our Covid safe risk assessment is to ensure ventilation across the school. This means that all staff have been asked to ensure windows are open whenever possible. Windows must be opened before the start of school, during lesson changes, breaks and at the end of the day. Windows will be open when possible during the day and staff and pupils must dress accordingly. Please can you ensure that your child is wearing a base layer such as a vest or long sleeved white T shirt under their school uniform.

Covid catch up sessions

This half term we have started and will continue catch up sessions in years 2 and 6. If your child is invited to attend one of these sessions before or after school then please try to encourage them to attend every session as we will be focusing on key areas of the curriculum that your child finds difficult. These sessions will run throughout the year and different children will be offered places as we progress through the year.

Remote Learning

We now have a dedicated page on our website for home learning. If your child is self-isolating, they are still required to complete school work, if well enough to do so. We have tried to match the remote learning at home to the learning in the classroom. If your child's whole class is asked to self-isolate, the teacher will be in regular contact to ensure your child is clear on expectations. If your child is self-isolating and the rest of the class are in school, then a member of our admin team will be in contact. Each child received a learning pack last week which has an exercise book and pencil and any work completed from the home learning on our website should be recorded in this book. That book should then be returned to school when your child returns to school so the class teacher can mark it. Your child also has access to a range of online resources such as Frog,

Westminster C of E Primary Academy

Westminster Road, Bradford, BD3 0HW

Email: office@westminsterschool.co.uk Tel: 01274 648490

Principal: Miss N White



Phonics Play, TT Rockstars, Reading Plus and Lexia and these can be accessed via our pupil links section of the website. Please take a look at the home learning section so you know where resources for your child are located should you need them.

Parents' Evening

We are unable to have parents' evenings in school this term. We will be making pupil progress phone calls instead and your child's class teacher will telephone you this week to discuss your child's progress so far this year. Please note that the call may come from a withheld number.

Harvest

Thank you to all the parents who supported our harvest collection which supported **Bradford Central** Foodbank again this year. They provide emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in Bradford and we are really proud to have supported such a fantastic cause.



Youth Worker



We have been busy making links with St Augustine's and St Cuthbert's Church and have welcomed Anna Brydan, their new youth worker, into school on Tuesday afternoons to do classroom based Collective Worship activities. She will work with different year groups each week and the children are really enjoying the sessions.

Song writing workshop

Class Chile were lucky enough to take part in a song writing workshop aimed at improving writing through music. It was a fantastic session and I am looking forward to hearing lyrics by this group in future hits.





Christmas

This will be another busy and productive term but as we approach Christmas we will have to alter the way we celebrate to ensure that we remain safely within our risk assessments for Covid. Due to Covid, unfortunately we will be unable to hold Christmas nativities for parents this year. Instead, each class will have a series of Christmas activities

- Watch a Christmas movie with hot chocolate and popcorn provided by school.
- Have a craft afternoon where all children can take home a Christmas item they have made.
- Read the nativity story and complete a task around the story.
- Y5 and Y6 will have their annual Christingle service as a charity fundraiser but as individual year groups and without an audience
- Class party. Unfortunately, we cannot accept food donations from home and all food will be provided by school. Father Christmas will visit each child and present them with a small gift. On party day, your child can bring party clothes in a bag with them to school.
- **Christmas lunch** - on Wednesday 16th December. This is always a super event and all of our children enjoy a festive Christmas meal, Christmas songs and the chance to pull a cracker and wear a jolly hat!

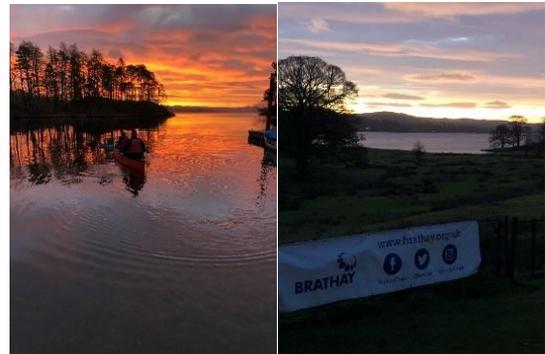
Year 6 Residential 2020

We have managed to move our year 6 residential visit to the summer in the hope that it can run in line with Covid risk assessments

Trip 1 - 14th June-16th June

Trip 2 - 21st June-23rd June

I know that the pupils will be amazed by how beautiful the setting is of the Brathay centre is. It overlooks Lake Windermere and is surrounded by natural beauty. The River Brathay runs alongside the centre and the Loughrigg Fell is the back drop. Pupils will learn life skills such as team work, resilience and also geographical skills such as map reading and compass use. They will also learn a lot about themselves as they tackle activities that really challenge them. We will continue with fundraising events this term to help fund this trip and hope a few more children will sign up to join.



Finally, a huge thank you to parents for helping to keep our community safe by wearing a face covering when on the school site at pick up time.

Yours faithfully

Claire Greenwood
Associate Principal



Calendar Dates – for the rest of the term

Pupil Progress Phone Call	Monday 9 th November – Friday 13 th November
Odd Sock Day	Monday 16 th November
School photos	Monday 23 rd November
Nursery and Reception Christmas parties	Monday 14 th December
Year one and two Christmas parties	Tuesday 15 th December
Year 6 Christmas parties	Tuesday 15 th December
Year 5 Christingle	Tuesday 15 th December
Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 16 th December
Year 5 Christmas parties	Thursday 17 th December
Year 6 Christingle	Thursday 17 th December
Year 3 Christmas parties	Thursday 17 th December
Year 4 Christmas parties	Friday 18 th December
Last day of term	Friday 18 th December