



MERRY
Christmas
And Happy New Year



December 2023



Message from Mrs Mathie

As another term draws to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their support.

We have enjoyed a fabulous term full of lots of festive fun starting with our pantomime of Snow White followed by a Christingle service, nativity performances, Christmas lunch/jumper day and carol concerts.

Our children continue to make us proud with their behaviour, approach to learning and their desire to achieve and we look forward to developing this further in 2024.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Battling Brook, I would like to wish all of our families a well deserved, restful Christmas break and a very happy and healthy New Year!

First Time Admissions

Just a quick reminder that if your child is due to start primary school in September 2024, the deadline to make your application is Monday 15th January 2024.

Applications can be made online by visiting: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>
Applications received after this date will be considered late and have the lowest priority of all, unless there is a significant and genuine reason for lateness.

Considerate Parking

We have received numerous reports from local residents regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking (especially in side roads). As a result we have requested the support of the local council and PCSO, which I am sure that you have seen recently. I would like to remind all parents to please park safely and courteously at all times and not to pull in to school entrances in order to drop off your child.

Our school rules of Ready, Respectful, Safe have been put in place for the benefit of all and are also relevant both before and after school and by all members of our school community.

Your support with this matter is very much appreciated.

Severe Weather Warnings

Our school will remain open unless it is judged unsafe to do so or if we do not have sufficient staff to allow us to open safely. However, if the school needs to close, a decision will be taken as early in the morning as possible and the school website will be updated and a message sent via the School Gateway App (please ensure that you remain logged in).

We ask that parents do not phone the school for information about closure as this is likely to block phone lines.

Reporting illness/absence

Reporting Absences/Illness - Just a quick message to thank everyone who keeps the school updated when their children are unwell. This is a reminder that any absence should be reported, **with full details of illness/symptoms please**, before 9.30am; either via an email to the office, a telephone call to the absence line or via the Gateway App.

Absences During Term Time - It is a legal requirement for permission to be sought from the Head Teacher if you are planning to take your child out of school during term time. To comply, an absence request form **must** be submitted via the school office **before a booking is made**, giving reasons for your request. Please note that **unauthorised** holiday absence of 5 days or more (either as a block or as separate days), within each academic year, will automatically be referred to the Local Authority with a request that a Penalty Notice be issued.

Donations

As always, the generosity of our families makes us very happy. This term is always busy in terms of fund raising and you always deliver! We have raised:

Poppy Appeal - £287

Children In Need - £441

Christmas Jumper Day - £307.

Not to mention **over £4000 raised** by our amazing PTFA!!!

Little Battlers

Little Battlers is currently going through a really exciting phase of transition and we can't wait to share with you all of the things that will be happening over the coming months. We are confident that all of the changes will be in place ready for children joining us next September.

Mrs Mason and Mrs Smith (who between them have over 37 years experience here) will be leaving at the end of this term. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work during their time at Little Battlers and wish them well for their future.

Staffing Update

There are a number of new staff joining Team EB this term. I would like to welcome Miss Bennett and Mrs Finney who will be working 1-2-1 with specific children and Mrs Hasler-Cope who is a Cover Supervisor, who will be based in Years 3 and 4.

Mrs Temple will be leaving Year 6 to take up a position closer to home from next term. Her passion and enthusiasm has been incredible during her 3 years at Battling Brook. Also, Miss Henly has made the decision to change direction with her career and will be training as an estate agent - we wish you the best of luck!

Mrs Hallam from our Reception Team has accepted the position as Pre-school Lead Practitioner within Little Battlers and will take up this role from January onwards.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to wish an extremely fond farewell to Mrs Corkill who has made the decision to enjoy a well earned retirement. Her commitment and dedication to Battling Brook has been immeasurable over the past 30 years and she will be greatly missed by all of us!

Key Dates

Wednesday 20th December: Y3 Christmas Performances @ 9.15am or 2.00pm

Thursday 21st December: Final day of term.

Monday 8th January 2024: Staff INSET Day

Tuesday 9th January: School opens to pupils