

Friday 4th December 2015

## Message from the head

As the end of term approaches I need to let you know that there will be some staffing changes in January. Three of our fantastic teachers will be leaving at new. Monica Gallagher, our wonder-maths leader, is leaving to become an assistant head. Monica has been the driving force behind the stellar rise in attainment in maths across the school and her commitment to making sure that every child at Brecknock achieves with the best has been unwavering. We simply cannot thank her enough for everything she has done.



Also, Kate Murtagh in Year 5 is leaving to become leader of learning for maths at Edith Neville Primary. Kate too is a brilliant teacher and has made a significant contribution to life at Brecknock, she will be very much missed.

Finally, Saba Asghar, who teaches in Reception three days a week is leaving to teach in a school much closer to her home. Saba returned from maternity leave last year and it will be good for her to spend more time with her family. Saba's kindness and adaptability is second to none.

All of these teachers have made a big contribution to life and learning at Brecknock and, as well as wishing them every success in the future, I would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment over the years.

We have been fortunate to secure first class replacements for these teachers: Phil Semple will be taking over from Monica in Madagascar, Callum Moore, who you all know, will take over in Jamaica and Laura will be working full time in Lundy Class until we find a replacement for Saba.

Although it is always sad to say goodbye to people we admire I am confident that the Brecknock team will go from strength to strength in the new year.

## Starting school in Camden 2016

Parents whose children are starting reception classes in Camden primary schools in September 2016 need to apply by **15th January**. You can apply online. Read the annual guide for parents: Starting School in Camden. This is the web address for applying online (QR code above):

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>



This is a web link to the 'Starting School in Camden 2016' page where you can download the guide (QR code to the left).

<http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/education/camden-schools/primary-schools/primary-admissions/>

## Christmas Dinner

17th December—if your child is not usually school dinners but you'd like them to have the Christmas meal please order at the office. The deadline for ordering is Friday the 11th.

Thank you.



## Dates for your calendar

8th December	Year 6 to Theatre (evening)
8th December	Nursery Christmas Show @ 2pm
10th December	Reception Christmas Show @ 2pm
10th December	Corsica Class to CLC
11th December	Christmas Fair @ 3.45pm
14th December	Sicily Class to CLC
15th December	Year 1 Christmas Show @ 2pm
16th December	Year 2 Christmas Show @ 2pm
18th December	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
21st Dec-1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
4th January	INSET Day—School Closed
5th January	School Opens—children back
12th January	Jersey Class to CLC
15th January	Guernsey Class to CLC
25th January	Hawaii Class to CLC
1st February	Year 5 to the Royal Observatory
10th February	Year 5 to Unicorn Theatre
10th February	Tahiti Class to CLC
15th-19th Feb	Spring Half Term Holiday
22nd February	School Opens—children back
3rd March	Jamaica Class to CLC
4th March	Cuba Class to CLC
7th-11th March	Brecknock Book Week
8th March	Year 1 to Unicorn Theatre
24th March	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
25th Mar-8th Apr	Easter Holidays
11th April	School Opens—children back
2nd May	May Day Holiday—School Closed
30th May-3rd June	Summer Half Term Holiday
6th June	INSET Day—School Closed
7th June	School Opens—children back
20th July	Last day of term—close @ 2pm

## Children in Need

With all the money now received, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who brought in money for the non-uniform day and supported us that week at the Friday tea sale. We managed to raise a fantastic £448.24! Another brilliant effort by the Brecknock community. Children in Need will put the money to good use.



## Attendance Rabbit & Early Bird Winners

23rd-27th November

Attendance KS1: Jersey—97.04%

Attendance KS2: Sumatra—99%

Early Bird: Madagascar—0 lates



## Feel the Rhythm with the Samba Band!

Samba Band - on Thursday at 8.15am - is flourishing. However, we could still fit in a few new members to beef up the sound! It's free! If interested speak to Rod Arran.

## Important Notice—Parent conferences

If by any chance you missed your parent and teacher conference appointment or were unable to make that week, please can you make sure you see the teacher after school as soon as possible to re-schedule the appointment. These meetings are so important for your child. Many thanks

## Christmas Fair — and thank you Tottenham!

The Christmas Fair is fast approaching and **Brecknock Needs You!** The Christmas Fair is on **Friday 11th December from 3.45pm—5.30pm**.

We need all of you to help make this a wonderful event—bake a cake, do face-painting, help set up, run a stall—anything at all. There is a volunteer sign up sheet in the office.

Last week we said thank you to Arsenal for donating to our raffle and this week we say a huge thank you to Tottenham too. They have donated a signed Spurs team pennant in time for the big draw. Now we can keep everyone happy (especially one of our deputy heads!). Start buying your tickets now for a chance to win these two unique items and many others!



# Brecknock Parent Governors

The school governors are volunteers who help set the priorities for the school, approve the budget and support the head teacher to provide the best possible education for children at Brecknock. There are seven parents on the school governing body—six with children currently at the school (one parent's child has moved on to secondary school). They are the representatives of Brecknock families and aim to reflect the school community's experiences of the school. It is not the role of governors to deal with individual problems parents and their children may be experiencing - parents should always talk to their class teacher about their own children. But by hearing the experiences of Brecknock families they can help plan for the school's future more effectively. We'd like to welcome Muhammad Abu Naser as our newest parent governor. He was voted onto the governing body in the recent parent governor elections. We'd also like to congratulate Emma Stockton who was re-elected for another term in the same election. At the same time we would like to thank Polly Curtis for all her work in the Parent Governor role she fulfilled so well during her term which came to an end in September this year. Please feel free to approach any of them at any time and if you are interested in knowing more about their roles or have any issues you would like them to know or raise at governing body meeting. We also have some fantastic 'Co-opted' Governors representing the wider local community and you can learn more about them and governors in general on the Governor page in 'School Info' on the Brecknock Website - <http://www.brecknock.camden.sch.uk/school-info/governors/>



**Geethika Jayatilaka**  
Chair of Governors  
(Shalin—Y5 & Alice—  
Reception)



**Tanya Gibson**  
(Isaac—Y3 &  
Dylan—Y2)



**Tomris Tangaz**  
(Timur—Y3)



**Muhammad Abu Naser**  
(Amina—  
Reception)



**Syeda Miah**  
(Thyra—Y5 & Aayaz—Y3)



**Emma Stockton**  
(Charlotte—Y5 &  
Finlay—Reception)

## Thanks for our Christmas Tree!



**fabulous fresh**  
**CHRISTMAS TREES**



The Alwyne Pub, jct. of St Paul's & Highbury Grove, Islington, N1 2LY

**THE CHRISTMAS FOREST IN ISLINGTON**

Open throughout December, 8am to 10pm



treeaid.org.uk

Choose your tree from **FIVE** different varieties and a huge range of sizes, selected from sustainable plantations. Come and buy your wreaths, holly and mistletoe too!

**GREAT PRICES FOR BEAUTIFUL TREES!**

**WE DELIVER** **PARKING**

[christmasforest.co.uk](http://christmasforest.co.uk) / 01865 427067

We would like to say a big Thank you to 'The Christmas Forest' who this year have kindly donated our Christmas Tree which will be going up on Monday. They share Brecknock's green values by supporting tree aid. ([treeaid.co.uk](http://treeaid.co.uk)). Through Tree Aid, for every tree they sell, a tree is planted in the African Drylands. Thanks to 'Christmas Forest' customers 128,000 trees have been planted in some of the planet's poorest areas improving conditions and prospects for those living there.

## Guitar Lesson Places Available

We currently have some spaces for guitar lessons in school.

The Cost is £75.50 for 10 lessons (one term), half price for Free School Meal children (£37.75). You can pay in half termly instalments and a guitar is provided.

The lessons take place in school time from a fully qualified professional guitar teacher (Sam Harvey) from the Camden Music Service.

For more information you can speak to Rod, our amazing music teacher, or contact the Camden Music Service directly.

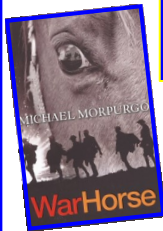
Telephone: 020 7974 7239 or via email on: [camdenmusic@camden.gov.uk](mailto:camdenmusic@camden.gov.uk)



## Mayors Fund—Count on Us Parent Project

A big thank you to all the parents in Years 1–4 who completed the questionnaires at the recent parent conferences. As you know, this is part of our involvement in a project being run by the Mayors Office to support parents with being more involved in their children's Maths development. This week we received the homework resources and maths 'Scrapbooks' for the children and these will start going home from next week. We really hope you will enjoy doing some of these activities with your children and together we can make sure they make the best possible progress in their maths learning. We also plan to hold a number of events in school in the next couple of terms to work with parents to better support you in the strategies we use in school to teach the children. If you have any questions or need any help with anything, please ask your child's class teacher. Thank you.





# Inspired by War Horse

Following on from last weeks fabulous writing in Year 6 that was included in the newsletter, here is another short piece inspired by the same text. This time describing Joey the horse.

Next week the children will be attending the theatre to see the brilliant production of this fabulous story. It will be a late night for the children but well worth it!

There he stood. Ardent, fervent and devoted. His matted hair stuck to his powerful neck. His protruding ribs suggested that he hadn't eaten in days. His scaly blood stained saddle was falling off. Where was the rider?



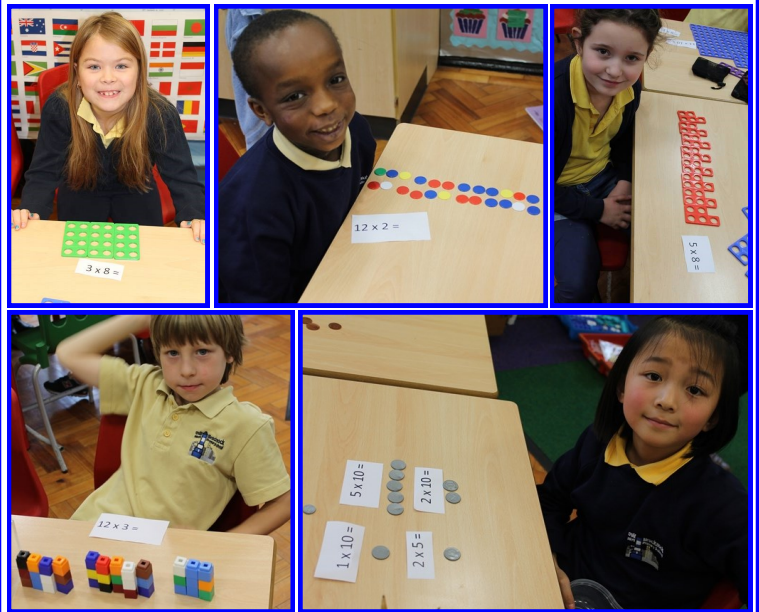
By Jamaal

Aggressively, he thrust his front legs and neighed and began to stride fearlessly. Abandoned and alone but still full of passion and pride. He couldn't bear to leave Zoe and Albert, his dear companions, but he had to be strong without them. Sprinting gracefully over the moors, he braced himself for danger and death. Was this the end?

Beads of sweat trickled down his dusty and tired face. Bravely, he picked up the pace and headed into the distance.

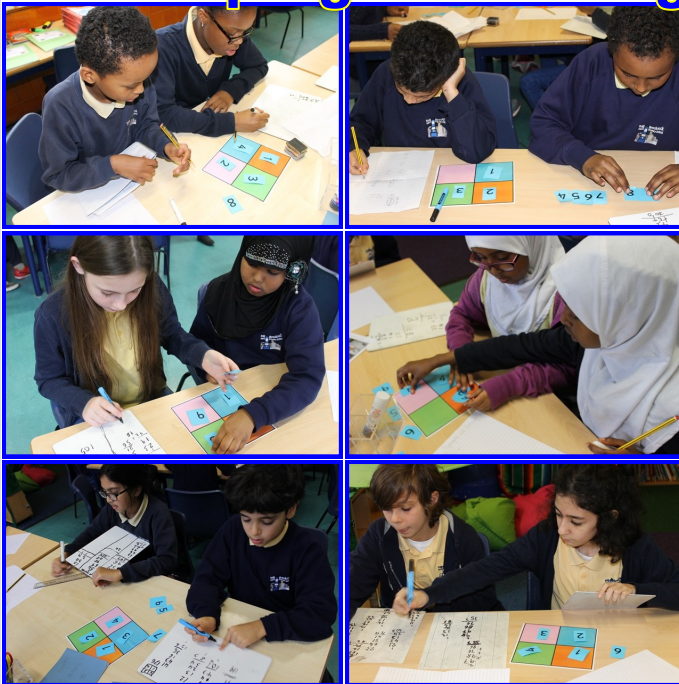
Corsica have been doing multiplication for the last two weeks. We started off with using a variety of resources to solve multiplication problems before then moving onto formal written methods. Here are some photos of us using resources to show multiplication problems.

## Multiplication



## Developing Reasoning

## English Pocket Opera



This week, Jamaica class played a maths game called 'Reach 100'. As a warm up the children had to create four 2 digit numbers and place them on a grid using numbers 1-9 only. They then added up the final total to see what they had created. Their first challenge was to create the biggest and then smallest number possible. They then moved on to trying to make 100 exactly. They had to use a lot of reasoning skills as well as trial and improvement. The children worked very hard in partners to find a solution. Well done year 5!

KS2 were wowed by the astonishing operatic voices of the English Pocket Opera Company, who visited on Tuesday. The children could not believe how loud a human voice can be when singing! They taught the children how to make an opera and what is needed: Action, music and words. A selection of songs from the 'Dream' sequence in Purcell's 'The Fairy Queen' were taught to introduce the children to what will be sung at the Royal Albert Hall Festival in March. We are hoping to take a large choir to the festival this year, so please encourage your children to join if you would like to see them perform.



Last week, on Friday, some of school council helped to treat our support staff. It was part of the UNISON sponsored 'Stars in our Schools' Day. Brecknock support staff spend so much time and energy looking after the children, it was our turn to look after them. We set up a special cream tea in the middle of the afternoon to say "Thank you!"

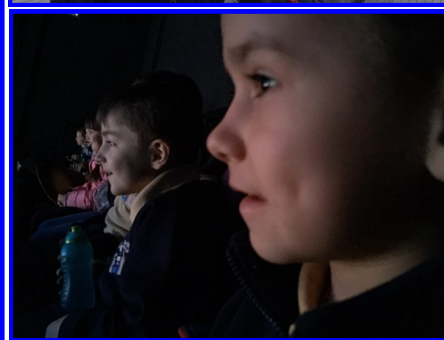
There were tea pots, china cups and saucers, scones with jam and cream, all served by volunteer School Council members. We hope they enjoyed it and if the empty cups and plates were anything to go by, I think they did.



This week Year 2 were fortunate enough to visit the Unicorn Theatre to see 'The Snow Child', which was amazing! The actors performed silently using puppets and body language, there was even live music! Afterwards, they had lunch near the Thames, surrounded by fountains and London's most iconic buildings including the Shard, Gherkin, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London! What a great day. Thanks Kate M for organising!



## The Snow Child



## Homework

Since we moved to our topic based curriculum (IPC) a couple of years ago we have always looked for ways to include our topic learning in literacy. When we do, we find the effects of the children's interest really shines through in their writing and leads to better outcomes. In year 3 they have been learning all about rainforests this term. Here's an example of two pieces of writing done recently using the knowledge they have picked up. One, a very short piece from Shakhani where he was asked to write a description of a rainforest setting, the other, a long narrative piece from Timur, to retell a story they have been reading. Both boys have worked hard on these and have really drawn from the topic learning to extend and improve their writing.

The Sloth climbed under the rough tree. The vibrant parrot flew peacefully. The monkey swung from vine to vine. The jaguar roared like a bear. On the forest floor the corn snake hissed like a Madagascan Cockroach.

By Shakhani



"Sure, I eat people's grandmothers once in a while, but that doesn't make me a bad person... it makes me a good villain."

The Big Bad Wolf's in trouble - he's been ripped out of his story and thrown in jail for being too good at being bad. But being the villain's the best part, everyone knows that... This Christmas, someone's decided to change the fairytale rulebook and no-one seems to know why. How are you supposed to tell

who the good guys are when there are no baddies around? Year 4 stepped into the lives of everyone's favourite villainous characters to find out on Thursday when they went to 'Baddies the Musical' at the Unicorn Theatre. A fantastic show and a great time had by all. If you're looking for a good show for the family this Christmas we'd definitely recommend it, just ask year 4!



Our new Homework Matrices that some classes are trialling continue to be a hit with the children. Here are some of the homework that Corsica class have chosen to do and brought in this week alone. Enthusiasm is definitely increased with this style of pupil choice over the tasks they do all themed around areas being studied in class across different subjects.



## Inspired by the Rainforest!

One day two men walked into the rainforest. Moments before the smaller man stopped and pointed to the great Kapok tree. Whack! Chop! Whack! Chop! The man lay down at the trunk of the tree.

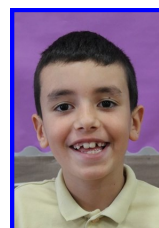
A little while later a vibrant snake hissed in the man's ear, "Senhor, this is a tree of miracles where generations of my ancestors have lived. DO NOT CUT IT DOWN!"

A little while later a beautiful bullfrog crept out from the leaves and whispered in the man's ear, "Senhor a ruined rainforest means many of us will become homeless and then we will not survive and we will become extinct.

A little while later a three toed sloth climbed down from the canopy and whispered in the man's ear, "Snhor, if you cut down this tree fire will be able to spread easily. If the rainforest burns away what will you feast your eyes on in the world!"

After that the man woke up. All the animals were all staring at him, but not able to speak...

By Timur



## Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Tristin & Abdullahi—Mull, Star & Devrim—Skye, Maha & Mohamed—Jersey, Shakhani & Maisy—Y3, Nikita & Ilyas—Y4, Nakai & Firdows—Y5, Zakariye & Tito—Y6