

Friday 8th December 2017

Message from the head



School is very busy as we rush towards the holidays. We have already seen fantastic performances from the two year-olds in Mersea Class, Nursery and Reception and next week we are looking forward to first class shows from Year 1, who will be telling the story of A Snowman at Sunset, and Year 2 who will be entertaining us with a play about The Grinch – thank you Amelie for giving us the idea! Christmas lunch is next Tuesday and Friday will be a non-uniform day to raise funds for school events. Lots to look forward to! Please remember that school closes at **2 pm** on **MONDAY 18th**.

Dates for your calendar

13th December	Year 1 Show at 2:00pm for families in middle hall
14th December	Year 2 Show at 2:00pm for families in middle hall
15th December	Non-Uniform Day
18th December	Last day of term. Note: this is a Monday
19th Dec-Jan 4th	Christmas Holidays
3rd January	INSET Day—School closed
4th January	School opens—children back

Please note that there is no Friday Tea next week

GOOD LUCK MATT!

I am sorry to tell you that the wonderful Matt Williams will be leaving Brecknock at Christmas. Matt started in September 2015 and has played a huge part in the development of the school, his championing of literacy and hard work, commitment and care will be greatly missed.

Matt has decided to follow a path outside traditional teaching and we wish him every success with his endeavours. Do come back and tell us about your adventures Matt, and may the force be with you!



Keeping Safe Online Over the Holidays

Dear Parents and carers,

With the Holidays nearly upon us here is a handy reminder about online safety for your children with some hints and tips.

Talking to your child – openly, and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online.

You might find it helpful to start with a family discussion to set boundaries and agree what's appropriate. Or you might need a more specific conversation about an app or website your child wants to use or something you're worried about.

The following link has advice and further resources for some of those conversations: www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/



The Best Books of 2017

Getting children engaged in reading is really important. Check out this year's list of best children's books for some ideas for the holidays.

www.theguardian.com/books/2017/dec/02/the-best-childrens-books-2017



Online games: helping children to play safe

What are the risks of online games?

- **Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content** if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- **Some players can be abusive towards others** or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- **Children may play with adults they don't know.** People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.
- **Some children may find it hard to stop playing games** or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

A poem whereby Matt tries to thank all of the children, support staff and teachers for his wonderful time at the school

First of all, just allow me **ONE MOMENT** to say,
 It's been a pleasure to contribute to **'The Brecknock Way'**
 And teaching here, I've taught and **been taught**, so many amazing things!
 Mainly how a **'growth mind set'** is not just **all** about wins:
 'How often, we **learn** the most, from simply making mistakes
 Being brave enough to fail, pick ourselves-up and **create**...
 ... A future in which we can **'be the best we can be'**
 A whole **world that's ours**, to travel, play and see!
 And even though I'm leaving, there's **no such thing as an end**
 Because **naturally things start and things finish**, there's no need to pretend.
 For a school like ours is more than the sum of its parts,
 It about the continuous **love of learning** and the kindness of hearts.
 So as I leave, be sure, not to spend too much time looking back
 Be on the **watch for the future**, and not a memory called Matt.
 Because just like me, eventually, you'll be moving along
 But rest assured, the lighthouse of **Brecknock will always shine on!**



Interviews in Year 4

After reading the Ice Palace in Literacy, Year 4 have been role playing as the main characters from the book and filming it. They all enjoyed acting as the cruel character Starjik. Keep an eye on the website for the interviews.



Life in Year 1

Lots of exciting things have been going on in Year 1 this term. In Literacy they have had a rabbit to catch! The rabbit stole the bears hat and so they created wanted posters, using adjectives, to help the bear find the rabbit. As well as writing wanted posters they have been designing new hats for the bear.

In IPC Year 1 have been learning more about 'Who Am I' and they looked at the different countries that they come from. Linking with literacy and their Christmas show, they have also been looking at emotions and what they are.



Bravo Mersea, Nursery and Reception!

A huge well done to Mersea, Nursery and Reception for their fantastic Christmas performances. Thank you to all the friends and family who attended the shows.



Hour of Code

Children across the school took part in 'Hour of Code'. It is an international initiative to get children coding, and aims to improve children's ICT skills. They loved exploring all of the activities it had to offer, including learning to code Minecraft and Flappy Bird.



Meteorites in Year 5

As part of their topic Space, The Final Frontier, Year 5 have been examining meteorites and lunar dust under the microscope. It was amazing to see space material so close up!



Golden Book Awards! And this weeks winners are...

