

Winter Fayre

What a festive end to the term! **Huge thanks for the great turnout at the Winter Fayre.** It was really wonderful to see Brecknock and Torriano families enjoying some serious Christmas cheer, tasty food and lots more, on the pavements of Kentish Town. **The Brecknock Tombola** was a firm favorite as was Santa on his sleigh at St Luke's Church. Lucky children also received presents from Santa on his flashing bike as he pedaled around the streets! **Thank you for following the guidance to keep safe.** **It was a very special event with the community spirit felt across the fayre.** The fayre, inducing the raffle, **raised a whopping £7,206.51, which means Brecknock gets £3,603.25 for the school!** **Special thanks to our newly formed Brecknock PTA,** with their new partnership with Torriano PTA. I know that a lot of planning and communication took place to make it happen!



Christmas Concert!

Huge thanks to the wonderful Rod for producing our **online Christmas Concert!** The children really enjoyed singing and playing their musical instruments to produce each year group show. We hope they bring our families some joy over the Christmas period. Please use this link <https://www.rod-n-tom.com/christmas-song-videos> to watch our Christmas message at home!

HOHOHO!

We are in awe of our Brecknock children, who have been so resilient and impressive this term. They tucked into a fantastic **Christmas lunch on Wednesday** and danced it all away at **Christmas parties today** with a well-deserved **special visit from Santa!** We said a special goodbye to **Henry in our final Star Assembly of the term.** The children and staff shared special memories and why **Henry was a very special Brecknock star, who will be greatly missed by all.** We wish him all the best in his new life in Bristol.



Thank you and Keep Safe...

Thank you for your cooperation and support throughout this term. It has been challenging and required the whole community to be flexible and act responsibly. Please ensure that you have read the **letter regarding COVID reporting to the school during the Christmas period.** It contains all of the information you need and the contact email **C19@brecknock.camden.sch.uk.** Finally, thank you to the **wonderful staff and governors** for their hard work, commitment and incredible team spirit.

Have a safe Christmas!
Helen Bruckdorfer



Message from The Chair of Governors - December 2020

Saturday's Festive Street Fair reminded me of the strength, resilience and good cheer of the Brecknock community. This year has presented challenges for us all, and in particular the absence of Cal this term has required Brecknock to do a lot of things differently. This has meant increased partnership working, most especially with Torriano Primary School, but also with organisations such as Kentish Town Community Centre. Seeing colleagues from these important partners, meeting parents, carers and friends, and seeing the beaming faces of children on Saturday reminded me that, even when things are tough, Brecknock lets its brilliance shine.

The most important thing I want to say is thank you! Thank you to every pupil who has tried their very best this term to settle back into life at school and to learn as well as they possibly can. Thank you, also, to every parent and carer who has supported their children to re-establish routines, commit to learning and support the re-making of friendships. I know how hard this year has been for everyone, and I am grateful for your continuing support of Brecknock and all that we are trying to achieve.

Thank you, also, to the fabulous Brecknock staff, who have worked tirelessly this term and since March to ensure learning continued as uninterrupted as possible and that children were safe and supported. You are the heroes of this year, which the Governing Body absolutely recognises.

Further thanks go to Helen and her Torriano team, and Brecknock's SLT, who have navigated the school through a difficult term. They have taken care of the school in Cal's absence, and have provided invaluable opportunities for shared learning and development so that our two schools can be stronger than ever.

At the time of writing this note, Cal continues to be on a period of leave for personal reasons. If this changes during the Christmas holiday, Cal will return in January, but if it continues, Helen and her team, and Torriano's Governing Body, have agreed to continue to support us. We are enormously grateful for this commitment if it is needed in January.

We will be sorry to say farewell to Henry at the end of term. Henry has been a phenomenally important member of staff at Brecknock during his eight years at the school, not least as a member of SLT and when he was Acting Headteacher for a day a week during Marianne's last year at the school. Henry has led our maths teaching to be nationally recognised, ensured the teaching and learning that take place are well led, and will be missed by children, families, staff and governors alike. We wish him all the very best for his move to Bristol to a deputy headship in a three-form-entry school.

In order to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the Senior Leadership Team, Helen has arranged for Conor Loughney, Assistant Headteacher responsible for teaching and learning and KS2 at Torriano, to work at Brecknock for part of the week. He will work alongside Laura and Tiggy to ensure that what Henry has been doing will continue in the short-term.

There is one more update that I would like to share with you. Governors and Helen have restored our catering provision to a dual service, meaning that halal and non-halal food is prepared and served each day. This is to cater for each member of our school community every lunchtime. Children are supported to understand which queue they need to use in the dining hall, but if you have any questions about this, please contact the school office for more information.

I will finish by wishing you all a safe and restful holiday, and a more positive 2021.

With best wishes,
Richard Harrison
Chair of Governors

D A T E S

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21st Dec - Friday 1st Jan
2021

- Christmas Holidays - school closed

Monday 4th January 2021

Start of Spring term - school reopens

Thursday 11th February 2021

Last day of Spring 1st Half Term

Friday 12th February 2021

INSET Day - school closed

Let's Recap!

After School Clubs:

If you have an interest in
After-School clubs for the
Spring term, please visit:

smartsurvey.co.uk/s/T1AFJ6

All clubs will be operated
within Brecknock School and
all children will be kept within
their bubbles.

Wellbeing Tip of the Week -

Helping Others

Find ways, big or small, to give back to others. Research shows that people who volunteer experience a boost in their mental health. Helping others can help to build self-confidence, a sense of purpose and helps us to stay connected with others. Some examples of how to do this include; supporting local businesses, offering to food shop for those who are vulnerable, or messaging friends, family or neighbours to check-in.

The more we give, the happier we feel.



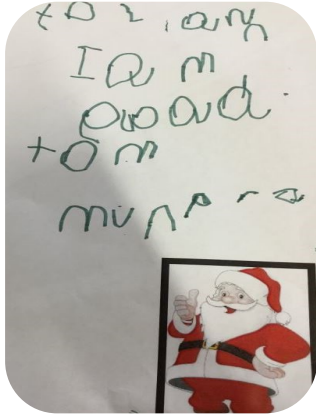
The Festive Street Fair was so much fun
and a great collaboration between the two
schools. Here are some more photos taken
on the day.





This week in the Nursery, the children have been busy writing their own special letters to Father Christmas to ask for very special presents.

Look at their fabulous writing!



Reception

We have had lots of fun this term learning new phonics sounds. We had a chance to squirt the sounds that we know using the water pumps. Some of us can even squirt 3 sounds to make a CVC word.

The children have had lots of fun making their own signs for the 'garlic' and 'carrots' that we have growing in our garden. With Henny's help, they use hacksaws and hammers to make them.



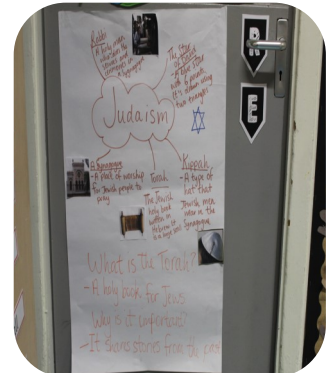
Year 1

Year 1 went on a trip to our local High Street to look at the local shops. They then wrote a recount of their trip when they returned to school.



Year 2

Year 2 this week have been busy getting ready for their Christmas party. They have also been learning all about different Religious celebrations for this time of year, including Christianity and Judaism.



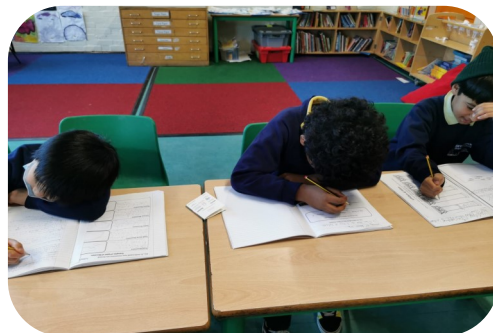
Year 3

Year 3 collected samples of soil from the roof garden and studied it closely under electric microscopes. They also had the best time playing with jigsaws and games.



Year 4

This week Year 4 have been learning about Islam in RE. The children were very curious when learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam. They were particularly inspired by the pillar of Zakat (charity), especially when Christmas is a time of giving.



Year 5

5Y have been getting in the festive spirit, moving and grooving. They have some really impressive dancers!



5B have been working hard to promote clean air. All of Year 5 had the chance to discuss what a good street looks like, considering the pollution level and of course the aesthetics.



Year 6

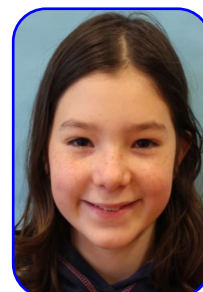
During advent each day 6Y have been exploring a different well-being activity. This week they really enjoyed the 'Positive Paper chains' activity. They wrote positive messages on a strip of paper and then connected them together in one long chain.



How lucky were the children this week, to have a visit from Santa himself.



Here are our stars of the week!



Merry CHRISTMAS



Goodbye Henry





Dear all,

Absolutely spectacular is a phrase that springs to mind when thinking of the Festive Street Fair held on Saturday. It was the beating heart of the local area and community for a few hours at least!

Yes, it was hard work, but it was sooooo worth it! There was a buzz and the families were so happy and THAT is what it's all about.

We would like to thank those who ran stalls. It may have been the first time you had helped, so we hope that it was a positive experience and that you felt part of the greater good.

We would also like to thank those who worked behind the scenes organizing, fundraising, finding spaces for us to have stalls, selling trees, purchasing and sourcing supplies for the event, making donations, searching for gifts, recruiting people for stalls and other help, wrapping books, decorating, making a map and updating it, making posters and flyers, creating works of art like the reindeer and Santa's sleigh, cooking, setting up, clearing away and finding home for all the toys collected and sold, marshalling at gates, running around, being an elf, coordinating on the day, collecting money, selling raffle tickets, folding raffle tickets, tallying up takings and funds raised, going to the bank, running the draw, calling winners of the raffle and much more... It takes so much to run an event like this, so all that help is immensely appreciated.

We are grateful to St. Lukes, PACE and Kentish Town Community Centre for offering their spaces and running stalls for us as well as KTCC and Torriano helping make sure the event was Covid secure.

What's more, we had the wonderful Jolly Santa at St. Luke's hearing kids wishes and offering gifts. He braved the cold for three hours and made lots of kids very happy, so thank you Sitting Santa! Cycling Santa also made his way around the area, stopping to have a friendly Santa chat with local kids and their families and offering gifts to them too so a big thank you to him too! Alex from Brecknock Primary School spotted him and let us know, so a little prize will be winging its way to you Alex!



To round everything off, we had our raffle draw on Monday afternoon via Zoom. Who would have imagined that a year ago?

There were some really wonderful prizes, including a first and second monetary prize from Keatons' Estate Agents which sponsored our event and an extravagant Christmas Hamper put together by a wonderful parent. Thank you to both and the others for all their donations to the raffle. There were 38 winners to be exact and the school contacted them via phone or left a voicemail message if they were unable to speak to them. We would also like to thank the school for helping run the raffle draw and for their support in the organization of the event.

So, you're probably wondering if we did well? Well, yes, we did!!!

We did amazingly well at bringing two brilliant primary schools together, making them stronger as well as bringing the community together! Not only did we do all that, but we also raised just over £7,000, which will be shared equally between Torriano and Brecknock Primary Schools and will go towards making sure children have portable computers for online learning when they are at home as well as in school, which is super important in our current times.

Please note that all donations and payments made via Justgiving on the day of the fair and all cash takings from the stalls were shared equally between the two schools and this is what gives us the total of just over £7,000. Absolutely mind-blowing!

What have we learnt?

- We can be amazingly strong as a community!
- We need lots of help from people with different skills and we cannot be afraid to ask for help nor to offer help or ask what is needed.
- We can, do and will raise essential funds to help our children in their schools.

With all that in mind, we would like to wish you all Happy Holidays and a very Merry Christmas!

Very Best Wishes from Torriano and Brecknock PTAs.





The climate crisis affects us all. Every week we will be offering a suggestion for a positive climate action you can take yourselves, as part of the bigger changes we need to make as a global community.

Action 6: Plant a native tree or ask your local council to plant more trees in your local area. You can get free trees from Camden Forest: <https://camdenforest2025.wordpress.com/> and enter a writing competition about your favourite tree!



Planting trees is one of the biggest and cheapest ways of fighting the climate crisis. As trees grow they absorb and store the carbon dioxide emissions which are heating our planet. Trees provide vital habitats for wildlife and help to keep the air around us clean. Trees are shown to improve mental health and wellbeing, all round they have many benefits for humans and the natural environment.

Temporary changes to urgent healthcare for children and young people to continue over Christmas

If your child needs urgent healthcare this winter, be sure to go to the right place. So that the NHS can continue to provide safe care to all Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington residents during the pandemic, we have made some temporary changes to children and young people's services.

These changes will continue throughout the Christmas period and over the winter to help ease pressure on our hospitals.

Emergency services for children and young people have temporarily closed at University College London Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital.

However, there are children and young people's emergency departments nearby at:

Whittington Health
Barnet Hospital
North Middlesex University Hospital
St Mary's Hospital
Royal London Hospital.

These temporary arrangements allow the NHS to ensure that children and young people's services are not disrupted by increases in demand due to the pandemic. The NHS is still here for you and your family. If you think you need A&E for your baby or child, please call NHS 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk for advice on the most appropriate and nearest service to you. If needed, NHS 111 can now book you an appointment at your local A&E or direct you to another service.

For life-threatening emergencies call 999 immediately.

Parents of children receiving ongoing or planned care will be contacted directly if there are any changes to existing arrangements.

University College London Hospitals and the Royal Free Hospital emergency departments are still open for adult patients.

Find out more at: <https://www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/ourplan/Areas-of-work/Children-and-young-people-health-services.htm>