



## EYFS Editorial

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### Nursery News

After a long summer break, it was great to get back to routine and rekindle relationships with returning children and get to know ten new children and families. The children have settled in amazingly and it feels like we have all known each other far longer than a few months.

September, with God's grace, brought us back together with some days of warm sunshine to help us not forget summer too quickly! The children got back into the flow swiftly and were pleased to resume PE lessons with Mr Snadden on a Thursday and French (this time with Mme Atkinson) on a Friday. These lessons really do make the best use of being part of a through-school; specialist teachers who are able to share lessons with Nursery too.

Starting Forest School has been welcomed by the children, they have loved the opportunity to be outside and explore. They have picked up the rules wonderfully and are on their path to becoming independent explorers with a real sense of resilience.



Our Tapestry information session after school allowed the whole of the EYFS to come together and discuss how we use the software and what an amazing tool this is to bridge the gap between home and school learning. I am sure you are really enjoying using Tapestry and getting your photograph and video updates.



October brought a change to the weather and our lovely Harvest Festival; your donations of “tomato goods” were gratefully accepted by the Bromley Food Bank, we hope many families are able to make use of these gifts, particularly as the weather gets colder.

November allowed us to return after a restful two week break ready for the countdown to Christmas. We started our new daily “Dough Disco” initiative to help build up the children’s fine motor strength and this has proved a real hit! Fun dancing with playdough – what could be better?



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, not only did we remember the fallen with a two minute silence, but the children also celebrated the German Festival of Laternenfest. The children made traditional lanterns and paraded with their Reception friends around the outdoor area. We listened to some traditional music of the festival as we paraded.

Thanks to Mrs Bateman for all our cultural events, they are always amazing fun.



The children and families have been very generous this half term and really did themselves proud “turning purple” for Living On, as part of Children’s Bereavement Week, and also donating Christmas gifts and hamper items for families of children who have been bereaved. Christmas is a hard time when you have lost someone you love and showing these children that they are cared for and not forgotten in their grief, is the least we can do. Thank you so much for your support.



On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs Bateman and Ms Ludlam took six children to Waitrose on a fun shopping trip; we rode the 227 bus, purchased some very healthy fruit and returned to the Nursery to chop and make fruit salad. Delicious!



December is one of the busiest months of the year. We've been regularly rehearsing for our play and the EYFS as a whole partied hard on the 6<sup>th</sup> when we were also treated to a fabulous drama workshop with a Christmassy flavour by Perform.



The term rounded up in style with our gala performance of “Whoops-a-Daisy Angel”. The children have rehearsed hard and really shone on the night – well done Nursery children, we were all very proud indeed.



During October half term, Ms Ludlam asked all families to join in our Tapestry challenge, sending in videos and photographs on the theme of “I am special, I am me!” I am pleased to announce that the winners are Mimi from Nursery and Isabella from Reception. Well done. Everyone who entered has received a certificate; judging was very tricky and all of the entries were very worthy – well done and thank you to all, please join in our Tapestry challenge over the Christmas break.



**Ms Ludlam**

**Head of Nursery / EYFS Co-ordinator**

# Reception News

## Welcome to the Autumn Reception Editorial!

It has been a hugely successful start to the academic year. The children have made an excellent start at Bishop Challoner Junior School and are keen to get involved with school life. They have settled in very well, are following new routines with ease and are enjoying making new friends. At lunch time, they have been very grown up sitting sensibly in the dining hall and beginning to be more independent! In class, the children have been very enthusiastic and have enjoyed taking part in lots of activities. We have had an amazing start this term and the children are thoroughly enjoying lots of new experiences.



In September, the children started to learn more about books and how to read. Most children began by using the illustrations in books to help them retell a story, which they did quite enthusiastically using their imagination! As the term progressed and the children learnt key words and letter sounds, they began to recognise words and use their letter sounds to build words as they read. The children have been developing their reading in class through shared whole class reading and 1:1 reading sessions.



In mathematics we focused on development of number formation; recognising numerals 1-10, sorting items into groups, identifying similarities and differences, making

patterns and also to practise one more/one less than a given number. The children thoroughly enjoyed the practical aspects of the lessons and the use of ICT.



In October, we celebrated Harvest Festival. The children enjoyed the day, wearing their own clothes, whilst contributing to our chosen school charity. After our morning service, we made paper fruit and understood the importance of God's creations and displayed appreciation.



November is the Month of the Holy Souls and we prayed especially for our loved ones who had sadly passed away. We then wrote down the names of the departed and brought them forward at Mass during the Offertory. After the Mass, the sheets were put into a

book and remembered in prayer during the month of November. As always, the children were extremely well behaved and very respectful.



**In December, “Lights, Camel, Action!”**

This Christmas we joined the jam-packed cast of nativity celebrities as we celebrated Jesus' birth with a dazzling dance show. A marvellous variety of songs and spectacular dancing! The children thoroughly enjoyed the humour and glitz of the production. I think you would agree; they were all fantastic,



We hope you all have a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to January and the New Year.

Mr Peck,  
Reception Class Teacher.