

## The Beacon Folkestone

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16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### End of Term 2 Newsletter

You can view a video of this letter read by Mrs Evans via our website, at [https://youtu.be/JQ2\\_PKftO6w](https://youtu.be/JQ2_PKftO6w)

As we come to the end of this busy term and approach the New Year, it is important to think about the things we have and to recognise the things for which we can be thankful, particularly at a time when many people are finding things so difficult and challenging.

Despite the continued challenges thrown up by the pandemic, we have continued to navigate our way through, ending the term with the full range of Christmas experiences for all of our pupils to enjoy, safely.

We started Term 2 as planned with a glorious Zone 1 Harvest festival and Zone 3 Celebration of Achievement. It was lovely to have visitors back into school and everyone was saddened when we needed to reinstate stricter measures to keep everyone safe.

In true Beacon style, however, we have ensured that all of our pupils were included and participated in key events. We started Anti-bullying Week with everyone wearing "Odd Socks" and ended the week wearing "Bright and Bold" for Children in Need. Walmer raised a total amount for Children in Need of £84.33!



The children completed a minute's silence on Armistice Day and raised £135.54 selling poppies for the British Legion.

Incredibly, a parent and supporter of our school, James Kirk, ran 31 miles raising £1,647 for our Imagining Autism curriculum.



This term we held a Christmas craft fair organised by Paisley O'Sullivan. We would like to thank everyone for supporting the event. We raised £830 towards the Zone 1 discovery garden.

The school has continued to immerse itself in literacy this term as we participated in the International Pop up Literacy curriculum project. The children were able to meet the authors in person and/or virtually, and engage in learning activities designed to encourage and develop their love of reading. The staff excelled in this area and one author commented that The Beacon was the most organised and well prepared of all the schools he had attended and so the children were then able to get so much more out of the experience.

Last month, Haiti class were fortunate enough to receive a response from the famous author Gillian Cross, who wrote the novel series "The Demon Headmaster". She was very grateful to receive her letters from the children in February and was impressed at their in-depth knowledge of the first book. As an added bonus, the class received free copies of the entire series of books, which have been hugely popular with the children and their Accelerated Reader book choices across Zones.

The focus of our recent Parent Forum group was reading, and parents/carers have asked about the development of a reading forum for staff and parents to explore together - ways we can support reading jointly outside of school. Thank you to the parents who have asked to be involved and we look forward to seeing more of you in future meetings, hopefully face to face as the restrictions lessen.

The staff team has continued to prioritise children's learning whilst modelling safe practices. Our numbers affected by COVID continue to be far lower than for other schools. Our pupils always receive the greatest care and highest quality learning opportunities and this was evident in the final week of term when classes (pupils and staff) sat together eating Christmas Dinner and celebrating the season. The school community was so full of festive cheer, and it was wonderful to see so many Christmas Jumpers worn around the school by pupils and staff, with everyone celebrating together. Then on Thursday, Father Christmas came into school to visit the children of Zone 1 bringing each of them a Christmas gift.



We would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and remind you all to keep safe. Please continue to complete lateral flow tests and to adhere to all advice on social distancing. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and I ask that all children be tested the day before returning to school. All pupils in zones 2 and 3 are expected to test, and lateral flow kits have been sent out. Please test your child on the day before returning and log the test whether negative or positive with the school via the following link, which can be found on the school website.

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/TheBeacon1/LogACV19LateralFlowTest>

A huge thank you to everyone in our community. Everyone has done a fabulous job and your efforts are appreciated. Have a wonderful Christmas, and enjoy the holiday.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs B Evans  
Head of School