

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe it is almost the end of term 2 and Christmas is almost upon us. It has been an extremely busy but enjoyable two terms. Everything we do at the Beacon has one central aim which is 'To enable our pupils to be as independent as they possibly can be, make a positive contribution to society and reach their maximum potential.' It is this aim that drives our curriculum and our extra curricula activities. Our partnerships with other schools nationally and internationally through the Global Schools Alliance, our relationships with charities such as KMFm and Children in Need, our work with Universities to support the next generation of professionals are all driven by this intent. We could not achieve any of this without your support; our relationship with you as parents and carers is our greatest strength and one we do not take for granted. Your support is very much appreciated.



Thank you to all who have shared opinions and contributions on a whole range of subjects over the last two terms either in person or by email, through your contribution to Parent forum or our coffee mornings, your support of Parents' evening and annual reviews or simply through conversations at the start and end of the school day. We really do value your opinions and are committed to working in partnership with you for the benefit of our young people.

Thank you also for your generosity in contributing to the coat drive, the tombola, the toy drive and the harvest festival for which your contributions added to a staggering 4.5 tonnes of food donated by the local community to people in the local area. Yet again the generosity and kindness of the Beacon parents and carers has shone as an example of community spirit throughout the year and shows our young people how they too can make a valued and valuable contribution to their wider community.



Everyone across the school has joined in as part of the wider Beacon Community to celebrate the festive season together and it has been wonderful to see so many of you at the Nativity and Christmas concerts. As a staff team we have really enjoyed the experience celebrating together as a whole school and it has been lovely to see so many of you in school supporting your children and young people.

You will have seen from our Facebook page that we have had several charity events such as Children in need since the start of the school year. We are mindful that these are challenging times for all of us and would like to remind you that contributions at these times to any of the charities that we support are entirely voluntary. There is no expectation for a financial contribution on these days, indeed we believe that it is sometimes better to teach our pupils that you can contribute to your community with good deeds and kindness and not just by bringing in a donation. We try to encourage this throughout the year as part of our commitment to helping our children and young people make a valued and valuable contribution to their communities in whatever way they can. These are still challenging times for many of us and we have put some useful information about the support available to our families through various agencies as well as through our own Multi- agency support team on our Facebook page.



School closes for staff and students on Friday 15th December and starts again on Tuesday 2nd January. I would like to thank all staff across the school for their tireless work in support of our children and young people and would like also to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support. This year I would like to say a special thank you to our wonderful site team and support staff for the wonderful festive decorations that have made us all smile. Everyone at the Beacon wishes you and your families a restful and enjoyable festive season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Cole".

Alison Cole
Head of School

