



December 2017

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach Christmas, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation building with so many events still to come this week for us to look forward to. As usual we have our traditional Christmas services in St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Croston for all our year groups, a chance to look beyond the many good things that we are fortunate to enjoy at this time of year and reflect on the real message of Christmas, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, who was born for us, that we may have life. For many around the world there is hardship, homelessness, famine and on-going war or civil strife and it is right that we include these people in our prayers and think of their daily suffering. It is right too that we do more than this. As in previous years, we have had a Christmas Appeal and this year it has been to support The Brick in Wigan. The Brick Project is a small project that delivers big results for the community it serves. It offers services to people who are homeless, in poverty or facing debt crisis. As its name suggests, it provides a safe, solid building block for people in crisis to begin to construct a new life and become valuable members of society. Our students have given generously in the form of food, toiletries and unneeded clothing to support this appeal and we have a non-uniform day on the last day of the term to raise funds for the project. Along with all the wonderful items donated for the Operation Christmas Child shoe-box collection, the kindness represented by these gifts are hugely appreciated by their recipients and really can make a difference.

Once again, our students and staff have been working hard across all year groups since September, and for Year 11 in particular, the recent mock GCSE examinations and the handing out of mock results has provided affirmation to many that they are on the right track. For some there will be a period of reflection and realisation of the need to really engage in class and in homework for the remainder of Year 11. Looking ahead to August 2018, we hope as many of our students as possible will be celebrating the fruits of their hard work, but in the meantime, it is our responsibility to challenge everybody to constantly improve and achieve the best that they can. Integral to this is excellent attendance and we will continue to challenge year groups and individual students where appropriate to be in school as much as is possible. Right up to the end of the term, school has been going full steam ahead to progress all of our students.

On the teaching side we said goodbye to Miss Alston, who left us in November for a promoted post at Parklands after 11 years of outstanding service as a teacher of Science. Miss Morris has also left us, temporarily, on maternity leave, at the start of December, and we wish her the very best in the last days of her pregnancy. Her place in Maths is taken by Mrs Whitton. Mrs Jenkins from the Modern Foreign Languages department leaves us at the end of term having provided us with sterling service. We wish all of them well. Bishop Rawstorne is staffed not just by the teachers, but a large team of dedicated and committed support staff who are integral to the day-to-day life of the school. Without them, we would not enjoy the success that has long been a part of the school. At the start of December we said farewell to John Twinn, who took a well-deserved retirement from his post as Technology Technician after 9 years of loyal and faithful service at the school. Highly popular with the staff, he will be much missed. In his place comes Mrs Jane Cogley who will be starting with us in January.

Now though is a time to stop, relax, have some fun and leave Bishop Rawstorne behind us until the New Year. For us all, next year will be a year of new challenges as we strive to improve and progress. I would like to wish all of our students, staff, parents and governors a happy and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cowley  
Headteacher

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music department now has its own Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. Please check out these pages to see what is going on in the department @brmusicdepartment. You will be able to see performances of the band and choir in rehearsals, solo public performances and snippets of lessons. We have had a busy few weeks in terms of performances. Firstly, we held our first Solo and Ensemble concert, although a little cramped, in the Music room with over 20 performers taking part. What a talented group of students ranging from vocalists to guitar, drums, piano and trumpet. At the Remembrance Service in school, Emily Bannister and Kimberley Harrison played the Last Post and Reveille, which they then repeated at Wrightington and Croston. We were delighted to have some of the GCSE students at the opening of Croston Church after its renovation. The students who performed admirably were Lucy Thomas, Seth Butterfield, Jane Mulholland, Erin Lee-Smith and Lauren Eardley. Most recently three of our GCSE students performed at the Croston Christmas Markets – Jess Howard, Beth Kilcoyne and Eleanor Thomas. This was a fantastic opportunity where the girls represented the school so well. We are looking forward to future events to display more of our wonderfully talented music students.



## CHARITY

### Operation Christmas Child

Another great year for shoeboxes! Years 7 and 8 were amazing in volunteering their wrapping and collecting services and altogether we donated 124 boxes. As in previous years these were taken to our local depot and then on to Liverpool airport ready for shipping overseas. Many thanks to all who supported this very worthwhile cause.



### Oxfam Ambassadors

We have a small, dedicated group of Oxfam Ambassadors in school who work with the charity locally and in school. To raise awareness of the Rohingya crisis they organised a non-uniform day at the end of last term. Students were encouraged in tutor times to read about this and then to donate on non-uniform day. In total we were able to send £1,500 to this appeal. Well done to our Oxfam Ambassadors.



### Talented Ice Skater

Evie Ashton in Year 9 auditioned against ten other ice skaters for the part of the Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz on ice, at The Blackpool Pleasure Beach Arena, and she won! The show runs from 10 December to 27 December with tickets priced at £10 each. This is a charity event raising money for BIDCA, Children Helping Children Charity. Tickets are selling fast with some shows already sold out. Well done, Evie, and we hope the show is a huge success.



## Christmas Appeal 2017

Our Christmas Appeal this year will be supporting The Brick, a local project in Wigan which supports homeless and disadvantaged people in the area. Students will learn, in assemblies at the start of December, what the project is all about and the work it does. During the last week of term we will be asking students to bring in donations of food, toiletries and clothes which will be delivered on the last day of term. There will also be a non-uniform day on the last day of term to support this appeal. As always your support will be very much appreciated.



### Advent Journey

Join us this year on the school Facebook page as we journey through the Advent season. Each day on the page we will be posting a thought or short clip exploring the meaning of Christmas.



### Remembrance Day Poppies

This year, a very enthusiastic group of Year 8 students took part in knitting poppies for Remembrance Day. This proved to be immensely popular, with both staff and students buying poppies, resulting in us raising over £250 for the Royal British Legion.



### Remembrance Day Commemorations

The whole school gathered together to commemorate Remembrance Day and remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. The school choir performed a moving rendition of a war poem, whilst Emily Bannister and Kim Harrison played a poignant recital of the Last Post.



### Online Safety Tips

Each week on the news section of the website there will be a new online safety tip. Please take time to look at it and discuss it with your child. Can I also make you aware of the monthly newsletters that are on the website in the parent's section specific to online safety. Additionally, NSPCC's Netaware website is an excellent website to guide you through the social networks your children use from sites to games and apps <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> (there is also an app). Finally if you have any concerns or questions please contact Miss Palmer at school at [epalmer@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:epalmer@bishopr.co.uk)





### Journey to the Stable Performances

After several weeks of lunchtime rehearsals, a group of Year 7 and 8 actors performed their version of the 'Journey



to the Stable' at Eccleston St Mary's Church for our associate primary schools. The students represented the school exceptionally well and really brought to life the story of Jesus' birth in an exciting and lively format - There was even a cameo part for a local donkey who spent the morning with the children! A truly heart-warming morning was had by all the students involved and really got us all into the Christmas spirit! Thanks to all those students involved for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment.



### Year 8 Trip to Blackpool Zoo (June 2018)

This is a great opportunity for the students to learn away from the classroom. During the day, students will be taught about conservation and extinction including some hands on examples. Students then have time to explore the zoo for themselves to see the work and success that conservation can have. More information will become available in the New Year.



### Year 7 Jodrell Bank and Space Day

The whole of Year 7 visit Jodrell Bank. This is a packed day where students will have the opportunity to see the world famous Lovell telescope, as well as other space related activities delivered by the institute's experts. Year 7 will be off timetable to spend the day in Science learning about space. The day includes various activities including guest speaker Dennis Ashton (author of stars and planets), and a step inside the amazing indoor planetarium and much more. More information will be available closer to the time



### ECO Club

Our school garden was transformed by our Eco Club in the summer, with a lot of help from 'Croston In Bloom', into a wonderful garden area for growing fruit and vegetables throughout the year. As the garden is such a large area we would like to offer the garden to someone in our school community on an allotment basis. If you or anyone you know is interested please could you contact Sarah Gaskell at the school



### Year 10 Parents' Coffee Morning

The group of Year 10 students pictured got into the festive spirit by baking mince pies for the Year 10 parents coffee morning. They did a great job and also raised some money

for the school's eco club through sales of Poinsettias.

### CREST Club Bronze Award in Science after Christmas with Mr Tye and Mr Willis

Students in KS3 Science will have the opportunity to participate in the CREST award. This award is accredited by the British Science Association, and involves students designing and investigating their very own scientific research. Some examples include making bath bombs and candles to creating jelly sweets.



### CREST Club Silver Award in Science with Mr Tye and Mr Willis

Some students have taken the challenge of completing the CREST Silver Award. This is a fantastic achievement and will be a welcome addition to their record of achievement.

### Future Events

#### Salters' Chemistry Festival at Manchester University

During the day, students are required to compete in the Salters' Challenge against other schools from the North of England. During this challenge, students are required to work under strict lab rules whilst being constantly observed by a variety of judges.

### The New Library Stationery Shop

We now have a well-stocked stationery shop in our School Library, selling small items of stationery such as pens, pencils, rubbers, notepads, maths sets, pencil cases etc. all priced at pocket money prices. The shop is open every day during morning and lunch breaks and students are welcome to come in and purchase any items they require.



## Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge.

This year, all of Year 8 took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. The Challenge (sponsored by the University of Oxford and Google) is organised in over 40 countries, and is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Over the course of 40 minutes, students are put through their paces; having to solve a series of increasingly complex computational thinking puzzles. This year over 70,000 students from across the UK partook in the same challenge as our Year 8s. We are pleased to announce that 51 students placed in the top 25% of the country, with an amazing 23 of those students placing in the top 10%. These 23 students will go on to partake in a further challenge in March. The overall winner, with a score of 157 out of 200, was Millie Atherton. Congratulations Millie!



## STUDENT COUNCIL

This year the Student Council elections were held in a different way and for the first time applications were requested before the Election Day. The calibre of applications was very impressive and the selection for the final candidates to go to election was very close. Following the elections we have a very enthusiastic council this year. They have been working behind the scenes preparing for the business of the year. Our working groups have been busy around and about school.



## CONSTITUTION GROUP

The aims of the Student Council, and roles to be played by everyone in the school, are being written up by the team. The aim is to focus on open communication and development of good relations between the students, staff and governors, creating a supportive and collaborative community.

## COMMUNITY GROUP

The team are looking at ideas to get actively involved in the school community, the local community of Croston and the wider community.

## CROSTON PARK REST HOME GROUP

The school has had a long standing connection to the home. It has created an enjoyable relationship between the students and residents and the committee wish to build on this. The team are looking at ideas for future ways to involve the residents as part of our community.



## CHORLEY YOUTH ZONE

Chorley Youth Zone, named by young people as 'Inspire', will be a purpose-built facility for the borough's young people aged 8 – 19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities. The Student Council was recently visited by a representative from Chorley Youth Zone

who explained about their fantastic new facilities and asked if anyone would be interested in joining the planning team made up of young people of the area. We have three students who would like to put their names forward and we wish them success in their application.

## SURVEY GROUP

Members will be out and about doing surveys to find out what the students want to improve our everyday lives in school. Surgeries will be held in the New Year to allow students to speak to their council representatives and raise any issues or make suggestions.

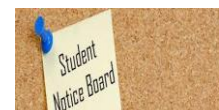


## PUBLICITY GROUP

It is important to keep everyone informed about the activities of the Student Council and provide a means for the school to communicate its ideas. This group is investigating ways to inform and get people involved.

## NOTICE BOARD GROUP

There is a need for constant updates on our notice board, this group will ensure that everyone is aware of our activities.



## FLEETWOOD TRI

On the eve of the Sports Personality of the Year two budding athletes of the future took part in the Fleetwood Triathlon. After some intensive training John Harrison, from Year 11, came home in first place, 3 minutes ahead of the field. His brother Paul, from Year 9, is new to the discipline and put in a creditable performance on his debut. Well done to both of them.

## LONDON MARATHON 2018

On the 22 April, 2018 I will be participating in the Virgin London Marathon. I have secured a charity place with Mind and am hoping to raise £2,000 for this amazing charity. Every year, one in four people will experience a mental health problem and hundreds of thousands of people are still struggling. I hope to reach my target with your support. I am up to 17 miles and have started my final 17 week training plan. I have raised £840 already and have planned and am planning various events such as a bake sale in school and really appreciate students and staff giving up their free time to help me. If you would like to donate to my just giving page and add



a few words of encouragement, here is the link below:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=andrea-jenkins-SAVMLMBONDS3332018-829669&pageUrl=1>

I really appreciate all your support and thank you for any donations.

Mrs Jenkins



## PASTORAL NEWS

### THE APP

Thanks for your support over the launch of the new SIMS app. 730 parents are now on the app and 830 students so we really appreciate your efforts with regards to getting everything set up. If you are on you will be familiar with everything that it can do, and you will be becoming more acquainted with the alerts that it sends through. We are now piloting a range of behaviour and achievement alerts that will become standard practice in January. We are looking at you being informed with regards to missed homeworks and behaviour issues, but also being given the positive news of awards and achievement points. As I have said before it is a year of transition, for staff as well as students and over the next term we will be speaking to students and parents to gather feedback to see how we can use the system better.

### REWARDS

Linked to the news about the APP can I also alert you and your young people to the fact that the reward system is now up and running again. Trying to reward 900 students in a meaningful way is an ongoing challenge, and this year we have taken the conscious decision to recognise achievement points rather than a cumulative total of achievement minus behaviour points. This means that more young people should be able to claim their rewards, and following Christmas rewards will be distributed twice a week at break time. This will be displayed prominently around the school. Please encourage your child to come to collect their rewards.



### ATTENDANCE

It's been, overall, a good term for attendance, and I thank parents as always for your continued support on this very important issue. As a school we are as understanding as we are allowed to be with regards to absences, but can I please reiterate that any medical appointment cards, prescription details (photographs etc....) can be used as evidence to support authorised time off. This can be communicated via email to [cprior@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:cprior@bishopr.co.uk). I appreciate the support that many of you offer when time off is taken, and ask for as much communicated information as possible as we continue to monitor the attendance of our 920 students.



Have a great Christmas and a peaceful new year  
Mr Duckworth

## Parents' Evenings Dates

Year 11 - Thursday 18 January 2018

Year 7 - Thursday 8 February 2018

Year 9 - Thursday 8 March 2018

Year 10 - Thursday 22 March 2018

Year 8 - Thursday 3 May 2018

## Bishop Rawstone School Direct

Bishop Rawstone, as part of its teaching school remit, offers a School Direct Initial Teacher Training programme. This is an exciting and innovative approach to teacher training which allows ourselves, and schools within our cluster, to create a personalised teacher training programme that ensures current and cutting edge learning.

If any of you have friends, or family members, who are interested in a career in teaching, please ask them to email the School Direct lead, here at Bishop Rawstone - Helen Winter [hwinter@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:hwinter@bishopr.co.uk).

## Parent Governor Vacancies

An exciting opportunity has arisen on the Governing Body here at Bishop Rawstone. We are looking for two enthusiastic individuals to join an experienced and dedicated team as Parent Governors. Legal skills/experience would be desirable, however, what is essential is a desire to support staff in meeting and exceeding academic and financial goals in a supportive, Christian environment.

### How much time would this take?

There are four full Governing Body meetings per academic year and you would also sit on one of the committees (with no more than a further three meetings a year). Meetings are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings (from 5 pm).

### For how long?

A term of office lasts four years.

### How do I apply?

It is a requirement that you have a child currently at the school. Further information and an application form can be found on the school website under the Governors' section.

*This role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check.*

**Term and Holiday Dates**  
**2017 – 2018**

**AUTUMN TERM 2017**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

School re-opens on

**FRIDAY 1 September 2017**

Monday 4 September 2017

**Years 7 and 11 only**

Tuesday 5 September 2017

**All Years**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Wednesday 27 September 2017 (Open Evening 1)**

Closure after school

Friday 27 October 2017

School re-opens on

Monday 6 November 2017

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 27 November 2017**

Closure after school on

Friday 22 December 2017 **at 2.00pm**

**SPRING TERM 2018**

School re-opens on

Monday 8 January 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 9 February 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 19 February 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 23 March 2018 **at 2.00pm**

**SUMMER TERM 2018**

School re-opens

Monday 9 April 2018

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday 7 May 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 25 May 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 4 June 2018

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**MONDAY 2 JULY 2018**

Closure after school on

Friday 20 July 2018 **at 1.15pm**

*Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made.*

## Term and Holiday Dates 2018 - 2019

### AUTUMN TERM 2018

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Tuesday 28 August 2018**

School re-opens on

Wednesday 29 August 2018  
**Years 7 and 11 only**

Thursday 30 August 2018  
**All Years**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Thursday 4 October 2018 (Open Evening)**

Closure after school

Friday 19 October 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 5 November 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 21 December 2018 **at 1.15pm**

### SPRING TERM 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 7 January 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 15 February 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 25 February 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 5 April 2019 **at 2.00pm**

### SUMMER TERM 2019

School re-opens

Tuesday 23 April 2019

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday 6 May 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 24 May 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 3 June 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 19 July 2019 **at 1.15pm**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**MONDAY 22 JULY 2019**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

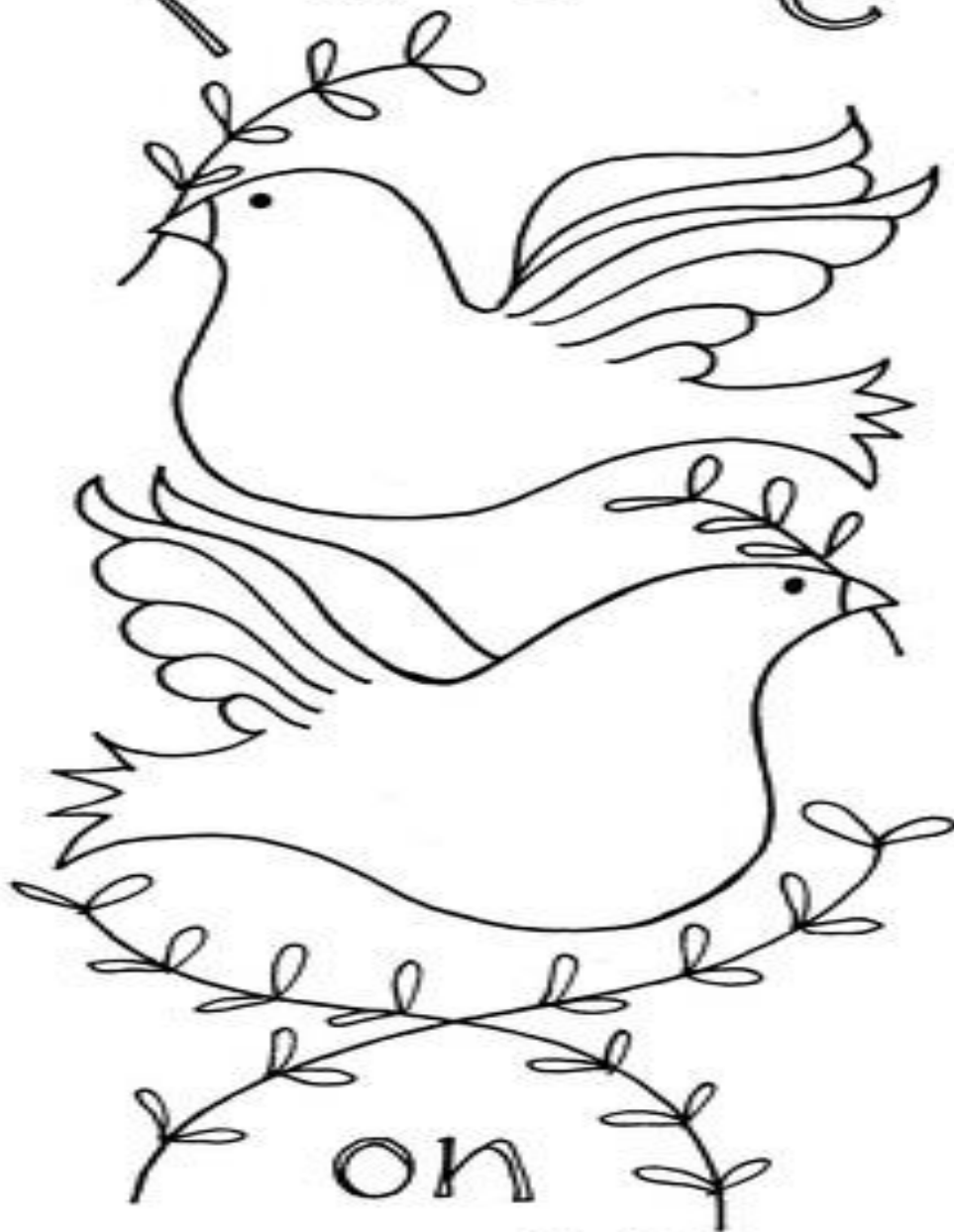
**TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019**

*Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made.*

Peace



on  
earth