

Newsletter 7
Wednesday 14th December 2022

A Sense of Community
Theatre trip

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Exeter Phoenix this week to see Mary the Pigeon Who Never Gave up. Unbeknownst to us at the time of booking, it has actually been written by a very talented parent at Bowhill. It was apparent from the performance how elements of Bowhill had crept into the performance! The children were captivated by this true story so thank you for supporting the school in giving us the opportunity to take the children to watch live theatre. If you are interested, during the Christmas holidays Exeter Phoenix welcomes all Bowhill families with a special discount code to get £1 off all tickets for MATILDA THE MUSICAL and GREATEST SHOWMAN SING-A-LONG this December. Apply the code **QUIRK74** at checkout for £1 off.

Explore Nativity Plays

How wonderful at long last to be able to perform these face to face in the school hall! The children were truly delightful, sang their hearts out and thank you for being such good audiences - it really helped them to rise to the occasion. Pictures and videos to follow for each class on Class Dojo.

Carol Concerts

These have been taking place over this week and again were very successful with these being hosted outside at school during the evenings. It has been lovely to see so many parents despite the cold weather conditions! Thank you for supporting these events.

Diary Dates

DECEMBER		
Wednesday 14 th	5pm	Achieve Carols by Candlelight at School (5/6 Classes)
Friday 16 th		Last day of the Autumn Term
Monday 19 th December to Wednesday 4 th January 2023- Christmas Holidays		
JANUARY		
Tuesday 3 rd		Non-pupil Day
Wednesday 4 th		Spring term 2023 – all children start
23.1.23 - 3.2.23		Swimming for Asher-Smith at Riverside (6 lessons over 2 weeks)

School Photographs

Fraser Portrait photographs that were ordered online by Friday 2nd December have now arrived in school and were sent home Monday 12th December. Please do check your children's book bags!

Responsibility by all

Does your child suffer from sleep issues?

We are pleased to share some information about a free resource that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, and by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school.

The team have recently changed their opening hours to include a morning session. The free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. They can talk to young people directly, or parents (they can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues). The helpline is open 5 times a week, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541. You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

PTFA

Please can I pass on my thanks to the PTFA team who have been hard at work fundraising on behalf of the children at the school. The Christmas Fayre was very busy and we do appreciate your support. It was great to see so many parents. Thank you to everyone that came along, particularly the Big Man himself and the Year 6 children who ran the stalls in the canteen with such enthusiasm.

Please do feel free to come along to the PTFA coffee mornings held every fortnight in the school canteen. It's warm, the cake is good and second hand uniform is available to purchase.

They are always looking for volunteers who can help in any capacity - for example if you are free to come along to the coffee mornings perhaps you'd be willing to help set up and pack away - your commitment needn't be any more than that. We also have volunteers who offer their skills - our lovely new posters for example have been provided by a volunteer who purely offers their skills to produce these. And we couldn't be more grateful. Going into a new year we would love to build and strengthen our team. Not only can we look to organise bigger and better events but we can also hopefully avoid having any further cancellations. If you think you may be able to help in any capacity, please do get in touch. Contact details are on their website page: [Friends of Bowhill PTFA \(pta-events.co.uk\)](http://Friends of Bowhill PTFA (pta-events.co.uk))

School Registration/Punctuality/Absence

Thank you to everyone for helping the school to achieve an average attendance of 94% last term. I would like to remind parents that requests for absences during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Headteacher and not for family holidays. Further information on the school's attendance policy is detailed on the school's website. It is essential that parents inform school as soon as possible if their child will be absent from school i.e. unwell or has a medical/dental appointment by 9:30am on the day of the absence. As part of our safeguarding procedures, if we have not heard from our families about children not in school, we do make phone calls using the contact details you have provided, to establish where the child is and that they are safe or a home visit if this is required.

I would like to wish all children, staff, parents, governors and friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Dentith
HEADTEACHER