



### January

Tuesday 5 First day of Term 3

#### MESSAGE FROM MR THURSTON:

Wow - what a year! Who could ever have imagined the events that we all experienced throughout these last twelve months? Despite the enormous challenges and uncertainties we have seen the very best of what Beckley represents as a school. Parents, pupils, staff and the local community have shown incredible dedication, energy, adaptability, creativity and resilience to support and encourage one another.

The school re-opened its doors to all pupils in September with great success. In truth, none of us knew with absolute certainty how the children would react on their return after such a long time at home, or how quickly they would adjust to a completely different regime of separation, hand-washing, staggered timings and rows of desks. However, they were incredibly happy to be back! They felt safe and immersed themselves very quickly back into the wonder of learning. In many, many ways - school feels like... well, school! You have played a massive part in supporting us to make this happen.

This term, in particular, has reminded me of why - in 1987, I entered teaching. I have been utterly inspired by the children's ability to adapt and thrive. I've been amazed at the endless energy and dedication shown by the wonderful staff at school, and their incredibly creative responses to the challenges being constantly thrown at them. I have also been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement from all our parents, constantly going the extra mile to work with the school and provide the very best learning experience for their children.



baby in a stable. Hope is what we cling to in difficult times; hope is what whispers in our ear to keep going when we want to give up; hope allows us to look beyond the 'now' to better times ahead.

Once again, thank you so much for all that you do to support the school. My wish is that you can enjoy the best possible family Christmas that the current measures allow, and that we go forward into 2021 full of hope.

Happy Christmas,  
Mr T

#### 'SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO SCHOOL':

Actually, he has already been! Last week, the children had a fantastic surprise to discover that Father Christmas came to visit! He had to be very careful and make certain that he kept socially distanced from the children, but that didn't stop him from meeting them individually and giving each one a present (which he had secretly sent to school a few days beforehand, and asked us to



quarantine for him!). It was wonderful to see the children's faces when they realised that Father Christmas was here and we are extremely grateful to him for taking time out of his super busy schedule and also to the BSA who helped him with all the arrangements!



#### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT SCHOOL:

Despite not being able to hold our Christmas service at Beckley church this year, children have been working really hard with their teachers to create our

Christmas nativity films! Sometimes not being able to do 'the usual', causes us to be even more creative and if you look at the home page of the school website you can see the fruits of our labour. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed making them!



Christmas is different in so many ways this year, however some truths still remain. More than anything else, the children, staff and parents have reminded me of the hope in us all. Christmas is a time of hope too - it always has been since the very first Christmas when the hope of the world revealed itself in the form of a tiny

**DROP-OFF & PICK-UP AT SCHOOL:** We will be continuing with the staggered arrival/departure times next term. Please find below a reminder of the timings:

Pupil Surname	Drop-off Time	Pick-up time
A - C	8:30am	3:00pm
D - J	8:40am	3:10pm
K - N	8:50am	3:20pm
O - W	9:00am	3:30pm

**PE DAYS:** Don't forget, children should come to school on Fridays wearing their PE kit. We also have a rota for classes wearing PE uniform every other Thursday as follows:-



**Blue Spruce & Acorns :** Thursday 7 January  
 Thursday 21 January  
 Thursday 4 February

**Evergreen & Red Maple :** Thursday 14 January  
 Thursday 28 January  
 Thursday 11 February



**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES:** Please remember that if we do need to close the school due to inclement weather, or indeed for any other reason, we will of course endeavour to contact everyone via our text messaging service. However, you can also find out details of any emergency closures by checking the East Sussex County Council website:



[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolclosures](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolclosures)

The website also gives you the opportunity to sign up for email alerts as soon as a decision is taken to close the school. Announcements are also made on local radio stations including BBC Radio Sussex, Heart FM and Arrow FM

**NEW RECEPTION:** Don't forget, applications for children starting school in September next year should be made **by 15 January 2021**

Applications can be made online.  
 Please visit: [eastsussex.gov.uk/schools](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/schools)

**MUSIC CLASSES :**





**Violin:** Monday mornings  
 First session Term 3 : Monday 11 January

**Guitar:** Friday afternoons  
 First session Term 3 : Friday 15 January

**Keyboard:** Friday mornings  
 First session Term 3 : Friday 15 January

*Please can parents ensure that children take their instruments home at the end of the day.*

**Chair of Governors Email Address:**  
[chair@thegenesisfederation.co.uk](mailto:chair@thegenesisfederation.co.uk)

**Christmas Prayer**


Dear Lord,

I pray that this Christmas is celebrated with a heart filled with peace and love.

Please take away all the bad feelings and emotions in people, and show them what Christmas is all about.

I also pray for the people who are having a hard time this Christmas. Please hug them and let them feel Your peace and love.

Amen



Term Dates 2020-2021		
Term	Start	End
3	Tues 5 Jan	Fri 12 Feb
4	Mon 22 Feb	Thurs 1 April
5	Mon 19 April	Fri 28 May
6	Tues 8 June	Fri 23 July

**INSET DAYS :** Monday 4 January  
 Monday 7 June  
 Monday 5 July

**EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY :** Monday 3 May 2021

