



Byfield School  
Bell Lane, Byfield, Northants, NN11 6US  
01327 260349  
www.byfieldschool.com  
Headteacher; Mr David Hibbert  
[head@byfield.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@byfield.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

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### **Head Teacher**

I would like to start this newsletter by praising and thanking every member of the PTA. They are all amazing people, and thanks to their active fundraising provide so many opportunities to the children of the school. Personally, I really enjoyed the Christmas Craft Fair, and everybody have also heard many compliments on what a great day it was - thanks to everyone who turned up to support the school. For many years, the PTA have been doing a fantastic job in raising money for the school, giving up lots of their own time. This money goes directly into adding the sparkle and enjoyment into your child's education. This year it has paid for every child to have pottery lessons - making a poppy, the cost of the coach for the school trip to the Panto, reducing the price of school trips (nearly always paying for 50%-75% of the costs) and we are about to receive a suite of new laptops. All these incredible opportunities for children have cost thousands of pounds since September, and without the work of these generous, amazing PTA members, would not be possible. I know they have got a very busy agenda for December, including the Christmas Ball. I have a very long shopping list for the PTA, including gymnastic and sports equipment for the hall, playground and sports equipment for break and lunchtimes, new resources for the reception outside area, continuing to update ICT equipment and to ensure school trips can continue to be affordable. I know all support towards PTA events, either by attending or offering support is always greatly received, and I certainly know all the children appreciate the opportunities such an active PTA give to them during their time at Byfield School.

The other achievements - for the whole school - of which I am very proud of, are two certificates. Firstly, Green Tree Award, Bronze Level, awarded through the Woodland Trust. This is in recognition of teaching children about environmental issues. It was achieved after running forest schools programs, trips to woods, assemblies about environmental issues, and being the official collector for recycling pens in Byfield (<https://www.terracycle.co.uk/>) If you have any pens which have ran out, and need recycling, our student council would certainly like to add them to their collection to send off shortly. We are now working towards Silver award which we hope to gain very shortly.

Our other new award is Music Mark, which has been awarded to the school in recognition of its commitment to providing high quality music opportunities for children. This one was especially well received as it was a complete surprise! It was applied and funded for without our knowledge by Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service. They looked at the Primary Schools in the county who were offering a wide range of peripatetic musical instrument teachers, offered whole class musical instrument teaching, welcomed musical groups into school to perform (last year a rock band!), performed at the Derrogate's Arts Festival for schools and have taken children to trips to see orchestras. We were one of the Primary Schools who provided this wide range of opportunities.

## **PTA**

### **Non Uniform Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Please bring an item for our Grand Christmas Hamper Raffle. Anything from chocs to napkins.

## **Ball**

This year we are providing freshly home cooked Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Roast turkey, roast potatoes, stuffing balls, pigs in blankets, seasonal vegetables and gravy. The vegetarian option is roasted vegetable and brie crumble cake. There will be a selection of delicious desserts and a complimentary glass of fizz on arrival – all for only £25. During the evening we will have music from DJ Paz. Plenty of festive fun – not to be missed. So dust off your glad rags and come on down. All money raised goes directly to your children's education. Tickets can be purchased from Ainsley Taylor at the school office.

## **Uniform**

Please could everyone check they have the correct items of uniform at home. There are a number of children who have lost cardigans and jumpers and they are not at school. Please can you ensure all items of uniform are named so we can reunite them with their owners!

## **Toys**

Note for Robin Class and Swallow Class. Please can we request that any toys brought in to school are placed in a box by the door and left there until home time. Many thanks

## **Hotshots**

Our basketball club is on Tuesday morning before school. We are pleased to be able to tell the members that from next Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, this will be run at the Village Hall. This will carry on through the cold weather, until our hall is ready. Please could you drop children to the hall ready to start at 8am. The children will then be escorted back to school at 8.40am.

## **After School Clubs**

Monday night Construction Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Tuesday night – Art and Crafts (KS1 focus) – cost £2

Wednesday night – Computer Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Thursday night – Art and Crafts (KS2) – cost £2

Friday Night – Film Night – 3.15-5.30 pm - cost £3

Children are welcome to stay at After School Club until 5.30pm. Charge for this is £3.80.

Please contact the office if you would like more information or to book.

**Breakfast Club** – every day from 8am – cost is £3 per session

## **Payment of Fees**

**Please could we remind everyone of the Policy for payment of fees for school clubs. Invoices are usually issued on a weekly basis. Payment terms are 28 days which is shown on the invoice. Failure to pay within the terms, without a valid reason, may result in a parent losing their childcare place.**

## **Christmas**

Remember, when buying Christmas presents online you can generate a free cash donation for the school just by clicking via [www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk](http://www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk)... You'll find over 2,200 of the most popular stores, so it's easy for you to make a difference without it costing you a penny more than the normal purchase price of your item. Following this link to Byfield School at TheGivingMachine <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/byfield-school>

## **School Meals**

Children will be bringing home the menu and order forms for the next half term. Please can you complete these and return to the office as soon as possible. Remember, all children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 are entitled to a **free hot meal** every day.

## **Dates for the Diary**

*String music lessons – every Wednesday      Guitar music lessons – every Tuesday*

*Keyboard lessons – every Thursday*

*PE – Please bring PE kit in to school every day, PE lessons will be weather dependent. We also have some sessions for PE booked at the village hall. 13<sup>th</sup> November Year 3 and 4. 23<sup>rd</sup> November Year 5 and 6. 27<sup>th</sup> November Year 3 and 4.*

*Celebration Assemblies Monday – Kiwi, Tuesday – Owls, Thursday – Swallows, Friday – Robins*

*Hotshots – Every Tuesday – 8am*

*Dance Club – Every Wednesday after school*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Robin Class to Sealife Centre, Birmingham

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Bikeability – Kiwi Class

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day – hamper donations

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Dress rehearsal – Nativity

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Christingle and Carol Service 2pm

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Nativity 2pm and 6pm (KS2 children singing – dress Christmassy)

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Panto – Dick Whittington

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – school closes for Christmas break 3.15pm