

Dear Parent/Carer,

This term has seemed like a very long term and staff and children are now feeling tired and ready for a holiday. Thank you to you all for the support you have given this term, especially with attendance as we are now seeing an improvement in attendance data compared to this time last year! I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 9th January.

### **Reward Assemblies**

Throughout this week, pupils in every year group have been recognised for their achievements in their Rewards Assemblies. Our BHA reward assemblies happen at the end of each term and have become a highlight of the calendar for both pupils and their teachers. Certificates and prizes are awarded for attendance, subject achievements and contributions to our BHA school values. The assemblies this week provided a lovely opportunity for pupils to be recognised for their efforts and progress over this term.

### **Nutcracker Visit**

Pupils in Year 8 had the opportunity to visit The New Vic Theatre to watch The Nutcracker being performed on stage. Our pupils were invited to join 'Marie' one of the main characters, as she discovered a place where toys came to life and lands that were made of sweets. Our Year 8 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the magical experience - a perfect introduction to more theatre show visits and productions in the future.

### **Buy Safe, Charge Safe this Christmas**

It's exciting getting new gadgets and gifts for Christmas, but sometimes they can be dangerous if not handled with care.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are raising awareness of the dangers of lithium-ion batteries and sharing some safety advice on how to keep yourself and your family safe. Lithium-ion batteries are the rechargeable batteries found in a range of items such as mobile phones, tablet, e-bikes and e-scooters. Most of the time these batteries are safe to use, but they can still pose a fire risk, particularly while they're charging, if not handled with care.

How to stay safe:

- Many fires involve counterfeit goods. Items which don't meet British or European standards pose a huge fire risk.
- Read the manufactures instructions carefully and only use the charger that was provided with the item. Avoid storing or charging e-bikes and e-scooters in escape routes (such as a hallway) or in communal areas of a multi occupied building. If there's a fire, it can affect people's ability to escape.
- Check the charger for damage before using it every time – if it's damaged in any way, don't use it
- Charge devices and items on a flat, solid surface and not under your pillow or on your bed
- Avoid leaving items unattended while they're charging for example overnight or if you go out
- Store your chargers safely when they aren't in use
- If you smell or see smoke, or a fire, get out of your room and your house and call 999
- Register your product with the manufacturer to validate any warranties – batteries are usually included in warranties.

There is more safety advice on their website: Buy Safe. Charge Safe ([staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://staffordshirefire.gov.uk)) or on their social media channels.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers for the Christmas holiday**

An e-mail containing the link to download the Christmas voucher was sent out to eligible parents/carers on or around 11th December. This is again funded by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and is to the value of £30 per eligible child. Please check your email junk and spam folders if you have not received this email.

### **Dates to remember.**

Friday 22nd December – INSET DAY

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – INSET DAY

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – School Open to pupils

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – BTECH Sport Exams (8.30am prompt start)

Friday 12th January – Y8 and Y9 school photographs

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Saturday 20 January – Ski Trip

Friday 19th January – Y7 and Y10 Review Day (more details to follow after Christmas)

Thursday 25th January – Y11 Review Evening

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email on [info@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:info@bircheshead.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely

Ms K Dixon  
Principal