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Trust Board Festive Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to take time to reflect on what has been another challenging, but highly rewarding, Autumn Term.

Dedication. Laughter. Respect. Strength. Fun. Resilience. Joy. Friendship. Perseverance.

These are just some of the words I would use, as both a parent and Trustee, to describe the values and behaviours shown by everyone at Buttsbury Junior School this term. How lucky are we, as Trustees, to work with such an amazing school community. On behalf of all the Trustees, I have the privilege of expressing our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped keep our school running so well.

Without wanting it to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech (although maybe some should be given to this year's Year 3 and Year 5 plays' actors), there are a few people the Trustees would like to specifically thank. Firstly the Friends' Association have out-done themselves with a record-breaking £11,360 raised this term alone. We are proud to recognise the vital work that Noemi, Claire, Helen and all the members of the Friends' Association do, and offer our sincere thanks. Well done to Year 5 Pupils too, who raised the most on their stall at the Christmas Bazaar – I'm sure they all enjoyed their non-uniform day as a reward!

Despite a flurry of Covid cases, Mrs. Robinson and her team have managed to continue to deliver an excellent standard of teaching that inspires pupils to reach their full potential. With catch-up classes and superb multi-tasking shown by teaching staff delivering both in-person and remote lessons via Google Classroom simultaneously, we the Trustees can see the amount of effort that has been dedicated to our children. Mrs. Robinson and all the teaching/support staff have maintained ambitious targets that encourage children to improve in all subjects across a well-balanced curriculum. Recent monitoring visits by members of the Trust Board showed, for example, how well White Rose maths has been received. This is reflected both in pupils' positive attitudes to learning maths and in better outcomes than 2 years ago. Talking with children at these visits, which are just one of our many duties, allows us to see first-hand the impact of introducing different teaching methods.

The staff have also ensured that a diverse range of activities and events have been delivered. From parents to lunch, the annual Christmas panto trip and Year 4 visiting Colchester Castle to Year 5 experimenting at Sandford Mill and in the science dome. From Year 3 joining the inter-house swimming gala, cross-country race and visiting Christ Church, to hordes of young Year 6 Vikings visiting Layer Marney Tower. Thank you to all the mid-day assistants, kitchen and office staff, cleaning and maintenance staff, and parent helpers who have enabled these trips to take place.

What a joy it was that the Year 3 and Year 5 plays were also able to go ahead. The Year 3 play, 'Scrooge at School', produced by Miss Pretty, was thoroughly enjoyed by actors and audience alike. Miss Miller's production of the Year 5 play, 'Squeak', was also a resounding success. It is, however, with a heavy heart that we have to say farewell to Miss Miller. She is leaving us with memories of a kind, hardworking and generous teacher who inspired and supported the children. We wish her the very best of luck in her future, and to all staff who will also be sadly leaving us at the end of this term.



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Lastly, I think it's appropriate to thank the children themselves for maintaining such a positive attitude to learning. They have coped so well with isolation and remote learning and are a real credit to the Buttsbury name.

You all deserve a well-earned break! We sincerely hope that you stay safe and well, and spend time with your families and loved ones. Wishing you all a very happy and healthy festive season, and all the best for a brighter 2022.

With kind regards,

Louise Dibsdall (On behalf of the Board of Trustees)

