

# BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

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15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents,

After an Autumn Term like no other, the end is in sight! We have navigated our way through the challenges of Covid restrictions and regulations and, at the time of writing this letter, we are in the enviable position of keeping all nine of our Year Group bubbles open for the full twelve weeks of the term. My own feelings are that this is due to an undeniable amount of good fortune but also that the extensive and rigorous measures employed this term must be contributing to this success and for the role that parents have played in following the School's procedures and maintaining the wellbeing of our community, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks. We really are 'all in this together' and keeping children safe would not be possible without the continued support of our families.

The response from the Brontë staff throughout this time has been truly amazing. The responsibility associated with managing the health and safety of groups of children in the time of a pandemic cannot be underestimated. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that children are well-versed in the practicalities of the Covid-measures whilst also ensuring that learning is uninterrupted; academic progress continues and, most importantly, that children are happy and enjoy their time in school. I am sure that you will join me in wishing all of our staff a very well-deserved Christmas break.

One particular area of the School that must be marked out for special mention is the Catering Department, who have done a fantastic job of keeping us all well-fed this term. The food offering has evolved and improved to the point that all children now have the option of hot food each day, despite the constraints of access to the Dining Room due to Covid-cleaning restrictions. The 'hot pots' of pasta and noodles have gone down very well and, following the success of the curry this week, we will continue to diversify the range of meals available to children when eating in classrooms. Menus for the new term will be made available in due course.

### Sport at Brontë House (Mr D. King, Director of Sport)

I have been delighted by the levels of engagement from students throughout the Autumn Term, during very difficult times. We have offered a wide variety of sports and activities for students to take part in during the term and this has proved to be very successful.

We have now developed our PE, Games and Co-Curricular Sport offering for the Spring Term and will continue to offer an inclusive programme; however, we must continue to adhere to Government regulations, as well as advice from sport National Governing Bodies as we are under no illusion that Covid-19 will still be prevalent throughout the new term. We strive to continue to offer an inclusive variety of sports and activities: rugby and netball will be the main team sports offered in Games lessons; Cricket will be offered to students in the after-school clubs and PE will offer a range of net/wall games. House competitions will also run throughout the term.

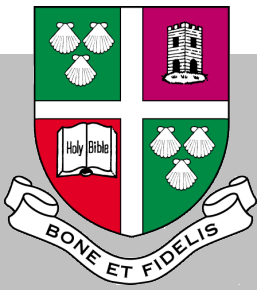
Unfortunately, it is likely that inter-school fixtures **will not** happen until the second half of the term at the earliest; this reflects the mind-set of the majority of Independent Schools across the country and within our region.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0PQ  
Tel: 0113 2502 811 enquiries@brontehouse.co.uk

*I am Grovian.*



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
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However, I can assure you that we have started to plan for inter-school fixtures across the range of our Spring Term sports and that we will be fully prepared when schools are given the green light to proceed.

## Timetable and After-School Provision

Following an extensive re-organisation for the second part of the Autumn Term, the timetable will **remain unchanged** in January 2021. PE and Games will continue to be held on the same days and children will attend school dressed in PE kit on these days.

There will be some re-organisation of after-school clubs; each Year Group's Multisports activity will become Cricket for the forthcoming term. Please find the full programme below:

YEARS 1&2					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y1	Lego	Drawing	Book Club	Let's Create	Film Club
Y2	Construction	Computer Club	Drawing Club	Film Club	Cricket Club
YEARS 3&4					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y3	Mindfulness	Cricket Club	Book Club	Drawing Club	Film Club
Y4	Drawing club	Board Games	Cricket Club	Sewing Club	Film Club
YEARS 5&6					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Y5	Cricket Club	Mindfulness	Chess Club	Paper craft	Film Club
Y6	Art Club	Mindfulness	Film Club	Cricket Club	Book Club

Your support is appreciated in collecting children as soon as you are able at the end of the day. All children from a Year Group that remain in school are kept in one bubble classroom and managing increasing numbers this term has, at times, been a challenge.

## Reports

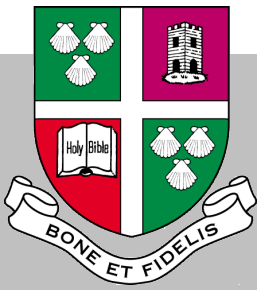
Children in Years 1-6 will, tomorrow, bring home a hard copy of their Autumn Term report. This can also be found on the Parents' Portal. Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact relevant staff in the new year, who will be happy to arrange a convenient appointment time.

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## Woodhouse Grove Entrance Assessments

All children in Year 6 will undertake the Grove Entrance Assessments on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. This year, these will take place under test conditions at Brontë to avoid unnecessary travel to the senior school. All children in Year 6 have a guaranteed place in Year 7 at Woodhouse Grove, providing that behaviour, conduct and all-round effort meet the required standard. Any concerns regarding this would have been expressed to current Year 6 parents well-before this point.

The Assessments are used to benchmark our children against those seeking admission from other schools and are helpful in assisting with setting and scholarship arrangements. It is worth noting that there are in excess of 130 external candidates this year – not including Year 6 Brontë pupils.

Preparations for the Entrance Assessments have been ongoing in Year 6 this term and will continue when we return in the new year. The day will be kept low-key; there is absolutely no need for any worries to arise.

## The School Office

The Office will be open to deal with any queries from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

Last week, the **DfE** published an update on contact tracing for Covid cases over the Christmas holidays. The Government is requiring us to manage testing and tracing of our children for the first six days after teaching ends. If a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the School will be required to identify close contacts and advise self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than six days after the final day of teaching. **Therefore, if your child tests positive for Covid-19 on or before 22 December 2020, please can you let the School know by emailing [absence@brontehouse.co.uk](mailto:absence@brontehouse.co.uk)**

As previously mentioned, Mrs Richardson is retiring at the end of this term, following over 21 years' service to the School. Mrs Richardson has worked for three headteachers in her time at Brontë and her knowledge of the School's administrative processes is immeasurable. She has bandaged many knees; answered the phone, I can only assume, hundreds of thousands of times; and provided support to all of us to the very best of her ability. We are going to miss her terribly and wish her all the very best when she retires to her garden tomorrow!

The Office will now be staffed by:

Mrs Bedford – PA to SLT and Office Manager; Miss Long – morning Receptionist; and Miss Minter – afternoon Receptionist.

## Holiday Homework

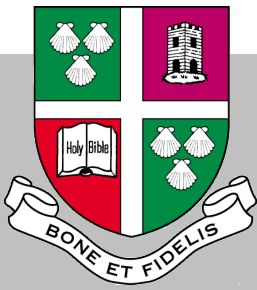
The Christmas break tends to be very hectic and busy so we won't be sending formal homework but we would like children to continue with online activities such as Times Table Rockstars, Numbots and Active Learn, as well as continuing to read regularly at home and recording this in the Homework Diary.

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## Nativities

We didn't feel we could let Christmas pass without sharing the much-anticipated Nativities. Due to Covid restrictions, these are a little different to usual times but no less magical. Children in Years 1-6 appear in either the 'B' or 'H' performance, dependent on their class. We do hope that you enjoy the show.

Huge thanks to the Ashdown team for no less than three Nativities this year; as well as the combined creative genius of Mr Phenny, Miss Cook and Mrs Ellershaw, whose perfect mix of skill sets have contributed to a fantastic 'Strictly' spectacular – enjoy!

Strictly Nativity B Classes <https://youtu.be/KEaSWZAY-gE>

Strictly Nativity H Classes <https://youtu.be/-qingR2x5pA>

Pre-Nursery <https://youtu.be/BWsAEx4lddc>

Nursery <https://youtu.be/NwJml-GFMNk>

Reception <https://youtu.be/bS5UnJWrfUM>

## Return to School

Children will return to school, following a staff INSET day, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Early Years Provision will re-open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January for those Ashdown children with an all-year-round contract.

We must all play our part in ensuring that we are not complacent next term. Continuing to abide with both Government guidance and School protocols will assist us in keeping Brontë a healthy and happy place for children to learn. We will endeavour to monitor and review all our control and operational measures to ensure that everyone remains safe in school.

Finally, on behalf of all the Brontë staff, may I take this opportunity to extend our best wishes for a very happy and healthy holiday - we will see you all in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Chatterton  
Head, Brontë House

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