

BRONTË HOUSE SCHOOL

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15th December 2021

Dear Parents,

We have arrived at the end of a long and productive term that has seen a return to a much more normal Brontë House experience. Specialist teaching has re-commenced; ability groupings have returned in Key Stage Two maths lessons and a full programme of assemblies has been reinstated. The children have begun, once again, to enjoy external day visits and UK based residential trips are booked for the Summer term. We have much to be thankful for as we approach the Christmas break.

The co-curricular programme has returned in full force and with a new and vastly improved range of experiences; we have been delighted with the numbers of children engaged in after-school clubs this term. Parents should note that, in the new year, after-school activities will commence on the very first day of the new year.

Performing Arts has returned with no less than 10 Christmas productions over the course of the last few weeks. Thank you to all staff for the huge amount of work that goes into such events and to families who supported us; it was wonderful to share performances with a live audience again this year. Monies donated following these productions, as well as from today's Christmas Jumper Day, have raised £564.70 for Save the Children, as well as £124.04 for Eccup Donkey Sanctuary. (Those who attended the Ashdown Nativities will understand why!)

Hard copies of End of Term reports have been placed in children's bags and will be uploaded to the Parent Portal from 4.00pm this afternoon and staff will be available in the new year to discuss this further. Due to the change in uniform and girls now wearing an open neck blouse, we will no longer be awarding merit ties. Instead, merit badges will be distributed in the new year, and these will be awarded to children in Year 3 and above who have received 6 or more purple effort grades in their Autumn Term report.

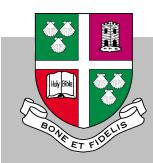
Woodhouse Grove entrance examinations for our Year 6 children joining the Grove in September 2022 will take place week commencing Monday 7th February. All children at Brontë House have a guaranteed place at the Grove, providing conduct, effort and achievement are of an acceptable standard. Entrance assessments are for scholarship and setting purposes in Year 7; there is no reason that this should cause our Year 6 children worry or concern.

Over the holidays, the Office staff will be reviewing absences and late attendance from the Autumn Term and reminders will be issued to relevant families in the new year. Timely attendance is vital in ensuring that children arrive at school ready to learn and repeated absence has a clear, detrimental effect on academic progress, which, I am sure you will agree, we are all keen to avoid.

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

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The site team will continue with the programme of planned improvements during the Christmas break. The current focus is the Year 2 and 3 children's bathrooms on the Key Stage One balcony, which are undergoing a total re-fit. The tennis court is also due to have an anti-slip surface added, which will be a great addition and will assist with Games lessons. Work is also due to commence in February on phase 1 of the new adventure playground; we are extremely excited to see the final result. Huge thanks for this must go to the ABA who, through their fundraising endeavours, continue to support the School with new projects and provide enjoyable experiences for the children.

The School Office will be open 9.00am – 2.00pm until Wednesday 22nd December and will then re-open on INSET day, Tuesday 4th January, <u>before children return on Wednesday 5th January.</u>

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year. Thank you for your unstinting support throughout the Autumn Term and we will see you back at Brontë in 2022!

With very best wishes,

S. Chatterton

Sarah Chatterton Head, Brontë House

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