

BRANTRIDGE BULLETIN

Friday, 16th December, 2022.

Dates for your diary:

First Day Spring Term: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

INSET day: Monday 30th January 2023

Half Term: Monday 13th - Friday 17th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our final week of term seems to have gone well. There was great excitement as you can imagine during the first half of the week with snow covering our grounds. Unfortunately the snow meant that we had to cancel our school football match on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday we all enjoyed a beautiful Christmas roast and pudding, prepared by our chef Adrian Clover. It was great to see so many pupils being appreciative and expressing their thanks to Adrian.

As you know, Brantridge is part of the Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust, which have numerous Special Educational Needs (SEN) settings across the South East. Please click on the link to read [INCLUDE](#) which will give you a flavour of the work of our Trust. I would particularly like to signpost you to page 12 where Brantridge School is featured.

Today we say goodbye to one of our teachers – Diana Puica from Titan class. Mrs Puica has been at Brantridge for over 8 years and has taught various age groups during her time here with so many pupils making significant progress as a result of her support. We wish her well in the next stage of her career.

We are delighted to have Ms Tunde Frisnyak to be taking over the teaching of Titan in January. She is a very experienced SEN teacher and it has been great having her in school at different times this week to ensure a good handover between herself and Ms Puica.

It was good that so many of you were able to attend the school fair last week. It was a new approach for us as a school and it was good to have so much positive feedback from you. We collected £378 altogether. Thank you for your generosity.

We would want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all your kindness, support and encouragement in 2022!

We re-open on Tuesday 3rd January.

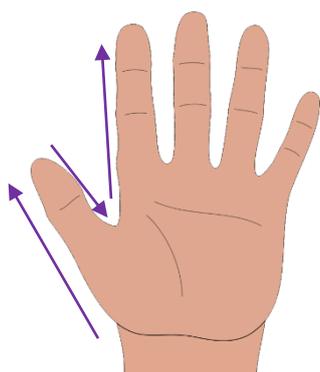
Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts
Principal

Therapies and Interventions

Try it out at home... **BREATHING TECHNIQUES**

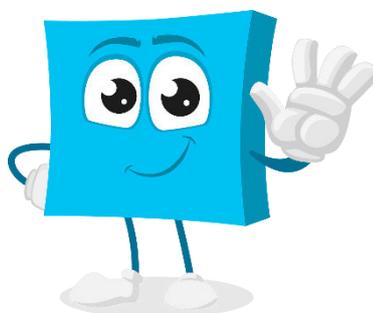
Over the Christmas break why not try out these different breathing techniques at home- they are all ones we use with the boys in school when they need help to feel calmer and regulate their emotions.



Finger breathing: Trace up and down the sides of each of your fingers breathing in as you go up and out as you go down.

Take Care, Lucy

Art Therapist



Square breathing: Draw a square with your finger in the air or on the floor. Breathe in as you go along one side, hold your breath for the next side and then breathe out for the next and repeat.



Dragon breathing: Pretend you are a dragon, take a deep breath and then breathe out all your fire!!

'Idiom of the Week'

The idioms we have focused on during this half term are:

Have a whale of a time!

By the skin of your teeth.

You can say *that* again!

The best thing since sliced bread!

What goes around comes around.

The ball is in your court.

Feeling under the weather.

I wonder how many of these idioms your child remembers and is able to explain.....

I hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes from Cath

PS *Have a whale of a time!*



Nova

Such a magical week in Nova this week. Father Christmas came to visit us at horse riding this week to celebrate the holiday season and the progress the boys have made during the term. The snow has been marvellous and the backbone for much of our learning- drawing our snowman and punctuating what he was saying after standing around in the cold all night.

We have made some super progress in our phonics, focusing on a rather lengthy set of assessments, so well-done boys for your efforts and resilience.

As the end of the term draws in, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pluto

This week we have been busy sequencing events in the Christmas Nativity story. We discussed these and used great language to justify why our sequencing was correct.

Also, we have had fun making colourful Christmas cards and decorations using a range of techniques and materials. Playing in the snow helped us get some ideas.

Our social communication session was useful as we used the puppets Sam and Sally to help discuss our feelings and used a range of strategies to keep us in the 'green zone'.

The Pluto team wish you a very 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. Thank you for your continued support.

Zephaniah

Zephaniah have been busy on the final week of term. We started the cold week by building snow people together in the garden. We have been creating narrative pieces inventing and describing an anti-Christmas villain based on the story of Krampus. All boys fully engaged and loved the topic and they edited their work to make their descriptions even more detailed. We surely have some aspiring horror writes in our midst!

In maths we stayed on the Christmas theme but used this to work on budgeting skills. First we planned two parties using specific criteria that needed to be included, at the end we voted on who's party sounded to best. Next we thought about the costs of Christmas presents and created imaginary families which children who wanted presents- we then had to work out how many hours the parents needed to work to be able to afford the gifts- all great life skills.

We studied previous Christmas adverts and songs where we studied the language, feelings and opinions of the characters as well as author choices.

Finally we played board games together and had lots of fun in class.

Have a wonderful holiday and a very happy Christmas!

Jupiter

This week, Jupiter have worked hard on money.

The boys have become shop keepers and sold items to customers.

They have worked out how much money they owe and how much change they need.

Jupiter have been working on diary/journal entries, what they will add in one and how they would produce one.

The boys have shown knowledge on the movement of the moon, food resources and team games.

Saturn

This week we have enjoyed a variety of activities which have been inspired by the children's interests. One of the boys discovered an 'egg' (pebble) in the garden and decided it was a swan's egg that had dropped from the sky. He decided it needed a nest. The nest developed to include water and food for once the egg hatched and even had a toy swan which sat upon the egg. The nest was built inside an enclosure because 'it would stop the predators' getting in. Two other boys joined for some wonderful collaborative learning. The nest enclosure was reinforced with loose parts such as cones, sticks and leaves. Then woodland animals were used which enabled lots of conversations about previous learning of food chains.

Den building was also a big hit, with lots of attention made to its structure and interior. This provided a lovely calm area for the boys to retreat to when they wanted to.

We have also spent lots of time sculpting using clay, Santa playing an integral role in a lot of the model making.

We have had a lovely week, all the staff in Saturn want to wish the boys and their families a wonderful break and a happy new year!

Titan

We are finally in the last week of the autumn term. As you can probably imagine, we have spent this week doing some Christmas related activities, Christmas themed maths problem solving and colouring, as well as some Christmas Art.

Although the longest term, and the most challenging out of all of them, Titan pupils have managed to do well with their learning.

We have enjoyed reading *Holes* and we also watched the movie - we discussed how different it was from the book and that the characters looked nothing like the book description.

I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas holiday and a very well deserved break!

Galaxy



All the staff and boys from Galaxy would like to wish everyone from Brantridge and beyond a Merry Christmas. Thank you for all your support this year and see you in January.

Earth

We have had a lovely week in Earth. In our horse riding session this week, we were 'trotting' with our horses and even took our horses out onto the road! The children did an amazing job to keep their horses calm on the road. On Thursday, we had an extra treat and went to the park! It was lovely to see the boys playing kindly together! In phonics we've continued to focus on single sounds and in maths we have started to look at money!

Neptune

This week in Neptune we have focused on revising the Math topics we have learnt this term. We have also enjoyed creating our own version of the Highway Man, working together to create props and plan filming. The boys in Neptune have really enjoyed the snow and have created snowmen, snowballs, snow angels and much more.

Neptune has also welcomed a new student who the boys have gone out of their way to help. It has been lovely to see so much kindness in class this week. The end of the week has been full of games, films and treasure hunts.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.

Orwell Class

This week the boys have enjoyed working on money and time to prepare them for next term's maths and ASDAN challenges. The Christmas fete was a huge success, and the boys were delighted to win raffle prizes and see their goods sold in the Home Lodge Christmas market. In English we have been continuing our work on *Holes* by Louis Sachar and the level of comprehension has been great. In DT the boys made some interesting models from matchsticks, one of these was a diorama of a famous scene from *Macbeth*, thanks Ryan! It was the last Orwell climbing session at Boulder Brighton which went well with a big shout going out to Aiden who has developed from reluctant climber to very keen and skilled mountaineer. Two lucky Orwell boys have been nominated to go on the Gaming Bus which is visiting Brantridge today. This treat is in recognition of the improvement in behaviour that these boys have shown over the autumn term.

Pictures are available on Tapestry. Have a fantastic Christmas break, Team Orwell.

Outdoor Learning

It has been a very cold and snowy outdoor learning this week with the boys have been enjoying the harsh icy conditions and participating in a Christmas search quiz

During the holidays you may wish to join in with #12DaysWild, a winter challenge where you are encouraged you to do one wild thing a day from the 25th December to the 5th January.

[12 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts](#)



May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and
Happy Christmas
Donna – Outdoor Learning Lead



BRANTRIDGE BULLETIN

Stir.

W/C: 3/1/23

week: 03

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Meat Free Monday Vegetable Jambalaya	Chicken Carbonara	Sausage & New Potatoes	Macaroni Cheese With Smoked Bacon.	Bacon or Fish Finger In a Bap
Green Beans	Peas	Sweetcorn	Broccoli	Packet of Crisp
Jacket Potato with Cheese or Baked Beans will be Available Daily				
Baguettes/Wraps with Cheese, Egg Mayo or Ham are Available Daily				
Chefs Special	Chefs Special	Chefs Special	Chefs Special	Chefs Special

JACKET POTATO BEANS, SALAD BAR, FRESH BAGUETTE ,WRAP AND FRUIT ARE AVAILABLE DAILY

let's eat, together
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menu