

## December 2024

### Head's update

We have made it to the end of what seems like a long, but very productive, term! This week has been really lovely in school, with lots of fun and enjoyable activities!

On Wednesday, we held our Christmas Fair, which was not only enjoyable but also a showcase for the talents of our amazing learners. The things that had been made to sell looked so professional and were very popular! It was really nice to see so many families attending. We were very lucky that **Keith from Halstead Rotary agreed to come and be our 'Santa' for the day in our grotto** - he was so lovely with our learners, who seemed to enjoy it!

**We drew the raffle yesterday** - in total, there were 54 presents kindly donated by parents/carers and staff. The top three prize winners were as follows:

- 1st prize of a Harrods Luxury Hamper was won by a learner in Sealion class
- 2nd prize of a Harrods Luxury Hamper was won by a friend of our Deputy Headteacher, Lucy
- 3rd Prize of a £45 Beauty Treatment was won by a learner in Penguin class

Well done to all the winners and thank you to everyone who donated and bought tickets! **So far, we have made £1,811.45, which will be used to support our learners to have a rich educational experience in 2025.**

On Thursday morning, **a different Santa visited the school to give a present to every learner, which was kindly funded by one of our parents.** Santa spent time in each class and chatted to all the learners, who seemed pleased to see him in their classrooms! There were vicious rumours that Santa was our site manager Tony, but we quickly quashed them!! **After Santa's visit, we had our Christmas dinner**, cooked and served by our dedicated kitchen and midday teams. The tables had been decorated nicely in the hall and in classrooms. The food looked lovely, as always!

**We started today off with a visit from Bocking Brass.** They did three sessions for us, to enable all of our learners to get the opportunity to see them. They played classic Christmas songs and carols, and took requests, which the older learners loved. Our learners really got into the spirit and we had singing, dancing and lots of exploring the instruments! We feel so fortunate that Bocking Brass support us. They really enjoy coming to the school and we enjoy hosting them.

Our final Christmas activity happened at lunchtime today - **a lovely team from Dunmow Round Table brought Santa and his sleigh for our learners to see!**

Earlier in the month, we held our final Governors meeting of the year. We are so fortunate to be supported by our Governing Body, who help us to develop the strategic direction of the school. Stephanie, our Chair of Governors, was able to attend the fair on Wednesday and she was so impressed by what our learners had achieved. Thank you to all our Governors!

The rest of December has been filled with trips out, and parties in class. Some of our classes have got together to do joint parties, which has been nice to see! The photos of what has been going on are lovely – you can see a selection on the next few pages!

**Thank you to our families for all their support**, particularly with our recent illness-related staffing difficulties.

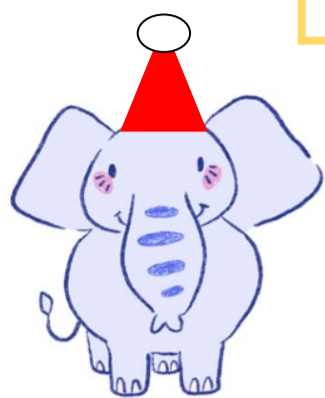
We wish you all a lovely Christmas and look forward to **welcoming our learners back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Best wishes,

Maggie

# The Edith Borthwick School Newsletter

## Edie's corner



### Word of the month



We would like to wish our staff, learners and their families who are celebrating Christmas, a **merry Christmas and a happy New Year!**

We would like to wish our staff, learners and their families who are celebrating Hanukkah, a **Hanukkah Sameach** (Happy Hanukkah!)

### Edie's jokes of the month

**Who hides in a Christmas bakery?**

*A mince spy! (Mince pie!)*

**What do Santa's helpers learn in school?**

*The elf-abet! (Alphabet!)*

**Iguana class** had a fantastic trip to Poplar Nurseries Garden Centre and then to McDonald's!



Don't forget, **our monthly coffee morning takes place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.30am!**

All parents/carers are welcome – some of our parents/carers who have been with us for a while have been really helpful for our new parents/carers who needed some support and guidance - and just to hear that they are doing a great job!

**Lemur class** decorated gingerbread men!



### Join our monthly lottery!

'**Your School Lottery**' was set up to raise money and make a difference for our amazing learners - for every ticket you play, 74.2% goes to our school and prizes!

**It's only £1 per ticket with the chance to win a £25,000 grand prize!**

[Your School Lottery](#)

**Thank you to everyone who chose to donate their winnings to our school!**

Our Christmas Fair 2024



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**Tortoise class** made reindeer dust and chocolates!



**Gatwick class** had great fun taking part in Christmas-themed activities, including crafts and a Christmas-themed escape room to find out who stole Santa's Sleigh!



**Wolf class** enjoyed lots of Christmas craft activities, including wreath making!



**Bocking Brass Band and Santa visit on the last day**



At The Edith Borthwick School, we **Respect**, **Encourage**, **Achieve**, **Care**, and **Have fun!**