

Newsletter

December 2015



Welcome to the last newsletter of 2015.

The last few weeks have seen a flurry of performances and celebrations and we hope that you are all in the festive spirit.

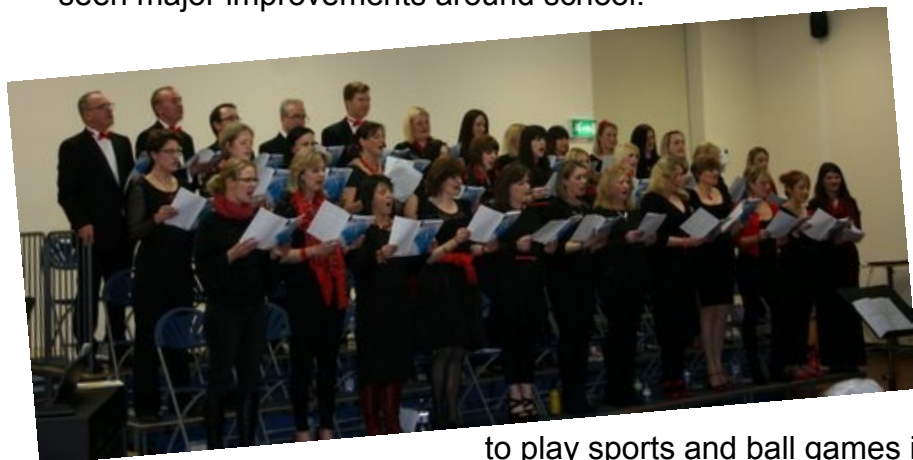
A huge thank you to all our children and staff who have worked really hard to make every event an enjoyable experience. Particular thanks need to go to Mrs Evans who has organised what is her final Carol Service before she leaves in the summer, and Mrs Vale who has worked with our infant children on their nativity.



GOODBYE MR DOLAN

Can you remember what you were doing in August 2007? Here at Bexton we welcomed Mr Dolan as our new Head Teacher.

Since then, we have seen a whirlwind of activity as Mr Dolan's enthusiasm and commitment, supported by pupil contributions, parental support, an amazing PTA and staff hard work have seen major improvements around school.



Firstly, there came the astroturf pitch. Having identified the importance of fresh air and exercise during lunchtimes to children's concentration in the afternoons, our amazing astroturf pitch and adventure playground were installed in 2008. Since then, our pupils have been able to play sports and ball games in all weathers (more of this later) without the worry of drowning in a sea of mud.

The next initiative was to develop a hall area large enough to hold all children at the same time, helping to develop cohesion between infants and juniors and ensuring that all children can attend assemblies together. Five years down the line, the added benefit of the large hall is the ability for us to house about 250 parents at each school performance.

This cohesion between the separate areas in school was further enhanced through the securing of funding to build the Year 3 corridor which joined the two buildings and meant the demolition of the old and smelly Year 3 mobile, Special Needs mobile and ICT Suite (even smellier!).

Since then, we have also seen major refurbish-outdoor areas to improve children's learning environment secured funding to refurbish the quad to a filled area for our Rainbow Room.

Changes to the building and grounds are not the only area where Mr Dolan has made a huge difference to our children's learning experiences. The introduction of ipads three years ago contributed to the love of learning in many of our pupils which is underpinned by the availability of a wide range of reading books in a school library that gets ever-larger.

However, probably the most valuable and enduring legacy that Mr

ments of many classrooms and environments and last lovely, light-





Dolan will leave is our values based curriculum. The Bexton values underpin everything we do at Bexton and have led to many inspirational (and much copied by other schools) initiatives such as SUMO, Ethical Enterprise, Growth mindset and independent learning. This year, we have extended our music provision to enable Year 5 pupils to develop their orchestral musical talents in a range of instruments from the glockenspiel to brass and woodwind.

As parents, you have not escaped the Dolan effect; the introduction of wraparound care has helped working parents juggle work and family commitments and the work of FOBS has provided brilliant social events for children and parents alike. We also have a FOBS Choir – not something that

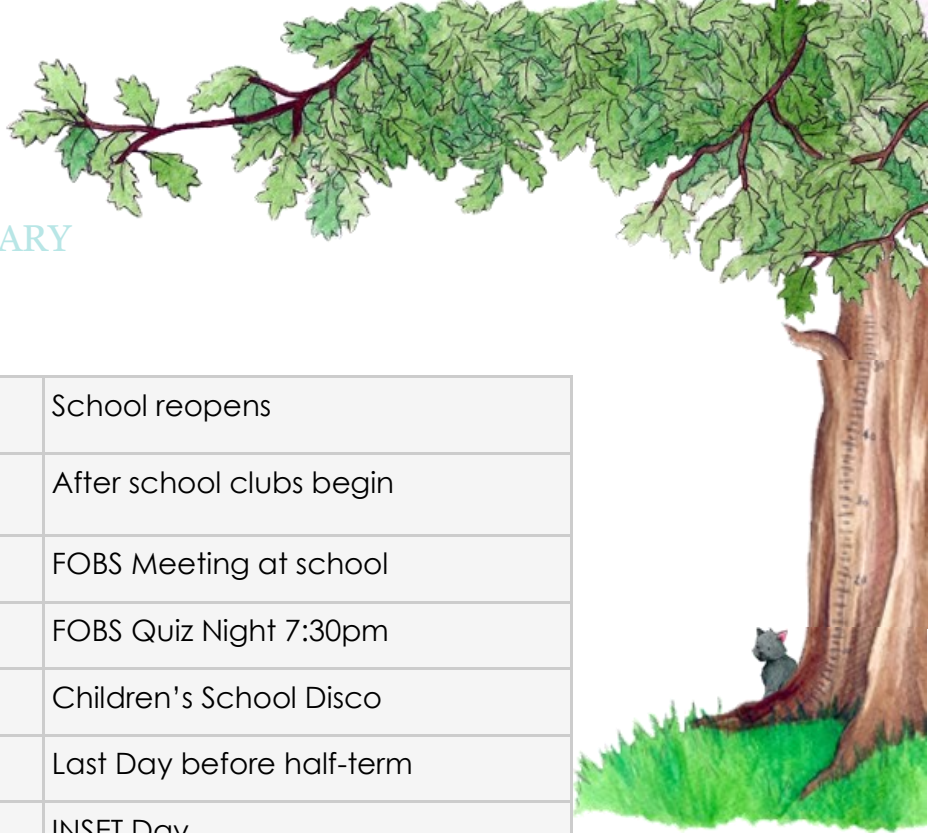
many schools can claim!

So for all this, everyone at Bexton would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Dolan and wish you every success and happiness in the future. We will particularly miss your amazing fancy dress costumes, you turning up in classrooms and sitting with children to see the learning experience from “the other side”, changing into

shorts and a t-shirt, as soon as decorum allows and running in and out of school followed by a mass of children in between downpours of rain on particularly wet afternoons for tennis club.



THANK YOU!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4th January	School reopens
Monday 11th January	After school clubs begin
Tuesday 12th January	FOBS Meeting at school
Friday 29th January	FOBS Quiz Night 7:30pm
Friday 5th February	Children's School Disco
Thursday 11th February	Last Day before half-term
Friday 12th February	INSET Day

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