

Dear Parents,

The magic of Christmas has most definitely been in the air this week at Bute! We were treated to a wonderful 'Wiggly Nativity' on Tuesday, beautifully performed by the pupils in Lower School. The unbridled enthusiasm and joy to perform in-front of their families and teachers was awe-inspiring to behold!

The annual Christmas Celebration in St Paul's Church is always a highlight in the calendar. It was lovely to see the whole Bute House community come together and celebrate Christmas through a poignantly-themed programme of readings and songs. The confidence that all of the children displayed on stage was amazing when considering the magnitude of the venue and audience; but what was also evident from the front row were the smiles on their faces throughout. To see entire year groups collaborate to such beautiful effect epitomised everything we cherish about our school. Not one to rest on her laurels, Mrs Whiteley has already turned her attention to next year's event, and who she can recruit to further augment the staff band!

Pupil voice is something we consider extremely important at Bute. The pupils have regular opportunities to reflect on the curriculum content in their subjects and have recently completed a survey garnering their opinions on all aspects of school life. Their thoughtful and considered responses enable us to constantly evolve and improve our provision. This morning it was my privilege to attend the first convening of our School Council Forum. This meeting was hosted by our (democratically selected) Year 6 School Council, who invited Form captains from each class in the school, to share ideas suggested by their classmates. The constructive and rational discussions that took place were a joy to witness, yet again demonstrating the maturity and passion the girls have for their school.

With the pupils having completed their surveys, we sent out the Parent Survey yesterday afternoon. Please do take the time to complete this at some stage before the deadline of January 11th; we greatly value your feedback and this will help us shape the next stage of our school development plan over the coming years.

Next week promises to be an exciting prelude to the Christmas holidays, with trips to The Lyric Theatre, our whole school Christmas lunch and the BHPA Christmas Fair, where rumour has it Santa and one of his elves have made a window in their busy schedule at this time of year to make a guest appearance!

Thank you for all of your support at events this week, I wish you a restful and lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Giles Puckle