



# Weekly Bulletin

December 22nd 2020



## Welcome to our bulletin

### Reflections

For me, the end of term is always time for reflection, appreciation and relief! It seems like years ago, not just months that we were in lockdown, learning virtually, such is the speed at which we get used to the new ways of leading our lives. All term we have worked very hard to ensure that everyone in our community remains safe from infection so that we can continue to teach the children. Everybody has played

their part in this endeavour, the teaching staff and the children have all managed to maintain a healthy appetite for learning but it is our support staff, and in particular our excellent catering and cleaning staff that have kept our school open.

When I was young, I used to love making models, in fact I was obsessed with it. So, I was delighted to see the creative skills of our Year 4 and Year 5 students displayed in school during this term. The Year 4 made excellent models of the Viking ships as part of their history lessons and the Year 5s ventured into OutSpace to create their solar systems. Other highlights for me include important awareness programmes like Black History month, slightly lighter, but no less important, Penguin class's growing tree. Laia and Aureli reading on Remembrance Day.

The Arts and Languages are a fundamental part of our curriculum and whilst limitations have been put on us due to the pandemic, our students have been develop-

ing their love for languages across the school and throughout the term. There were presentations in French and video competitions in Catalan. We have had excellent devised drama from the Year 7s who performed in their own masks that were created in the Art department. The weekly beat of the Samba, led by Victor Laguna was just one example of the wonderful music we have had this term. All this has been challenging and huge thanks go to the staff for ensuring these activities can run.

### **Student Voices are being heard**

Students have had many different opportunities to share their views and I have been delighted at the way in which they have engaged positively in our weekly Student Forums. There have also been many great assemblies across all year groups this term but along with the burgeoning sustainability project, ESD, two stuck in my mind. The environment and how we treat it, featured in two assemblies in the secondary school. In one, Natasha and Kika presented a very convincing argument as to why we should reduce our consumption of fish and meat. With charts, videos and a well written script they presented to the Year 7 students in the auditorium whilst being beamed out across the school on live video. Such was their impact on the of the younger students that a week later I received 13 beautifully handwritten letters in a gold envelope all making suggestions of how the BCG community can help this crucial cause. The most popular suggestions were to stop eating meat at lunch and to reduce the use of plastic in our snacks. I was so impressed by the assembly and the letters that we will be introducing No Meat Monday next year and will also be reducing the packing we use on our snacks.

### **Head of Secondary and Head of Teaching and Learning**

Following on from my announcement a few weeks ago that John Prince is leaving at the end of this term it is time to say goodbye. I met John Prince exactly a year ago and from the start appreciated his kind and generous nature. He has been very supportive of me and my plans for the school and we have become firm friends. John is fundamentally a very kind man who is caring and generous. He has brought his many experiences from a variety of settings to BCG and guided the school through a very difficult time. He leaves the school in far better shape than it was when he came 18 months ago. We all wish John the very best for the next chapter in his varied career and he will always be welcome to visit us at BCG

I am delighted to say that after a rigorous series of interviews and tests Mr Danny Steadman had been appointed as the new Head of Secondary from January 2021.

Given the increasing demands on the Secondary School I decided to split the original role into two. Mr Steadman will be responsible for the day to day running of the Secondary school as well as student behaviour and staff welfare. I will be interviewing for a Head of Teaching and Learning in the new year. The HoTL will be responsible for all academic matters in the Secondary School. I will perform this role until I have made an appointment.

Miss Fenton will be taking over Mr Steadman's Year 11 tutor group from January.

This term also saw the publication of our Statement of Mission and Purpose, along with our Values. If you have not already done so I encourage you to read it on the website. Next term we will be launching the new school video and our completely revised website which we hope will encourage even more new students to join the school. Numbers for next September are already looking healthy and we have had a very steady stream of visits from prospective parents all term.

These last few weeks have seen Father Christmas chortling in his grotto, every child, young and old, singing around the tree, lots of excitement, the odd Christmas film and lots of baubles. I think it is fair to say that everyone needs a break, and while most will be unable to see their family and friends as they would have hoped I wish you all an extremely Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and then the magical arrival of the Three Kings before seeing you all fresh and ready to go again in January 2021

Difficult times, but very exciting times too.

**Simon Mower**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great sadness that I sit here and write my final contribution to the school newsletter. Since I arrived in the summer of 2019 we have seen many changes and much progress at BCG. For those of you who were present, I will always remember our first meeting in the white tent on a hot August evening. You have always shown great kindness and support throughout this time and I wish to thank you for that.

I have worked in a good number of schools and I want you to know that you are a remarkably friendly group of parents and that your children are a pleasure to teach. They form the heart of the school community and they are a real credit to the parents and to the school.

BCG is developing and improving very rapidly under the excellent leadership of Simon Mower, staff are positive of spirit and focused on the Education of your children. Overall, the school is in a very good place right now and this will only improve year on year. I regret that it has not been possible to meet many of you in person during these strange times, but it is now time for me to move on and I leave with happy memories of my time at BCG.

With all best wishes,  
Merry Christmas,  
**John Prince**

## Secondary Christmas





# EYFS & Lower Primary

## **Christmas festivities**

What a truly wonderful end to the term it has been with such a fun and festive final week. On Friday, the children sang beautifully around the Christmas tree in their class bubbles, watched and encouraged by their teachers and siblings and full of excitement when they were sprinkled with 'snow' from above! We hope you enjoy watching the videos together with your child at home. Christmas 2021 is certainly going to be extra special for us all!

## **Card competition winners**

Mr Mower had a very tricky decision to make with such a wonderful selection of Christmas cards entries but very well done to the following students who each received a small Christmas Mr Men book.

**Nursery Ducklings**-Amaia Rodriguez Hock

**Reception Penguins**-Samuel Gomez

**Year 1**-no entries

**Year 2 Robins**-Saina Antonova

**Year 2 Owls**-Alexandra Martin Urrea

## **Santa's Grotto**

Oh this was such a success! I must say a great big 'thank you' to Maria Andrea for taking the idea and turning it into a reality. I can't take the credit for this and was as delighted and in awe as the children were with the finished result. Now, that we have achieved a Christmas transformation, I am already thinking of the next occasion where we can transform this wonderful space. I wonder if Mr Steadman would like to take on the role as the Easter bunny as well?! Meeting Father Christmas was a lot of fun for Reception children who were full of questions asking him how far he had travelled, what his reindeers ate and how cold it was at the North Pole! Cindy was very surprised and shouted, "Wow Santa you're so big and tall!" The hot chocolate and gift bags were a welcome treat and some boys and girls got straight to work writing in their little note pads. This year we purposefully chose to avoid plastic toys and so it was great to see the children so pleased with their carefully chosen gifts!

## **Reflecting on the term**

Today we had class assemblies on New Year's Eve and discussed the tradition of making resolutions for the new year. But first we encouraged the children to stop, think and reflect on the term, (some even closed their eyes) and to think of highlights for them personally and as a class. Year 2 children even looked back through their books and folders to see the progression in their own learning and talked about what they are most proud of.

As a school, we have achieved many great things this term. As head of phase I am really proud of the team of excellent teachers in EYFS and Lower Primary, that have delivered an impressive variety of lessons to keep our youngest learners engaged and motivated. One of our biggest achievements this term has to be the introduction of our Forest School mornings for Nursery and Reception. The children have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly dedicated sessions, come rain or shine, to learn amongst nature. Next term we look forward to building upon this with staff training, additional equipment and the possibility of bringing this into the timetable for Year 1 and 2 also. A big thank you to Ms Bifani, Miss Hurford and Miss Yaiza for getting this up and running.

## **Outstanding effort of the term**

Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen by their class teachers

for showing outstanding effort this term:

**Nursery**-Claudia Algara Kloppman

**Reception**- Lola Roca Garde

**Year 1**- Zoia Cozzi

**Year 2 Owls**-Olfa Hafaaidh

**Year 2 Robins**-Antoine Menard

### Coming up next term

We have a busy schedule for staff during our 2 inset days and valuable time will be spent dedicated to refreshing and keeping up-to-date with good practise. Our focus as a Primary team is on raising the standards of writing and we have many workshops planned including Talk4writing storytelling which I am personally very excited to lead. Be ready to learn new stories with your children through actions, story maps and repetition!

As our bubbles look to stay as they are, we also have plans to improve our class gardens and, EYFS in particular, will be spending a lot of time improving their outdoor learning space.

It's been a strange first term back with covid protocols to follow and masks to learn in, but the children have been so, so fantastic, putting this all in their stride and showing all of us how resilient they can be. I am so proud of them all and want to say a final well done and thank you to all of the boys and girls and their wonderful teachers for making our phase a wonderful place to learn.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

**Mrs Pilcher**



# EYFS & LP Christmas

MERRY  
*Christmas*  
HAPPY NEW YEAR









# Upper Primary

Dear Parents and Pupils,

I think many teachers would agree that Christmas time in school is our favourite part of the school year. Not only is the air filled with festive cheer, there is an undeniable buzz as the children excitedly wait for Santa's arrival. Collectively, we made decorations for our classrooms and our enormous Christmas tree. Each class also performed a Christmas song around the tree, as their siblings sprinkled snow from above. It really was a magical moment. I must say a special thank you to Miss Fenton, Mrs Foreman and the staff band who accompanied the performances: Mr Boden, Mr Prosser and Mr Steadman.

## **Christmas Fair**

A wonderful time was had by all on Friday afternoon as the Upper Primary classrooms were miraculously turned into mini-markets, with classes selling a wide range of items as well as fun challenges and activities. Guess the name of the Teddy Bear, Hook-a Duck, Dartboard Challenge, Make Your Own Caga Tio (we even had a 'Chilli Challenge' maths stall) were just a few of the exciting activities on offer. To say I was impressed would be an understatement. We definitely have some budding entrepreneurs in our midst.

One of the highlights for me was seeing how well the children organised themselves. In each class, they demonstrated stealth-like business skills, worked out a 'shopping rota' so they could take a break from their stalls to go shop, made colourful signage to attract customers and managed their money/tokens extremely well. I would say the highlight for them was the hot chocolate and tasty treats delivered to each class.

## **Design-A-Christmas Card Competition**

Each class designed a spectacular range of Christmas cards which were judged and voted for by their class and teachers. Our pupils never cease to amaze me with their high level of creativity – one card even played music! The winning card chosen from each class won a bumper book of Christmas sudoku. Very well done to the following winners:

**Year 3** - Mateo Blomet

**Year 4** - Sasha Gorea

**Year 5** - Tomas Perez

**Year 6** – Dixie Marchant

## **Values Certificate Winners**

The final 'Value' certificates of 2020 were awarded to those pupils who demonstrated 'risk taking'. Risk-taking in terms of learning is a really important skill and something that all teachers encourage our pupils to be. Learning the value of failure and how to learn from mistakes means our pupils at BCG become bold, brave and brilliant learners. They aren't afraid to get things wrong and learn strategies for solving problems and stretching out of their comfort zone. Congratulations to all our risk taking Upper Primary pupils:

**Year 3 Magpies:** Alessia Berthret and Victoria Batlles

**Year 4 Ravens:** Alex Fuente and Xavi Martin Urrea.

**Year 4 Swans:** Sasha Gorea and Lola Chacon Ruz

**Year 5 Parakeets:** Noa Martinez and Kalina Lelek

**Year 6 Kingfishers:** Sophia Rodriguez Hock and Biel Valle Teruel

**Miss De Company:** Lara Mohamed Shamid (Year 4 Swans)

**Mrs Mower:** Bethany Tennent (Year 6 Kingfishers)

### House Teams

It has been a tough fight to the top this term with every House Team fighting for the top spot. Each team has won the House Trophy Cup at least once this term. Some have even won it 3 times! Collectively, the points have reached over 1000, which is amazing and testament to the hard work of the children and their commitment to learning well. So, I am ecstatic to announce, drum roll.....the final winners of the House Cup Trophy for 2020 goes to the unstoppable GREEN team. A massive well done to all of the Greens! An excellent achievement!

### Reminders

- Return to school on Monday 11th January 2021

- Holiday Homework: The children deserve a well-earned break but we would like them to complete Bug Club reading and times tables set by their teacher. In addition, some classes may have a fun mini-project to complete.

As the most challenging year of our time comes to an end, I want to thank you with all my heart for your continued support. 2020 has been a difficult mountain to climb and still the struggle continues. I am very proud of our school community for coming together in such unison to ensure that our pupils could return to their beloved school safe and able to learn. Staff and teachers have overcome enormous obstacles in order to deliver the high quality education we are so proud to deliver. I thank all of them for their unrelenting commitment in this time.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and time well spent with your families.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new year, working together and seeing the best of BCG

Un gran abrazo

**Miss Wakelin**



# Upper Primary Christmas

MERRY  
*Christmas*  
HAPPY NEW YEAR





# Sports Performer of the Week

Dear Parents,

We have had another exciting week in the PE department, the students keep impressing Mr Pilcher and I with their effort levels, their skills and their determination. We have chosen 3 new Sports Performers of the Week and these will be the winners over the Christmas period. From Year 2 we have Hudson Hall for a captain's performance, helping his team win with sportsmanship and skill. From Year 6 we have Biel Valle Teruel for always giving 100% in PE and some incredible saves in goal this week. From Year 9 Axel Gonzalez Lazaro for always giving 100% effort in class and never giving up. Well done again everyone and have a safe and happy Christmas. Mr Pilcher and I will see you in the New Year.

**Mr Steadman**



## 9C7

Students in Y7 have been learning about using 3D design to solve real world problems. For a fun project, both 7A and Year 7B were tasked with designing a chess piece representing each member of the class, so that we will eventually have a "Year 7 Chess Set". The pieces were 3D printed and thanks to Miss Jensen (Art), students had lots of fun painting their creations.

**Mrs Hall & Dr Jim**



# Year 7 Performance



As we entered the final school week of 2020 we finally managed to get to see the first BCG drama performance of the year! And the Year 7s managed to pull it off not just once, but EIGHT times, each one of their performances maintaining the magic and energy of the first. Dressed in black and white, their faces hidden by the mysterious, haunting owl and blackbird masks the students worked hard on in Art with Ms Jensen, the class took the stage, casting contorted shadows on the wall and began their version of Skellig, a magical realist tale about a young boy discovering a sick, depressed and tattered angel living in his family's dilapidated garage. It is a story of friendship and hope; of family and growing up. The students retold the novel they had studied in class by making "blackout poems" that charted Michael and Skellig's changes and transformations. These poems then became the basis for the first half of the play in which they used them as a script for their "Greek chorus". Written and devised entirely by the students, they experimented with soundscapes, unison speaking, ripple effects, echoes, and explored the ways in which moving together can create atmosphere and mood, and tell a story.

Following a powerful reading of the Persephone myth, which lies at the heart of the novel, by Leu, Raf and Noelia introduced the second half of the performance, a creative recital of William Blake's poem The Schoolboy which also lies at the heart of Skellig. The performance culminated with a huge crescendo of voices before they all collapsed on the stage floor and then rose to their feet for the applause. Eight times.

Well done Year 7!

**Mr Foreman and Ms Fenton**



# Year 3

In year 3 last week we focused on making Christmas crafts and getting ready for the Christmas fair on Friday. We made Christmas trees out of card and clay and pinecone snowmen. We also wrote some Christmas poems, some with rhyme, and this really got us into the Christmas spirit! Kind Regards,

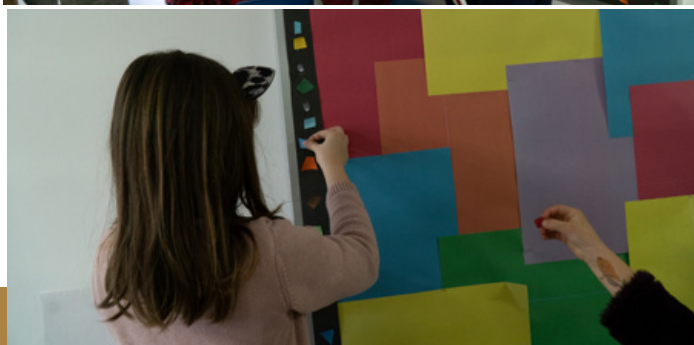
**Miss Straton**



# Year 4 Ravens

This autumn term, in Ravens and Swans Class we have completed many fascinating and enjoyable activities, caught up and made great progress in all areas of the curriculum. Whilst exploring the historical topic of The Vikings and Anglo Saxons, we developed our understanding about the lives of these people and why many today view them as brutal, daring and vicious people. We discovered where they came from, where they travelled to and why. We made shields, longboats and posters explaining their lives. In English we studied, planned, wrote, edited and published a narrative story and a newspaper report, both of which are displayed in the classroom. We also got poetic, writing our own Kennings poems. In Maths we studied place value, addition, subtraction, measure and multiplication, whilst in Science we learnt all about electricity and solids, liquids and gasses through a series of practical investigations: from making electrical circuits, to melting chocolate at different temperatures- we had a lot of fun in Science! We created simple computer games using 'Scratch' in ICT and learnt all about rivers in our Geography topic. It was a great term of learning and one we all enjoyed very much. Well done Year 4, see you in the New Year!

**Mr Timothy and Miss Osivwemu**





## Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been making lots of Christmas decorations. We decorated our class Christmas tree with paper baubles, we've made decorations for the ceiling AND we made sustainable Christmas decorations for the school tree! The class were very creative and used lots of different materials to make their decorations: water bottles, cardboard toilet roll tubes, sticks, pine cones and lots more. Well done Year 5 for making art from waste! Thanks to Miss Marina for giving us the idea and helping us write our No Waste pledge on Monday. Merry Christmas from Parakeets class!

**Miss Muirhead**



## Year 6

Well, what a fantastic term we have had in Year 6. I have been astonished by the resilient, hard working attitude that all of the children have displayed in the face of some challenging circumstances since September. Every member of our class has approached our time in school with a brilliant demeanour to learning and this has been matched with the children's usual brilliant sense of humour and enthusiasm. I have been incredibly proud of everyone so far and I can not wait to see even more progression, effort and fun in Year 6 as the year goes on.

Merry Christmas!

**Mr Smith**

## Language Department

### **Spanish: Important Information**

Our Y12 students will take the first part of the International Advanced Level Spanish test, on Thursday, January 7th, 2021 at 13:30, all students who take this exam must be at school on time.

We wish them the best of luck, and we are convinced that they will get excellent results!

### **Christmas Masks, Poop log and the Three Kings**

In the language department, the students from Year 4 to Year 6 have decorated a mask with a special word for these upcoming dates. Some have written them in Spanish, others in French or Catalan. Some of the words preferred by our students have been: family, friendship, joy, Bon Nadal, Caga Tió; Une bonne année, Plein de bonheur, among others.

In the Catalan lessons we have learned about the 'Caga Tió' (poop log) tradition, we

learned the popular song and created our own versions. In addition, each course has given Tió something to eat and we have seen that little by little he is growing and getting fatter. Between Monday and Tuesday we will have the opportunity to see Tió “discharge” some gifts. Have we behaved well?

Also in the Spanish lessons, we will write letters to the Three Kings. In them, students will be able to express their wishes for the next year 2021 and will also be able to ask for those gifts they most want for Christmas. The students will take them home so that they can deliver them to the kings in the camps or royal mailboxes of your municipality.

The Department of Languages wishes you very happy holidays and a happy new year!



As we look forward to 2021 and slowly creep towards normality, extra-curricular programs in the area are finding solutions and we are no different. I am very excited to announce that our first addition in January will be tennis in the sports hall with Roby Cozzi every Tuesday and Wednesday. Booking details are below. Last week Roby kindly agreed for all of upper primary to attend taster sessions during P.E. The students took part in a huge range of tennis activities focused around general racquet skills and an introduction to tennis. These sessions will start in the first week back and will run continually through the first term.

**Tennis** – Tuesday, yr3 and 4, 1630 – 1730  
Wednesday, yr 5 and 6, 1630 – 1730

**PLEASE EMAIL [ecap@bcgava.com](mailto:ecap@bcgava.com) for more information and booking.**

Also, Thank you to all of those families with children that have stayed for Bubble Club this term. For the moment, how we offer this service is under review and more information will be available in January. Finally, for secondary, Homework Club will continue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Library and surrounding rooms. Please email [ecap@bcgava.com](mailto:ecap@bcgava.com) to register.

**Homework Club** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1630 to 1730

I look forward to seeing you in January and wish you all a Merry Christmas

**Mr Pilcher**

