



Dear Parents/Carers,

After a busy first term of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank what is the most incredible staff team, who have once again, worked tirelessly to ensure that our children thrive and succeed.

The first term of the academic year is always one of the most tiring, but it is also the most fun too and I have really enjoyed seeing the children grow in confidence, making progress in all areas.

This term, we have enjoyed celebrating several key events and are now enjoying the final few days before the stand down period. I know many of our families are travelling away during this period and would like to wish you all a wonderful break and a well-earned rest!

The last week has certainly been a very busy one, with children sharing some fantastic performances with their families...

Year 1 Nativity – I sadly missed the children’s Nativity on Friday as I was working within another DCS school, but I understand that our Year 1 children were superstars! The children really enjoyed themselves – they knew their lines and sang their songs beautifully. I have been fortunate to enjoy some super renditions on the playground this week and am extremely proud of the children for their hard work and confidence.

FS2 Nativity Film – On Monday, I enjoyed a real treat watching the children in our FS2 classes share the video of their Nativity with parents. The film had been produced over several weeks and captured the children exploring differing roles from the Christmas Story. The children’s evident pride, recognising themselves on the big screen, was a delight to see – and I particularly enjoyed hearing them share with parents their recollections of travelling to ‘Bethlehem’ around our school environment!

Year 2 Nativity – Today, we have been treated to a wonderful performance by our Year 2 children, sharing the Christmas Story from the perspective of Marcel. Again, the children really rose to the challenge, performing with confidence and clarity throughout – it was a really enjoyable performance and the children should feel deservedly proud of themselves!

Finally, **tomorrow**, we look forward to sharing **Year 3 to 6’s Christingle at 1300hrs** with parents. I know the children have been rehearsing and busily preparing an array of songs new and old to share, along with poems and stories, so we will again be in for a treat. Please come to the main office to sign in 5 minutes prior to the start.

Thank you to all of our families for the incredible support of your children in preparing for these performances – we are extremely grateful!



Goodbye – The end of term sadly means that we are saying goodbye to two much loved members of our staff team. **Mr Kieran Leahy** will realise his dream, with his young family, of moving to Australia. Mr Leahy has been successful in his long term ambition to gain a visa to work and reside in Australia, and has deservedly been successful in securing a job in a school in Port Lincoln, South Australia. The Australian school year begins in January, and so Mr Leahy has made the difficult decision to leave Brunei this Christmas to enable him, and his family, to be able to settle into their new life. Mr Leahy has been an incredible part of the Hornbill team and will be sorely missed. He is a highly skilled, dedicated and positive member of staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the support he has offered our community, from our children to our colleagues, the governors and families.

Also travelling to Australia is **Mrs Daniela Makin**. Mrs Makin has worked as a Supply Teacher within Hornbill School. She has been an amazing support to our team, covering absence and ensuring that every child in her care has been supported and challenged. Mrs Makin has taught classes from FS1 to Year 6, positively building relationships with children, staff and parents alike.

Our loss will be Australia's gain, and we all wish both the Makin and Leahy families every success and happiness in their new adventures (and can't wait to see their photos of kangaroos and koalas!)



Christmas Holidays: Our **final day of term is Friday 13th December**, the school day ends at 1200hrs. As a result of the early finish, children will not have their usual lunch break at school – but will be given an extended morning playtime to ensure that they can enjoy a larger mid-morning snack!

Our **first day of the new term is Monday 6th January**, and we look forward to welcoming you all back then! We wish you a fantastic stand down period and look forward to hearing all about your children's festive fun in the New Year...

Thank you all for your ongoing support, and happy holidays!

With warm regards,

Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher