

The Bliss Charity School

Issue: 7

Tuesday 4th January 2022



Term 3



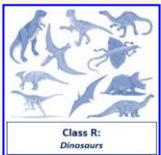
Hello everybody,

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to enjoy a relaxing family break. Whilst there will undoubtedly still be coronavirus-related challenges ahead, the start of a new calendar year certainly offers us lots of hope and optimism for the future – here's to a fantastic 2022!

Just before Christmas, we found out that the Young Voices concerts were being postponed. This is such a shame after months and months of rehearsals. However, we are hopeful that they will be arranged for later in the academic year. In the meantime, we will continue the weekly rehearsals (3:15 – 4:15) every Tuesday at no additional charge so that none of the children's hard work is lost. As soon as we hear about a new date for the concert at the NEC, we will let you know.

Mr. Carter

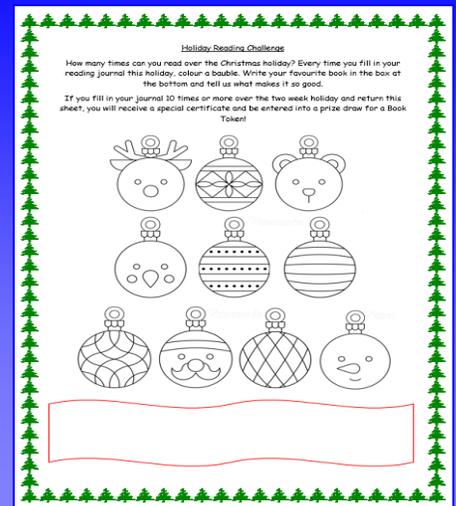
TERM 3 TOPICS



Christmas Reading Challenge

Our Christmas Reading Challenge comes to an end this week. To enter, the children need to return their completed sheet to their class teacher by Friday 7th January.

All children who complete the challenge will be celebrated in assembly on Friday 7th January. If you need another copy of the Challenge sheet, please visit the letters page of the school website (www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/parents/lethome).



Primary School Places

Parents/carers of children turning four between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 need to apply for their school place for September 2022 by **5:00 pm on Saturday 15th January 2022**. To apply online, please visit: www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children – both in and out of school – has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.



What is safeguarding?

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

At The Bliss Charity School we have a Safeguarding Team, with five trained Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mr. Carter, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Caller, Mrs. Adey, and Mrs. Howard. If parents/carers have safeguarding concerns regarding any of our pupils (either while they're at school or in the wider community), they can disclose information to one of our DSLs directly or via any member of school staff. Out-of-hours and out-of-term contact should be via office@bliss.northants.sch.uk or head@bliss.northants.sch.uk. Alternatively, parents/carers can contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 126 7000 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000. All emergency concerns should go straight to 999. Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of ensuring the welfare and safety of children. No-one should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to keeping a child safe. For more information about safeguarding procedures at The Bliss Charity School, please visit: www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/information/safeguarding.

Attendance

The Bliss Charity School is committed to helping every child make excellent progress and attain as highly as possible, as well as providing a rich and broad range of curricular and extra-curricular experiences for them to enjoy. **High attendance (96% or above)** is key to children being successful and benefitting fully from these opportunities, as well as helping them to make and sustain friendships. Discounting all absences related to COVID-19, 345 days of education have been lost at Bliss since September. Of course, children get poorly and have to be off school, but sometimes they are able to come in. The [NHS website 'Is my child too ill for school?'](#) is a useful guide for when pupils can still attend school with minor illness.



Term Time Holidays

Absence for holidays during term time is not authorised at The Bliss Charity School and can result in a referral to the Educational Inclusion Partnership Team and the issue of a Penalty Notice. More than ever, it is very important that children attend school every day so that staff can help pupils make up the learning time that has been missed during the coronavirus pandemic. Missing school has a detrimental effect on a pupil's progress and attainment which cannot be afforded given the disruption to education over the past two years. Furthermore, unnecessary absence also affects the achievement of others as adult help has to be re-directed into helping pupils go over the work they missed when they return to school, instead of being used where it is most needed. Thank you for your support. For more information, please visit: www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/information/attendance.



Lateness

A total of 1,570 minutes (over 26 hours) have been lost to lateness at Bliss so far this academic year. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in good time, ready for the start of the day at 8:55 am. The very beginning of the day is just as important as the rest, as all classes practise key skills and consolidate previous learning as soon as the register is taken. Children who are regularly late may miss out on handwriting sessions or calculation practice which will affect the progress they make over the course of the year. Thank you for your support.

