Dear Parents

**Effectiveness of Leadership**

**Crossing Patrol—Update**

Councillor Mans, Councillor Harris (Governor), John Lawton (Chair of Governors), and I met on site over the half term break to review the condition of the crossing outside school and discussed possible strategies for maintaining the safety of our children. Cllr. Mans is in support and will be in contact with both the Council and ourselves to look towards an improved service.

In the meantime may I say thank you to those wearing the hi-viz jackets, who are waiting near the crossing and supporting others and modelling to the children how to look and cross safely. This reinforces best practice.

During worship today the whole school marked their respects by holding a minute’s silence for Armistice Day. I am very proud of all the children in the manner in which they conducted themselves during this time.

**Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

**French twinning visit June 2018**

I am delighted to say that we have a number of Year 5/6 children who are joining us for a visit to Pont St Martin in June 2018. The coach and ferry have been booked and conversations are already underway with the Head Teacher of St Joseph’s school on the itinerary for the week. If any other Year 5 or Year 6 children would like to join the group, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**Year 6—Remembrance**

The children have also written poems in class empathising with soldiers from the battle fields in the World Wars and the reasons poppies mark Remembrance Day. Please read three poems that we have included on page 3 of this newsletter. The children have been very expressive in their creative writing. Well done.

**Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare**

**'Be bright and be seen'**

The PTA kindly donated hi-viz jackets to every child in the school. A real commitment to ensuring that our children are seen. We have a large number of children who are wearing their hi-viz jackets—it would be wonderful to see more though.

Occasionally class topics will be enhanced by a walk in the village or close proximity to school. We already have your permission to take children out of school through the signed Random Locality Visit forms and to ensure safety it would be great if each child had their own hi-viz jackets in school to wear.

**Parking**

Please take care when parking near the school at drop off and collection, we have recently had a couple of complaints where driveways have been blocked. Please be aware of our neighbours.

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural**

**Shoebox appeal**

We sent 51 filled Christmas shoeboxes this year to the Rotary for the Honeypot appeal. Down on our usual 70 plus but a great support for those in need. Thank you to all who donated, the gifts will definitely put smiles on vulnerable children’s faces this Christmas.

Yours sincerely

John Littlewood
Head Teacher
Pause for thought.....
Life is like a camera. You focus on what’s important
Capture the good times
Develop from the negative and if things don’t work out take
another shot.

Vision
At Brockenhurst CE Primary School our vision is to inspire, sustain and develop high quality teaching and learning; with excellent behaviours and safety for all, founded on Christian values.

Dates for your diary:
P**LEASE NOTE DATES AND TIMES OF EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**
For the 2017-2018 school terms and inset days please check our school website:  
www.brockenhurstceprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=44

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<td>December 1st 11.00am Little Flames</td>
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<td>8th Y6 Visit Forest Oaks 2.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>KS1 Nativity rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>1.30pm Nativity Performance</td>
<td>9.00am Brass Assembly 6.00pm Nativity Performance</td>
<td>9.00am Piano Assembly</td>
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<td><strong>Vocal Group Assembly 1.15pm</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>1.30pm KS2 Carols round the Tree</td>
<td>INSET—No children in school</td>
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**INSET Day Thursday 21st December**
Christmas Holiday Friday 22nd December and returning to school on Thursday 4th January 2018

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<td>26th Y3 Swimming</td>
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<td>February 1st</td>
<td>2nd Y3 Swimming</td>
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**Half Term Holiday**
Monday 12th to Friday 16th February 2018
Children return to school on Monday 19th February
A selection of Remembrance poems from Year 6

**War Scar**

War has started-
I sit in my shelter.
A bullet grazes my shoulder
Do I care?
The smell of gunpowder fills my nostrils
The screams and commands fill the air
I see my friend fall, one of many
I feel death - that is what I have to feel.
I touch my trigger, but I will not fire.
I sweat in my uniform
A rat runs to me
And my gun touches mud.
A bang breaks my shelter
It must happen
If I'm found I will die
It's worth the risk
Anything to escape
I bring my gun up next to my knee
My finger shaky on the trigger.
I pull the trigger
A bang, then all black!

I stand in the field - the touch of poppies at my fingers
Other than the scar on my knee, war is over.
The taste of poppy seeds on my tongue.
Birds fly round the new trees
A stream runs where my friend fell
A cricket calls

**War is over**

Nye

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**Everyone dies**

I become tired as I drag my feet through the trench, I start to breathe heavily as I hold a gun to a man's head. I become petrified. I shoot. The smell of gunpowder fills my lungs, the horrific feeling of dark, thick blood dripping from my hands. The flesh of my good friends are scattered around. I feel something on the back of my head, I fall to the ground. All I see is black, all I hear is ringing in my ears.

Jessica

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**....... Peaceful poppies**

All is calm - the bright poppies dancing in the wind, the sun beating down on my face; colours burst from the once dead and lifeless place.

I can smell the fresh air and the gentle breeze, the soft feeling of petals brushing against my arm. All is hopeful. War has created something beautiful.

Jessica

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**IN FLANDERS’S FIELDS WHERE THE POPPIES THRIVE**

The poppies with their slender petals,
Bow their heads in respectful silence.
As the peaceful souls of those who fought for freedom,
Swim amongst the sea of remembrance.

The blossoms dance in victory,
Rejoicing with the laughing breeze,
Which sweeps away the lingering ghost,
Of the terrible morbid past.

For the ongoing sorrow and darkness of once,
Is now replaced by hope and light.
And the sunlight pools like liquid gold,
In the deep silvery curves of the poppy petals.

Amongst the moist green stems which sway,
Beneath the velvet crimson blossoms,
Are snowy heads of dandelions,
Gently bobbing to and fro.

And in the blue sky where the skylarks sing,
The sun shines joyously,
For in Flanders’s Field where the poppies thrive,
The war, at last, is over.

By Emily