

Friday 4 December 2020



Update letter

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. As we approach the end of another challenging term, I am thankful for your help, support and understanding. The children continue to be an inspiration to us, coping incredibly well as we all adapt and adjust to our “new normal”. As a school we continue to be fortunate in regards our very low numbers of confirmed cases and closures. Despite the challenging and often confusing times we are living in, we are hoping to embrace the festive season and all the fun and enjoyment it brings. We have several seasonal activities planned to lift everyone’s spirits and raise a smile all in a COVID-19 secure way of course.

Christmas Cards & Christmas Gifts

This year please only send in Christmas cards & gifts for your child’s bubble.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be different this year, due to needing to eat in our bubbles, Christmas lunch will take place on two different days, Primary children one day and Secondary another.

Christmas Party Lunch

A Christmas Party Lunch will be provided free of charge for all the children on their party day. All parties will take place in class bubbles. For those children on school lunches, parents will be given a credit/refund for that day.

Primary Christmas Lunch: Wednesday 9 Dec Party Lunch: Thursday 10 Dec

Secondary Christmas Lunch: Thursday 10 Dec Party Lunch: Wednesday 9 Dec

Christmas Bingo

Our Annual Christmas Bingo event will be taking place online this year on Thursday 10 December 6pm-8pm, with the chance to win fabulous hampers full of festive treats. I will look forward to seeing you all there.

Christmas Pantomime

We are watching a live Christmas Pantomime “Dream Catcher” online on the afternoon of 11 December.

Christmas Jumper Day

Save the Children, Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 11 December. We are inviting all children and staff to wear their own clothes, and a Christmas jumper if they have one. A donation of £1 in support of the Save the Children charity is requested, our preferred method of payment would be using Parent Pay, however cash will also be accepted.

Christmas Production

This year we have had to do our Christmas Production very differently. We have put together an alternative Christmas Story, based on current affairs. Our aim is to give you all a smile, warm your hearts and lift your spirits.



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The children have worked so hard, to bring some much need good fun and humour to what has been, a very difficult time for us all. Each class have taken part and have pre-recorded their scene which have then been put together as one video. The Christmas production will be shared once it is completed.

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be taking place on Wednesday 16 December – Santa is having to self-isolate until Christmas eve, so he has sent his special elves to deliver Christmas presents for all the children, we will still be seeing Santa in his grotto at the North Pole but virtually via Teams. All pupils will be invited to come into school in their pyjamas and have breakfast in their bubbles, the virtual visit to Santa is optional. All the pupils will receive a present from Santa.

Staffing Updates

We said Goodbye and Good Luck to Mr Jonathan Buckley TA 3 who moved to a school closer to home. Despite the pandemic we have continued with our recruitment and have recently made the following permanent appointments:

Started

Miss Goulding TA3(Rowan Class), Ms Katie Goonan TA1(Beech), Miss Lauren Brown TA1(Maple), Miss Natalie Pilkington TA1(8G).

Starting with us in January 2021

Mrs Whitney Baxendale TA1, Miss Laura-Kate Howarth TA1, Mrs Rachael Smith TA1, Miss Libby-Jayne Fraser TA1.

We also recruited two temporary TA1s Mr Ethan Murphy & Mr John Stokes, who have started with us recently.

Updates regards changes in class staff teams will be shared by the class teachers ASAP. Please also check out our staff page on the website to meet them.

Drop-off & Pick-up

Thank you all for practising social distancing and wearing masks when dropping off and picking up your children, and for setting such a great example to all the children. This helps promotes how important it is, to keep everyone safe and healthy. We have placed some 2 metre markers to act as a guide and a helpful reminder. We also have complimentary face masks available, if you need one please ask a member of staff who will be happy to provide one for you free of charge.





Transport – Drivers & Passenger Assistants

All Passenger Assistants must always wear a mask if this is not happening please inform the school office so that this information can be passed onto their Area Manager. In regards the drivers, some are employed by the local authority directly and others are private hire. All drivers employed directly by the local authority should be wearing a mask when they are not driving, other private hire vehicle drivers are being strongly encouraged to wear a mask, when not driving, however this is not enforceable as they are not direct employees of the local authority.

Early Closure at the end of term

As a school our current plan is to remain open as planned until Friday 18 December. The DFE are currently encouraging all schools to stay open until the end of term. The Local Authority Director of Public Health is monitoring the situation very carefully, but current thinking is that schools will remain open until the end of term.

I understand that many parents are anxious about this in regards the impact it may have on their child needing to self-isolate over the festive period if a member of staff or classmate in their bubble tests positive during the last few days of term.

If you would like your child to remain at home on Thursday & Friday, therefore avoiding them being classed as a close contact of an adult or child in their bubble who may test positive during this time, requiring your child to self-isolate for 14 days. I understand and respect this is a parental choice, and you will not be penalised or fined, and your child's absence will be marked as authorised.

If this is something you would like to do, please discuss this with your child's class teacher ASAP. To pre-empt this happening on a large scale, we have ensured that all our Christmas activities will have taken place to ensure no pupils will miss out.

I hope you are all able to enjoy time together as a family over the festive period but ask that you do all that you can, to keep yourselves and your families safe and well.

We have all worked so hard and done all that we can to protect one another, please keep this in mind during the festive period, so that we can continue to keep school safe and open in the New Year.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with your child's class teacher, and they will be happy to help.

Kindest regards,

Keep Safe 



Mr Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

