



Chew Stoke Church School Newsletter



INTRODUCTION FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

As you will have read in the letter I sent out this week, due to rising cases of COVID 19 amongst the school community, it has been necessary to put in 'outbreak' measures. Sadly, under the direction of Public Health England it was necessary to postpone or adapt many of our Christmas activities this week. It is so disappointing, but we must ensure the safety of our whole school community. The key thing of course is that the children are having that Christmas experience that they love. My thanks as always to our amazing staff who are working so hard to make this happen in the best way they can - whilst still teaching the curriculum!

Today I have met again with Public Health England and we are hopeful at this stage that the Christmas productions next week can go ahead in person, however we have been informed that we will be unable to serve refreshments. If you are attending a performance please take a lateral flow test beforehand and only attend if the test result is negative and you are not showing any symptoms. It is also essential that you wear a face covering unless you are exempt.

I wish to extend my thanks to the PTA who had been working really hard to put on the Christmas market that was planned for this Friday. Although this event can't happen there are still lots of other ways of supporting the PTA over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing all of our pupils who are currently isolating back in school soon.



Yesterday we held our annual Christmas Craft Day, the classes spent the day designing and making Christmas craft and it really did begin to feel like Christmas in school.

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Chew Stoke Church
School
School Lane
Chew Stoke
Bristol BS40 8UY
Tel: 01275 332354

www.chewstokeacademy.org

Headteacher: Ben
Hewett



Village Christmas Card Competition



Well done to Mair whose Christmas card design was chosen to be used by the church this year. Over the next few weeks Mair's card will be sent out to people living in Chew Stoke and the neighbouring villages.

This year Hedgehog and Owl Classes are taking part in a community project at The Bishop's Palace in Wells. The classes have created an eco-angel for the Eco Art Exhibition. The angel will be on display for visitors to see until December 21st.



Christmas Cards

Due to the current COVID situation, we ask that, if your child wishes to bring in Christmas Cards for pupils or staff, they come into school by Friday 10th December so that we can isolate them for 72hrs and distribute them the following week. Please ensure that cards are named and have the receiving child's class on.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

This year we are having a special Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for our partner school, the Christian Life Pre and Primary School in Uganda. Everyone is invited to wear their most festive, most sparkly Christmas jumper in return for a donation, which will go towards buying an iPad to help the children at our partner school with their learning and communications. This is also our Christmas Lunch day so we will all be looking very colourful while we enjoy our meal!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Our School Christmas Lunch will be held on Wednesday 15th December at the normal cost of £2.50 (free to pupils who are entitled to free school meals and all pupils in Reception and Years 1 and 2). As we normally have an overwhelming response, with only a few children bringing sandwiches, we will assume **all** children are having a Christmas Lunch **unless** you return the slip below by Friday 10th December to say your child will be **bringing sandwiches**.

The menu will be:-

Roast Turkey with Chipolata Sausage, Stuffing & Gravy
Or Roast Quorn Fillet with Stuffing & Gravy

~ ~ ~

Roast Potatoes, Fresh Carrots & Garden Peas, Brussel Sprouts

~ ~ ~

Christmas Ginger Shortbread

PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

With the darker morning and evenings we are happy for parents to use the marked bays in the front staff car park before 8am and after 4.45pm. Outside of these hours please do not drive onto the school site - this is to ensure the safety of all of our pupils and to allow staff safe access in and out of the school.

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME - TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 5PM TO 5.45PM

On the evening of Tuesday 14th December Miss Hennessy will be hosting a Christmas-themed Storytime for all children in Hedgehog and Owl classes. Children will be invited back in their pyjamas for a Christmas story with their parents, and a hot chocolate to truly get into the Christmas spirit! We hope activities like this will encourage a lifelong love of reading and will support parents in the types of questions that can be asked when reading with your child at home.

BLING YOUR BIKE DAY - WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Our PE Council will be holding a Christmas-themed Bling your Bike Day on Wednesday 15th December. Bring your fabulously decorated bike or scooter to school and you may win a prize for the best dressed scooter and bike in EYFS/KS1 and KS2.

UPDATE FROM THE PTA

As you will have all heard, we are not able to go ahead with our outdoor Christmas Market. We are all of course very disappointed about this given all the hard work that has gone into it. The filled sweet jars will not go to waste and we will sell them off at some other time. We will also use the bottles and chocolates to do a tombola at a different event. Thank you so much everyone for your donations. They will not be wasted!!

We have lots of other events that we can still put on despite COVID restrictions so please do support them if you can. We will start selling raffle tickets soon so look out for updates. There are some fantastic prizes donated by Salt and Malt, The Loft Beauty & Wellness, Beyond Beauty, Neals Yard, JH Beauty and Aesthetics, The Beauty Patch, The Queens Arms, The Prince of Waterloo, Chew Valley Distillery, New Manor Farm Shop, Moondance, Jars, The Druids, Pizza Adorare, Bake off Bark off, Chew Kitchen, Meatbox, Natasha Clutterbuck, NE Appliances, Chew Valley PetHub, Bristol Sport, Apple Orchard Florist, Amaze in Glaze pottery voucher, Rise and Shine session, Chew Valley Babies session, Avon Dance Academy, Molts Lighting, party at Chew Stoke Village Hall, FAB the Barber, Wookey Hole and Chew Valley Animal Park. Please see advert for Chew Valley Dancing School at the end of the newsletter. They have donated a whole term of lessons!

We can still hold our very popular CHEW STOKE FESTIVE WINDOWS TRAIL! We have lots of entries again this year so thank you to all those that have signed up to decorate a window. Walk the trail from 4pm to 6pm between the 4th and the 24th December and marvel at the beautifully lit up windows and get into the Christmas spirit. There is also a clue to solve with a prize for the winner. Email chewstokeschoolpta@gmail.com to obtain a trail map. There is a poster at the end of the newsletter with all details.

Lots of parents and children had fun last weekend making beautiful wreaths. Thank you Amy Maggs and Lucy Brown for showing us how it is done. Picture attached. Over £300 was made for the school at this event.

Santa will still be coming to visit the school on the 15th December after the Christmas lunch and we are asking for a donation of £6 per child. We understand that this is an expensive time of year and every child will receive a present regardless. This was a really popular event last year and we made it lots of fun for everyone. There were even real elves! Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for payment details.



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CHRISTMAS LUNCH REPLY SLIP

My child will bring sandwiches on Wednesday 15th December

Child's name:

Please return this slip, if applicable, to the School Office by Friday 10th December