



27th November,

Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope everyone is keeping well and that after from our Prime Minister about the Christmas rules, you are able to look forward to some arrangements over the Christmas period to be able to spend time with our loved ones. That being said, I can't quite believe I'm talking about Christmas already, although we will all be glad to see the back of this year, I'm sure!

We always make Christmas as special as we can for our pupils as you know and although some things need to look a little different, we don't want this year to look any different, so here are some of things we have coming up for our children to look forward to...

Monday 7th December – Ssshhhhhhh, this one is a secret!

We have Father Christmas himself with two of his elves and two of his reindeer – YES, reindeer - heading to visit Dowson playground! ALL classes will get to go out to visit them and receive a gift from Santa courtesy of our PTA. We know that the children will be really excited when they see what is happening but don't give the secret away just yet. If you would like to pay for a photograph of your child with Father Christmas, the elves and reindeer, this facility will be available on parent pay. Please note, this will just be a photograph taken by a member of staff. You will be able to select from paying £1 and the photo will be sent to you via Class Dojo or £2 if you would like us to print a copy on photo paper for you and send it home.

Virtual Pantomime

As we can't take the children to the pantomime this year, we are bringing it to them! The children will get to watch a virtual pantomime with all the delights of joining in with the 'Oh no he isn't, oh yes he is' and 'he's behind you' from the safety of their in-school bubbles. We will be providing the children with a drink, some popcorn and a small chocolate treat to enjoy whilst they watch this. We are asking for a small contribution of £2 per child for us to be able to provide this, which is also available to pay on parent pay.

Christmas Jumper Day – two for the price of one! Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December

Over the two days that are Christmas dinner days in school for different children, we will be wearing our Christmas jumpers / dressing down to raise money for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. A suggested donation of £1 can be paid via parent pay or by sending this into school on one of these days. The children may wear their jumpers / dress down on BOTH of these days, even when not their Christmas dinner day as on the opposite day to Christmas dinner, they will watch the virtual pantomime. Please see the separate Christmas dinner letter for more details of this.





Christmas Cards

We know that lots of children like to send cards to their friends at this time of year so do not want to stop this entirely. In the current circumstances school is running in, we will only be able to facilitate the giving of cards within year group bubbles. We think it might be nice for the children to send one card to the whole class and we will display these and share the messages written within them. This saves you time and money getting a class set and is eco friendly (and parent friendly we think), though we won't stop children sending more than one if they still wish to do so.

Christmas Party Days

Luckily, Christmas Party Days can go ahead as normal because we run these in Year groups every year anyway. Children in Years 1-6 should come in their school uniform on party day and bring their party clothes to change into. Children in Nursery and Reception can come in their party clothes on the day. The dates for the parties are as follows:

Monday 14th December – Year 1
Tuesday 15th December – Nursery and Year 3
Wednesday 16th December – Year 2 and Year 4
Thursday 17th December – Reception and Year 5
Friday 18th December – Year 6

Food Bank Donations

We know that not all families will be looking forward to Christmas this year for many reasons. As usual, we would like to support those most in need by cheering up their food bank food bags over the Christmas period so that, along with the staple items they receive, they have something a little more luxurious and festive in there too. If you can help at all, there will be a box on each playground in the mornings from the 1st December until Friday 11th where you can place items to donate. Items could be such things as a box of chocolates, mince pies, a yule log, packet of biscuits and any type of cake, or of course any tinned or packet goods that would be suitable for a food store too. We really appreciate any help you can offer.

Raffle

Finally, we would also like to ensure some families who are in need receive a Christmas hamper with everything they need for a family Christmas dinner. In order to do these we are raising money with a Christmas Raffle.

First prize - £100 'Love to Shop' vouchers
Second Prize - £20 'Love to Shop' vouchers
Third Prize – Wine and Chocolates





DOWSON PRIMARY ACADEMY

Marlborough Road, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5HU. Tel: 0161 366 0177. Fax: 0161 366 0546
Principal : Kathryn Thornburn (BSc Hons, NPQH)
Dowson Primary Academy 0161 366 0177



To enter the raffle, you can pay £1 per ticket for as many tickets as you would like on parent pay. You will be emailed with the numbers of your tickets and the winning numbers will be selected by random number generator on Thursday 17th December.

As always, if you have any questions about any of the information enclosed in this letter, please do get in touch.

Please note that school finishes at 2pm on the final day of term Friday 18th December. Dowson's Den will still be open until 6pm.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs K. L. Thornburn
Principal