

## Weekly Newsletter – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### National Anti-bullying Week – United Against Bullying

The theme of this year's National Anti-Bullying Week, is United Against Bullying. We have been focusing on the importance of 'choosing' to do the right thing and thinking about the impact of what we are saying or doing. We have also emphasised the importance of telling an adult if they see something they are unhappy about or if they feel they are being bullied. We would be grateful if you could reinforce this message at home.

### Parents' Consultation Meetings

Thank you very much for engaging so well with our telephone consultations this week and being so understanding of one or two teething problems. Naturally, the class teachers would have much preferred to meet with you in person and give you an opportunity to look through your child's books and hopefully this will be able to happen in the future. However, in the meantime, we felt that it was important for our children that class teachers were able to talk with parents even if it was just over the phone. On behalf of the teachers please can I thank you so much for your positivity – I know that it meant a lot to the teachers to hear how much their hard work in these challenging times is appreciated.

### COVID-19 Reminders

It seems a long time ago since I sent out the parental guidance in relation to COVID-19 and of course there are now more restrictions in place than in September. Please could I remind you of the following key points:

- Government guidance states that only one adult should drop off or collect a child. This applies even if the adults are not coming into the playground, as the surrounding alley or pavement is still very crowded. The intention is that this will minimise the number of adults within the busy school area.
- Government guidance states that all parents should leave the school vicinity as soon as their child has gone into school. They should not stay to talk to parents with children in other bubbles.
- If any family member develops symptoms even for a short period of time or takes a test, all members of the family must self-isolate and children must not come into school unless a negative result is received.
- Masks should be worn in the playground and must be worn if you wish to speak to a member of staff or come into the Reception area.
- Please notify school immediately of any positive test.
- We are required to keep all areas well ventilated so windows in school are open. Therefore, you may wish to ensure that your child wears tights, skins or vests if they are complaining of the cold. We are more than happy for the children to wear coats if necessary although the children don't seem to feel the cold in the same way that staff do! A number of parents have asked about the possibility of ordering a school 'fleece' that the children can put on as a further layer so Mrs Clarke is looking into this.

### School Uniform

Following feedback from parents about the issues they have had buying uniform over the summer and the positive response we have had to supplying ties via ParentPay, we will also be selling sweatshirts and PE kit. These will be available to order via ParentPay by the end of next week and sent home with your child. The uniform will still be available from the uniform shop in Kirkham too.

## **One Way System**

Please can I remind everyone that there is a one way system in place on Nelson Street. There have been a number of cars completing 3 point turns and driving the wrong way down the road. Clearly this is endangering our children and is illegal. Police are coming down to do spot checks.

## **Christmas 2020**

Christmas is always a special time in school and we are hoping to make it just as special for the children this year although there are many things which will have to be adapted.

### ***Christmas Post***

I know many of our children enjoy sharing Christmas cards with their friends. Rather than say that this can't happen we are having to put in place a few changes:

- The Christmas cards can only be sent to other children within their class bubble – we will put a mini Christmas post box in each classroom.
- Envelopes shouldn't be stuck down – the flap can be tucked in or left loose.
- Cards can only be brought in on a Monday or Tuesday so that they can be quarantined for 48 hours before being sent home on a Thursday.
- First postage day will be Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Please don't feel obliged to send cards in - this is only if your child and family wish them to. Similarly please let the class teacher know via Dojo if you would rather your child didn't bring cards home.

### ***Christmas Dinner and Party Day – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December***

Our Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This is open to all children. It needs to be ordered via ParentPay by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December please.

### ***Pantomime – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December***

As a special treat, we are hoping to take the whole school to watch a professional pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Lowther Pavilion, providing theatres are allowed to open again after lock down.

The visit is being carefully risk assessed to ensure that we follow the COVID guidelines:

- The children will travel in separate class bubbles with a coach per class. Bubbles will be sat separately within the theatre.
- It is a private performance for our school only so there will only be our school present. Lowther has a very large auditorium and seats 450 so there is plenty of room to separate the bubbles.
- The coach will be wiped down prior to use and the children will sit in the same places there and back.
- If you wish your child to wear a mask for the journey they can do so but masks on transport is only compulsory for secondary school pupils.
- The cost is £15 per child which includes the price of the coach. This is being subsidised by the PTFA. (To watch this production of Jack and the Beanstalk at Lowther over the Christmas period is £15 for a child and £30 for an adult. So this is a considerable saving on the cost of a family visit.)
- The theatre will refund the costs if any children/classes are not able to attend due to self-isolation.

There is the option to pay in 3 weekly instalments of £5 and details of the visit have now been added to ParentPay. Please note full refunds will of course be given if the show cannot go ahead due to lock down not being lifted or if children or classes need to isolate.

We will continue to update you further in relation to Christmas over the coming weeks. Many thanks for your continued support, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions

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