

December already and what a time we continue to have!
Whatever is happening nationally, we have an excited buzz in school today – the 1st of December – and I have been told many times this morning by Reception children how many sleeps until Santa!



Before the Christmas Tree in the High St. is decorated, it is tradition that children from local schools decorate the railings around it. When we had a last minute request to do so for this year the children (and staff) in EY2 & KS1 came to the rescue. If you are in the High St. take a moment to admire the great Christmas jumper designs from the children.

Well done!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the first of our food bank appeals (last Friday) – your generosity is amazing and will make a real difference to families in our local area. If you still wish to contribute, it's not too late as the second appeal is on Friday 11th December! This is an initiative that children talk a lot about and in January we would like to reinstate Foodbank Friday -once a month – Thank you for your support.



Congratulations to Emily! Her design has been chosen by Taylor Wimpey as their Christmas 20 christmas card – we are very proud of you Emily and your design captures things nicely...



Reminder that the deadline for ordering a **christmas lunch** is Tuesday 8th December.

Thank you to those of you have made a donation through parentpay to the **Royal British Legion** – we will continue this until the end of term for those who would like to contribute.

We have had **donations of soap and tissues** from our local branches of Boyes, Sainsburys and Tesco as part of the 'Yarm Primary 2020 Christmas Fayre Virtual Voucher Booklet' campaign, we are very grateful for these and for FOYPS (Friends of Yarm Primary School) who arranged this and continue to work hard to support us all.

As we all know positive **attendance** in school is crucial in children making progress and experiencing success. We have always been supported by a parent community who value this and I wanted to celebrate the consistently great attendance rates we have been having in school this term (despite the backdrop of a pandemic) – with 99% last week!. Attendance percentages are shared with children every week and individual and class rates recognised. Thank you for your continuing support.

Children are involved (in their bubbles) in decorating the **christmas trees** today – I will send photos of the finished trees later. Each class has made decorations and they are already looking great.

I have been asked this week about sending in **gifts** for staff at the end of term – while there is of course no expectation I have sought advice from the Trust – who say that they would suggest non-perishables and that these need to be in school for 72 hours for isolation before the end of term. As I say there is no expectation, however I had been asked the question...

Over the start of the Christmas break it is vital that you are able to contact us, to share any covid related information – the email we set up over half term was successful – however it did highlight that not all **contact information** for parents is the most current. We will be putting a system in place for contact over the start of the holiday – we will give detail later – and ask that you update your contact details with the main office if necessary – thank you.

A reminder that we have 2 PDDays – Friday 4th & Monday 7th December – when school is closed to pupils.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours

Mrs Wood