

I can't believe we are almost into December – the children are very excited!

Firstly, I want to wish all the children (and families) who are **isolating** at this time a speedy recovery and we very much want to welcome them back into school safe and well as soon as possible. These challenging times around Covid persist but as a community I know we will stay strong and do all we can to keep ourselves and each other healthy and safe. The reporting 'line' will remain open over the Christmas period and it is my Christmas wish that there are no messages on it at all -

covid@yarmprimary.org.uk

Thank you to our Head girl & Head boy for representing the school at the war memorial on remembrance day. And thank you for everyone who supported the Royal British Legion by purchasing poppies and Merchandise. We will let you know when They get back to us how much was raised. Thank you again.



A reminder that we are decorating the **Christmas tree** on the 1st – so please send your decorations in and we will make sure we let you see how beautiful they look... Thank you to the Y6 team who produced the decorations for around the tree in the High Street – they looked beautiful (Storm Arwen notwithstanding!)

Congratulations to the children who have received their **SHINE** certificates for being great readers – their recommendations are displayed in school to inspire us all... Thanks to your generosity we are able to send £362.25 to **Children in Need** – it was great to see the children in their fancy dress. Well done!

Congratulations to the team of pupils in Y5 who have been making and selling bracelets – so far they have raised £14 which they want to be donated to **Cancer research UK** – they will be selling more in the run up to Christmas – catch a member of Y5 staff or contact the office if you wish to place an 'order'. I am very proud of this group of young people who are finding out about the challenges that teamwork can present in an authentic way – you are brilliant!

We don't want another Christmas to pass without us being able to share some of the joy we continue to have in school, with our wider community, however, are mindful of the continuing restrictions and recommendations – SO – we would like to invite you onto the school site on the afternoon of Thursday 16th December (Early Years staff will be in touch with their parents to outline their plans) at 2.30pm for our **Christmas performance**. Our field will become our performance space (so make sure your footwear reflects this!) The children – KS1 – Y6 will 'visit' you and share some seasonal songs and greetings. We will send details nearer the time, reflecting current

safety guidance – please bring along your torches, lanterns, best seasonal hats and scarves (and face masks) and help create a great backdrop for Team Yarm to welcome Christmas.

Christmas lunch will be served on Friday 17th December – we hope that as many pupils as possible will join in – and wear their best Christmas jumper. More details to follow – look out for the invitation.

Thank you to FoYPS for sponsoring the **Road safety** work that the Junior Road Safety Officers in school have been planning. This week every child will come home with a reflector (or reflective slap band for upper school) thanks to the funds raised by FoYPS. I hope that you receive the handouts and posters that the children are due to circulate during morning drop off over the coming days positively – they are very keen to support keeping our site and roads safe for us all.

The **FoYPS Christmas event** is coming up – Saturday 11th December - and will operate within all safety guidance (national and local). We hope you enjoy the day and thank you to the team for their dedication to fund raising for all of our children and for finding ways for the community to engage with school despite the challenges. More details on social media and our website.

Well done to the **Y6 football team** who returned from a recent tournament triumphant – Congratulations ladies!

We will not run the Christmas post this year, reflecting guidance around bringing things into school, however will ensure we quarantine cards and calendars in school so that you can enjoy these when we send them home at the end of term. **Ho Ho Ho!**

Staffing update – as Y3 parents already know, after consideration, Mr Smurthwaite has taken the decision to leave Yarm Primary School, and as such will not be returning – I am sure you all join me in wishing him the best for the future. Miss Anderson has made a great start with her class in Y3 and we look forward to wonderful times moving forward. Mrs Brunskill will begin her maternity leave shortly and Miss McHale has been appointed to step into this role in KS1 before Christmas. We wish Mrs Brunskill a very special safe Christmas delivery.

We have a range of **outdoor resources** which we will be putting out around the site shortly, including a living willow castle (which has to be planted at this time of year) - we respectfully request that you encourage your children NOT to use these before and after school – staff will be setting up the learning spaces for children to use in lessons and therefore need to know that their preparations remain in place - We appreciate your support with this.

**Reminder that school is closed to pupils on
Friday 3rd & Monday 6th December.
We hope you enjoy the long weekend.**