



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Well, Christmas preparations are definitely starting all around us and although I am always a fan of keeping Christmas in December, I do think that, especially this year, there may well be an argument for starting a tiny bit earlier to bring some festive cheer to everyone! I am sure that you will understand, Christmas festivities will be very different this year – we will of course make them as enjoyable and as exciting as we possibly can. Our Rights Respecting reference this week is Article 14 of the UNCRC which reminds us that *'Children have the right to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping others from enjoying their rights too.'*



## Christmas Performances – Year 1 – Year 6

We certainly won't give up on our Christmas performances, global pandemic or not! We hope that you will enjoy our video performance of which will be put together over the next couple of weeks and released through our website in the final week of term.

'Christmas Around the World' will involve all of our children from Y1 – Y6 and be shared with you via our website and you will receive a password to enable you to access it. We are also hoping to create a fundraising/raffle style activity around this even as we will certainly miss the ticket income that you kindly donate at our 'normal' events!



## Christmas Performance – Nursery

We can't wait to see some of our youngest children celebrating their first Christmas at school. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we will also be creating a video of this performance too. We hope that you will enjoy our special video which we will be sharing with you before the Christmas holidays. It is not the same as seeing children in person, but it will make a lovely keepsake.

## Christmas Party Dates

Although Christmas will be a little different this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, we still intend to celebrate and have lots of fun with many of our usual activities still going ahead one way or another! We won't be able to invite parents in to take part in Christmas crafts, so staff have made plans to have their Christmas craft session with the children in class bubbles. We will be having Christmas parties - but we won't be able to receive our usual visit from Santa this year. We hope to have a virtual visit from him and we have spoken to the North Pole and arranged for our children's presents to be specially delivered to each year group bubble on party day so that they don't miss out - as long as everyone is good of course! We ask that all pupils come to school in their party clothes this year too. We will have a 'party' style food at lunchtime and then enjoy a drink and ice cream later in the afternoon.

Christmas Party dates –

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Party**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery and Year 1 Party**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Party**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 Party**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Year 4 Party**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 Party**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Year 6 Party**



### **Friends of School – 2020 Christmas Card fundraiser**

The Friends Group want to thank you for supporting their fundraising efforts and ordering the children's Christmas card designs. Hopefully they will be with us in the next 10 days and you will be able to start spreading the joy!



### **Covid-19 Update**

Please remember to let us know if your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 and needs to get a test. During school hours please send this to the school e-mail address: [clevescross@durhamlearning.net](mailto:clevescross@durhamlearning.net). We also have a dedicated e-mail inbox which is monitored on evenings and weekends: [covidreportcleves@cclt.education](mailto:covidreportcleves@cclt.education).

### **Christmas Cards**

Another casualty of Covid I am afraid! Unfortunately, it isn't practical to allow lots of cards to be exchanged but we do want to give children the opportunity to send each other good wishes at Christmas time. We will create display boards in central areas where children can create pictures and messages for their friends and these will be pinned up for everyone to read. And to make it even easier and safer – we will make time to create the messages and pictures here at school too.

### **Anti-Bullying week**

I'm sure you've seen lots of photos on our social media of the children taking part in lots of activities to celebrate anti-bullying week, including wearing odd socks, building a friendship wall and creating posters to help children know what to do if they or their friends might be being bullied. We hope that this will help them to enjoy school and be good friends to each other all of the time.

### **Children in Need – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Thank you for supporting our Children in Need day last Friday. Everyone had such a comfortable day in their PJs. We must do it more often! We managed to raise £258.70 for this fantastic cause!



### **School Christmas lunch and jumper day! Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

We will all enjoy Christmas lunch together on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> with crackers, paper hats and of course, turkey and all the trimmings. Even children who normally bring a packed lunch are encouraged to join us for the special day – and almost everyone does. The cost is the normal lunch price of just £2.10. We will have drinks provided too. Please pay dinner money as normal, or if your child usually has a packed lunch, please just send in the £2.10 on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December – in an envelope please!

Children are encouraged to wear a **Christmas jumper** on this day too.....and it's definitely a requirement for staff if they want their lunch!



### **Trust Challenge – Random Acts of Kindness at Christmas**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Trust Challenge will have a Christmassy theme. Our children's well-being is also very important to us, especially in these challenging times and being kind to each other is so important. The well-being questionnaires completed by the children showed that they thought showing kindness to each other was an area we could improve on. The challenge this time is for children to think of 'random acts of kindness' that they can do to make someone else feel good about themselves or to simply cheer someone up. There are lots of ways that this can be done e.g. a hand-decorated Christmas bauble or a special Christmas message or even just a smile or making someone a cup of tea. Photos of these acts can be sent to the class email from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. We will then share them on our social media platforms and unique or extra-special acts will be rewarded with a special Christmas gift.

## Can my child go to school today?

### Do they have any COVID Symptoms?

- a **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**Yes**  
They have a COVID symptom

**No**  
They do not have a COVID symptom

### Self Isolate and Book a COVID Test

Book the test online or call 119

All members of the household should stay at home until the test result is known.\*

### Do they have diarrhoea or vomiting?

**No**  
They do not have diarrhoea or vomiting

**Yes**  
They have diarrhoea or vomiting

### Do they feel unwell?

It is important that parents keep children at home when they are unwell

**No**  
They do not feel unwell

**Yes**  
They feel unwell

\* Visit gov.uk for advice on when to stop isolating and return to school after a positive or negative test.

### Send to School

So long as your child feels well, has not been told to self-isolate and there are no other household members with COVID symptoms, it is OK for them to attend school.

### Keep at Home

- Remain off school until they feel well enough to return. Seek medical help from a GP if needed (or 111 if your surgery is closed).
- Remain off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. A COVID test is not required for diarrhoea and vomiting without the other symptoms above.