



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Well, Christmas preparations are definitely starting all around us. Some of our Christmas festivities, as you will understand, might again be a little different this year but, 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) – Mr Humbug sees the Light!**

We were really hoping to be able to invite you all to our Christmas performance this year, but we have made the decision, following the recent guidance, that it would be best to create a video of our performance that you can watch at home. It will be almost back to our usual Christmas performances where Y5 children take the lead and I know that they have already been practising the script. I'm sure some of you will know the script as well! The rest of the school (Y1 – Y6) will be involved and 'Mr Humbug see the light!' will 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. If you



## **Christmas Performance – Nursery and Reception Class**

We can't wait to see some of our youngest children celebrating their first Christmas at school. Due to current guidance, 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**

Again, we won't be able to invite grown-ups in to take part in Christmas crafts, so staff have made plans to have their Christmas craft session with the children in class groups. Our Christmas parties will be back to 'normal' as in 2 classes will be joining together to have an afternoon filled with fun and party games - 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 party 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 –

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Class Party**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1/Year 2 Party**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3/Year 4 Party**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery Party – in Nursery**

**Year 5/Year 6 Party**



### **Friends of School – 2021 Christmas Card fundraiser**

The Friends Group want to thank you for supporting their fundraising efforts and ordering the children's Christmas card designs. Some of the order has come into school already and the rest of it should be here by the end of next week.



### **Panto reminder**

We are so looking forward to returning to the Gala Theatre in Durham for our annual Panto – oh yes we are! This year it is Robin Hood. If you have already you can make the payment of £10 on 'schoolcomms' – the link was on the last newsletter.

### **Christmas Cards**

Some parents have already been asking about the sending of Christmas cards this year as we didn't do it last year due to Covid. For those of you who can remember, pre-covid we made the decision, being an Eco-school, not to exchange lots of Christmas cards. Of course, we do still want to give children the opportunity to send each other good wishes at Christmas time so 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 – 1 Kind Word**

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, NSPCC online assemblies and creating posters sharing ways in which we can be kind to each other. We hope that this will help them to enjoy school and be good friends and kind to each other all of the time.



### **Parent Questionnaire**

Thank you to those grown-ups who have already completed the questionnaire. It is really important to us to hear your views of the school and they will help us to move the school forward. Remember, if you want to be in with a chance of winning a £25 Asda voucher, then please complete the questionnaire by midday on Monday. Thank you.

### **School Christmas lunch and jumper day! Friday 10th December**

We will all enjoy Christmas lunch together on Friday 10<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 £2.15. 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 £2.15 on Monday 6<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!



### **Carol singing in the Town Hall gardens**

Put the morning of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December in your diary to come along and listen to the children singing carols in the Town Hall gardens. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will sing at approximately 9.45am and Key Stage 2 will aim for 10.00am.



### **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 and it follows on nicely from Anti-bullying week '1 kind word'. 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. Unlike last year, this act of kindness can be done at school as well as at home. Photos of these acts can be sent to the class email from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. We will then share them on our social media platforms. 3 Christmas gifts will be given to those children who show extra special or unique acts of kindness.