

9th December 2021

Dear Parents,

This will be the last newsletter of 2021 – where does the time go? This year has been almost as strange as 2020 and, despite the announcements yesterday, I am just hoping that we are all able to spend Christmas with our loved ones. Last year we sadly experienced a rapid changing picture in the last few days of term, which I am sure we all fervently hope will not be repeated.

The children's excitement for Christmas is already building, and it is lovely to have the post box for cards in operation. Please may I request that you check that your child has put their friends' full name and class on the envelope prior to posting.

I was so disappointed to be unable to attend the Y2 performance last Friday – I understand the children were fantastic, and the play was much enjoyed. I had certainly enjoyed listening to the songs drifting down the corridor. Tomorrow afternoon it is the turn of Y6, who have also been practising hard. We look forward to welcoming their parents to share the performance – please could Y6 parents who are planning to attend note the separate communication regarding safety measures. Thankfully school productions are still permitted to take place. However, we have sadly taken the decision not to go up to St Giles for our Carol Service. As you know we put in place additional protective measures two weeks ago and it is our current intention to keep these in place until the end of term to help to keep everyone as safe as possible. The situation will be reviewed in January when the children return to school.

Today the children have been taking part in a House Challenge. We had originally intended this to be managed by the House Captains with the children working in cross year group teams. However, we have instead kept the children in their House teams within their own class. Results will be shared in January once the various stages of judging are completed – a task which will be very challenging in itself! The House Cup continues to be keen competition between the Houses, though Beacon have been in the lead for much of this term.

As you will be aware we have experienced a number of children across the school testing positive for Covid-19 recently, though numbers of cases are markedly decreasing. If your child is showing symptoms and you therefore take your child for a PCR test, please let us know the outcome. The school has to complete a daily return for the Department for Education on which we are required to use a variety of codes for absence relating to Covid-19, and it is expected that this information is accurate. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Next week is our last week of term prior to the Christmas break. As is our tradition, the children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper for the week instead of their school jumper or cardigan – the children always enjoy sharing their festive attire. (There is no donation requested for this.) Monday is Christmas Craft day and I am sure you will be delighted with the seasonal things the children make. On Friday the children will be dismissed for collection after lunch at 1:30pm as this is the last day of the term.

Should the weather decide to join the festivities to excite the children even further, and snow affects travel on 6th January, then please check the Buckinghamshire Council website regarding school opening.

Attached to this newsletter is information regarding activities in Buckinghamshire over the festive season which may be of interest. I do hope you enjoy whatever you have planned.

I do wish you all a joyful and safe festive season to be followed by a peaceful and happy 2022. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 6th January.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher