

3rd December 2020

Dear Parents,

With snow being in the forecast for tomorrow and advent underway, Christmas is clearly just around the corner! The children were very excited to make their advent calendars on Tuesday as part of our special Advent day; and to see our tree – which is looking resplendent in the entrance hall. They are very excited to tell us about their calendars at home, and what the elves are up to. They are also really enjoying their learning, and have been producing some lovely work.

Next week is our end of term assessment week during which the children will complete a number of tests and tasks to enable us to monitor their progress. It is also our Design and Technology week in which the children will complete this term's DT project. It promises to be a full and busy time.

I do hope you all noted the message sent regarding Christmas Cards. The post boxes are ready for the children to bring these into school next week. They must place their cards into the box, and not give them directly to their friends. This is for safety reasons, and we thank you for your co-operation with this. As I also included in the Christmas arrangements message of 17th November, if you wish to give a gift to the staff who work with your child then they may also be brought to the office during next week. This allows time for them to sit in quarantine before they are taken home. The staff always very much appreciate your kindness.

The PTA are delighted with the huge response to ordering a Christmas Craft Bag. If you would still like to order one, they have extended the deadline for orders to Monday 7th December. I am sure these will be a hit with the children in those few days before Christmas itself. As I have mentioned previously we are always extremely grateful for all the PTA do for the school, and this year has been understandably very limited in opportunities for fundraising. We have agreed that the children may wear Christmas jumpers/accessories for the last week of term (14th to 18th December) for a donation to the PTA. May I suggest a minimum donation of £1? I am sure it will add to the festive atmosphere – much needed after such a challenging year for us all.

Many of you will know that traditionally the last day of our school term finishes early; though we were unable to do this in July. In order to allow time for the school to be organised and tidied, could you please note that on Friday 18th December the staggered collection times will be one hour earlier than usual – Y6 at 1:30pm; Y5 at 1:35pm; Y3 at 1:40pm; Y4 at 1:45pm; Y2 at 1:50pm; Y1 at 1:55pm; and YR at 2:00pm.

It has been brought to my attention, and by my own observation, that a number of parents are dropping children from the car at the school gate leading to traffic congestion on Lammas Road. Indeed, one car actually turned in the gateway whilst children were on the drive! Please could parents who need to drive their children to school use the park and walk from the village hall. As all children now come in via the back gate, minimising traffic in that area helps to keep all children safe. Thank you.

The children will be bringing their pencil cases home at the end of the term. Please could we ask that – especially for the younger children – you check that they still have all the necessary stationery. Our shop will be open in January if Santa has not popped things

into stockings. Please do send in any requests and payments in an envelope at the start of term and we will distribute the items to the children as soon as we can.

It is strange to be approaching the Festive Season unable to share carol singing and to visit St Giles. We are doing all we can with the children to ensure that the traditions of Christmas are upheld where we can do so safely. It will be a different time for everyone this year, which is very unsettling.

The DfE continue to update the guidance to schools on a daily basis, and have just released an updated Guidance for Parents document, which can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=1%20December%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

There will be a further communication in the last week of term, but in the meantime I hope your preparations for the Christmas period are progressing and that you all remain safe and well.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher