

**Christmas**

 19.11.2020

Dear parents/carers,

I apologise for using the word ‘Christmas’ in November, though one child in Class 2 told me at break time today how many sleeps there were until the special day! I wanted to take a minute to share some of the arrangements we have put in place to help us celebrate the festive season at school this year.

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher

**CHRISTMAS PLAYS**

As you would expect, we are unable to undertake typical Christmas performances with classes mixing and a parent audience this year. We do want to give the children an opportunity to share something of Christmas with you, especially the children in Y6 and Y2 who usually lead the KS1 and KS2 productions. With this in mind:

* Class 1 will undertake a short nativity called ‘A Bundle of Joy ’and Class 2 will undertake a separate small nativity called ‘A king is born’. We have many costumes at school which we can use and any costume used by a child will not be worn by another until 72 hours have passed. More details about the plays will follow shortly from the class teachers. Mr Dougan will record these at school in the penultimate week of term.
* In KS2, the classes will share the Christmas story through carols – each class will be recorded separately and Mr Dougan will then work his magic in putting the contributions together.
* Mr Dougan will have the recordings ready to share by the end of term so you can enjoy them at home over the festive period. I will send information about how you can access these recordings when they are completed.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Children can send cards but to children in their class group only. Each class will have a basket/box for cards so they can be collected over the week. The cards will be held over the weekend and given out on Monday before home time-this will be 72 hours. The Christmas card collection will begin on **Monday 31st November and end on Friday 11th December**. The Christmas cards collected will be given out to children on Monday 7th and 14th of December.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND JUMPER DAY**

We would love the children to wear a Christmas jumper on **Wednesday 16th December**. On this day Caterlink will provide a turkey baguette and a gingerbread biscuit Christmas option for lunch. (Mrs Birch will send you a letter regarding this soon as you will need to pre-book this lunch option). We will play some festive tunes for the children to enjoy during lunch time too. In the afternoon we will watch the Christmas performances that all the classes have made.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS**

The children will make a Christmas craft item, as usual, in school. Class 1 are making a clay t-light holder; Class 2 are making star tree decorations; Class 3 are making a food item; Class 4 are making tree decorations in clay and Class 5 are making natural table decorations for a candle. We will not be able to have the Christmas fair this year so we will send these items home on **Wednesday 16th December**. A donation of £1 would be gratefully received. All children will take home the item they made.

**CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS**

Our county is extending the provision of offering Christmas food hampers in support of vulnerable children to help struggling families during the ongoing crisis during the holidays. We have arranged for hampers to be dropped at school so they can be picked up by parents/carers. If you are entitled to free school meals (not universal free school meals) we will be contacting you about this soon to clarify arrangements.

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

The last day of Autumn Term 2 is **Friday 18th December** (and children return on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**. On the last day, we will have an end of term assembly together via Teams – if we’re feeling brave we might attempt to sing our two special school Christmas songs together! We have heard that our wonderful PA are making a sweet treat bag for the children to take home too. A donation of £1 will be gratefully received for these treat bags. We will ensure every child receives one.