



26th November 2020

Newsletter No.10 2020 - 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staffing

I hope you are all well. Further to my previous letter which mentioned several changes in staffing, I can now also confirm that Miss Hobson will be taking up the role of job share partner in year 3 alongside Mrs Reedman. Miss Hobson is obviously already known to the children and we are pleased that this can provide some continuity for them. Mr Whyard will continue to run the other year 3 class.

We would like to detail arrangements for the forthcoming Christmas period which, against the odds, we are trying to make special.

Christmas Show

You will have received a letter outlining what we are trying to do, in difficult circumstances, to try and give the children a taste of putting on a Christmas show. We are working with our website provider to see if we can manage to host the potential video on a password protected section of the school website. Obviously, even then, we cannot control who shares the password, however we will do our best. When classes are close to the filming date, we will be asking children to wear black clothing on those days. Black trousers, leggings, black T shirts, black jumpers will all be fine. If you have nothing black, then aim for as dark a colour as possible.

Virtual Christmas Messages

To prevent cross-contamination between school bubbles, and households, we are kindly requesting that children do not write Christmas cards that they would usually deliver at school. Instead, children may wish to record a short video clip (no longer than one minute) where they wish their peers a Merry Christmas! This video clip can be uploaded onto their SeeSaw (yrs 1 to 6) or Tapestry (F2) account and time will be allocated in the day for classes to share the messages. To ensure no child is left out, we request that these messages are made to the whole class or year group and **don't single out any particular children**. We want to ensure that it is fair for all. They can be as creative as they like; Christmas accessories and Christmas songs are very welcome!

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December 2020

As in previous years, school will be holding a 'wear your Christmas jumper' day. This year, we are joining in with the national 'Save the Children' charity date, which is Friday 11th December. On this day, children can wear their Christmas jumper, along with their usual school trousers/skirt. We are conscious that each family's situation is different and many have been affected by the current pandemic. We are therefore not asking for children to bring donations into school as this also poses a safety risk of handling lots of coins. Instead, if families wish to donate, we request that they do so through the Save the Children official fundraising page. This can be found using the following link

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate/single/donation-eventpay-00080>

Hope at Christmas – The Mayor's Christmas Hamper Appeal

We are responding to a letter from Cllr Janet Patrick, Mayor of the Borough of Broxtowe, who has initiated a Christmas appeal to work with local foodbanks to support those in need at Christmas. Given that many families may have lost loved ones or their jobs during the year, it is in keeping with the spirit of our motto 'make the future better for all' to support this. Therefore we propose that, if families want to, they can send in, with their children, any of the items in the following list that will be taken to the food banks to help make up Christmas Hampers. Items can be sent in on any day between 30th Nov and 4th Dec and remember, donating is completely optional. There will be a box placed in each classroom where children can deposit donations and this will mean that there will be no immediate handling required. Items requested by the

mayor are: *Christmas puddings, Christmas cakes, chocolates, biscuits for cheese, cranberry sauce, soft drinks such as Shloer, candy canes, Christmas Tree chocolate decorations*

Christmas Film & Refreshments

Unfortunately, the normal year group/key stage Christmas parties will not be able to take place this year. Instead, each class will dedicate one afternoon to watching a film and enjoying refreshments. The refreshments chosen are up to the year group, although popcorn and hot chocolate seem a great choice! We will ensure that these refreshments are equally divided into individual bowls/cups, ensuring that they are safe. Refreshments will be purchased by school so no items will need to be brought in from home. It is hoped that the children will relax and enjoy their movie time after a term of hard work. Some classes may also choose to partake in some socially-distanced party games on this afternoon.

With the exception of the black clothes for the Christmas play, which just your child will wear, you will see from the above that, in order to reduce the risk of contamination, we are not allowing anything to be brought from home during the build up to the end of term.

E-Safety – Your Guide to Social Networks, Apps and Games

During the first lockdown, we sent out information about how to keep your children safe online. We are concerned about how much time children spend using online platforms and also that the ones they tell us about are not always age-appropriate. We fully understand that staying one step ahead of children in the technological arena is very difficult. The Net Aware site provides you with useful information about age limits and details about current social networks, apps and games. See <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Temperature in Classrooms

In line with government guidance, we will be trying to maintain good ventilation in all classrooms during the winter months. There is evidence that shows cross ventilation helps to restrict the spread of the virus. See <https://english.elpais.com/society/2020-10-28/a-room-a-bar-and-a-class-how-the-coronavirus-is-spread-through-the-air.html> As the weather gets colder, we will obviously not be having doors wide open but windows may be left unclosed. If children wish to wear an extra school jumper, this will be allowed. Please rest assured, we fully understand that children and staff cannot work if they are too cold and so we will endeavour to maintain a healthy working classroom temperature.

The Bonnicks Supporting Marcus Rashford

Some of you will have seen our very own Azae Bonnick on the BBC East Midlands news last night. This highlighted the support that he and his family are giving to the Marcus Rashford-led initiative to support meals for all those who need it. This note came from the family:

When we saw the work Marcus Rashford was doing we knew we had to contribute. The reason we decided to do a video about Rocky and Creed is that the themes in these movies resonate with us. These movies are not only about Sport but also about family, community and chasing a dream. In these tough times it can be easy to be disheartened but we wanted to do something that would not only have a positive impact on our community but also put smiles on people's faces. We chose FareShare as we believed it was a great cause and we don't want any child to go hungry. To donate go to

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/bonnickbrothers>

Online Language Courses

As you may know, the modern foreign language that we teach throughout KS2 at BHPS is Spanish. Mr Stephan at Alderman White School has been in touch to promote their very successful range of online language courses which they run for families with children in years 5 and 6. There is a flyer attached with this newsletter.

Thank you for your on-going support in these trying times. We do hope you are well and that we can continue to keep school fully open for as long as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Taylor
Head Teacher