



26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you do not need me to tell you that there are only 14 more teaching days until the Christmas break, staff and pupils are working extremely hard on all their work, we continue to be immensely proud of all that they do every day.

Holiday Dates 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

These have been updated and are now on our school website for you to see. We appreciate you all trying wherever possible to book holidays outside of term time.

Reminder about - Training Day – School closed

10th December 2021 – please remember that school is closed to pupils on that day, whilst staff are all in attending training.

Facebook

Thank you so much for the many new forms being returned, we really appreciate it. Of course, if you do not want your child or if your child is unable to go onto Facebook for safeguarding reasons we of course support your decision as a family. Please be assured that if your child is not on the photograph it certainly does not mean your child is excluded, they will of course have taken part in the activities you will see, simply that their face is not included on the photograph.

PTFA

The 'raisin fundraising' has been amazing – the PTFA collected the boxes this morning and you have sent in a wonderful £791.93!! Thank you all so much for all of your generosity. We are going ahead with the Doughnut Day on Thursday 9th December and this is the link for pre-orders. Please could you send this out and can we ask for pre-orders by Friday 3rd December please? <https://sjv-ptfa.sumup.link/>

Parent phone calls

Staff are making their phone calls to parents and it is a really positive to hear so much encouraging and supportive feedback from parents about how much their children enjoy school. All of your children are amazing and staff are really enjoying sharing their successes with you. Wherever possible staff are trying to contact you within the time slot requested, however if you did not request a slot then staff will try and ring when they have a gasp. As you will remember, school purchased 5 mobiles last year for teachers to use for outgoing calls, so please look out for a mobile number on your class day.

Christmas Cards

In light of some of the COVID challenges still being with us, we thought rather than children bringing in 30 cards each to give to every friend and then all those cards being sent home to

all the house, it would be better for children to make or write one lovely card and address it to the whole class. These whole class cards will be displayed in every classroom for everyone to see, but it will reduce the amount of card sharing between households. Unfortunately, we have been asked by a number of parents if they can send in sweets for the class, but I would ask that you don't. During Christmas party week, school will give all children sweets instead.

Christmas Jumper/Christmas Dinner Day

As the national Christmas Jumper Day for the Save the Children Charity is on the 10th December when we are closed to pupils, we have decided to move our day to Wednesday 8th December, when all children are also invited to have a Christmas dinner. The permission form for the Christmas dinner is on the school website. All pupils can come into school in Christmas jumpers that day, even if they are having a packed lunch!

Christmas events in school

We are planning on having a whole school mass, led by Father Martin in the last week of term, all the children will take part and it will be a beautiful way to finish of the term. We are also planning a spiritual day of reflection where every class will set up a prayer station in the hall and every class will take part in thanking god for all that they are grateful for at this time of peace and anticipation of Christmas. Finally, during the last week of term all pupils will have Christmas parties in year groups, Christmas activities in their classrooms and take part in liturgical reflections in their key stages.

Musical renditions of carols

Every class, lead by Mr Cowan and Mr Scholfield, will be recording a Christmas Carol as part of our advent countdown to Christmas. These recordings will be posted on Facebook for you to see. If your child does not have permission to be on Facebook, then they will take part in the carol singing but not be filmed.

Nurture Groups

As part of our continued drive to support pupils who may find social interactions in school tricky, for whatever reason, especially post COVID; we are now setting up a number of nurture groups which pupils will be able to access. Staff are giving up lunchtimes to support this, but they are all keen to do whatever they can to enhance and support pupils to flourish in our care.

At this busy time of year, we continue to keep everyone in our prayers, as for some of our families Christmas is a joyful time for others it may well present challenges.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher