

19.11.2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

With Christmas fast approaching we wanted to share our plans to celebrate the festive season. Obviously Christmas activities are not the same as in previous years but we have carefully considered our festive enrichment whilst avoiding any unnecessary transmission of the virus. As with all of the events mentioned, further information will be sent nearer the time but we wanted to give you an overview of the month ahead as soon as possible.

### **Festive Fun Run - Wednesday 2nd December**

As part of our partnership with Chester le Street School Sports we will be having a Festive Fun Run. Children will be encouraged to get into the festive spirit by wearing some festive items e.g. Christmas hat, headband, Elf / Santa hat, fancy dress etc whilst running, walking, skipping the route. More detailed information to follow.

### **Christmas Parties - see list below for dates.**

Each bubble will have their own Christmas party in the hall. On their party day, children will be able to come dressed in their party clothes and will be asked to bring their own individual party tea.

### **Movie afternoon -see list below for dates.**

We would usually watch a Christmas movie at Park View Cinema so this year the children are going to have a movie afternoon in their classroom. The children can come to school dressed in their pyjamas and bring treats to eat during the movie.

### **Elfridges - Monday 14th December**

Last year we had a wonderful time at Elfridges (think Selfridges with Y6 elves). The children were so excited to take their gifts home and we received lots of great feedback. We also know the Y6 children love this rite of passage so we have planned a socially distant Elfridge store, complete with Y6 elves for this Christmas. For a small donation, the children come and select a gift for a family member, have it wrapped, and make a gift label. This can then go home and be placed under the tree ready for Christmas morning.

To support this, we will be asking for donations of toiletries (bubble bath, unwanted gift sets, body spray, nail varnish etc). We will collect these items (see date below) and quarantine them before they are distributed to Elfridges.

Year 6 parents will receive a separate letter regarding elf costumes from Mr Ross & Mrs Thomas containing further details.

### **Christmas Dinner - Thursday 17th December**

We will be having our traditional Christmas lunch on Thursday 17th December. The office will be sending out further information and establishing who would like to order a Christmas lunch shortly.

### **Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 18th December**

St Cuthbert's Hospice is a charity very close to our hearts and we will be supporting this great cause over the Christmas period. We will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for the charity on the last day of term - Friday 18th December. Donations to St Cuthbert's Hospice are welcomed.

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## Christmas Cards

Sadly we are unable to allow the distribution of Christmas cards in school this year. The virus can live on paper for 48hrs so sending cards between family homes would not be responsible. We are suggesting that you may prefer to send a donation to a charity of your choice or support us in raising money for St Cuthbert's Hospice. If you would like to send a small donation to St Cuthbert's Hospice, in lieu of purchasing Christmas cards, we would be delighted to pass on the donation on your behalf. Donations can be made on the last day of term.

## Christmas performances

We have investigated a number of options for sharing some form of Christmas performance with parents. Unfortunately, despite exploring a number of different options, we are unable to do this without potentially putting the children's online safety at risk. The local authority has advised all schools in Durham to not share any online videos due to potential safeguarding issues. We recognise that parents will be disappointed but we know you will understand that we must put our children's safety first.

## Children in Need

Thank you for your generous donations. We raised the amazing total of **£499.08**. Thank you.

## Dates for your diary:

Friday 20th November	School closed to pupils for staff training
Tuesday 8th December	Y6 party
Wednesday 9th December	Y5 party KS1 movie afternoon
Thursday 10th December	KS2 movie afternoon Moonlight Christmas party
Thursday 10th December	Donations for Elfridges to be brought into school
Friday 11th December	EYFS movie afternoon Starlight Christmas party
Monday 14th December	Elfridges Apollo Christmas party
Tuesday 15th December	Armstrong Christmas party (am) EYFS Christmas party (pm)
Wednesday 16th December	Rainbow Christmas party (am) Galaxy Christmas party (pm)
Thursday 17th December	Christmas dinner
Friday 18th December	Christmas Jumper Day

Take care and keep safe  
Mrs Brinton

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