

Thursday 26th November 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

RE: Covid-19 Update – Winter Celebrations

Usually at this time of year, I write to you outlining all the exciting festive events that are due to take place throughout December that your children and the community can get involved in. Sadly, due to the current restrictions in place, it will not be possible to hold such big events this year. I very much hope that this year is a one off, and next year we can go back to enjoying the performances, concerts and craft sessions to celebrate this time of year.

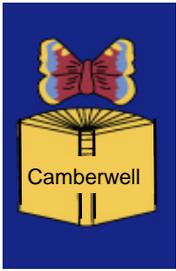
We have been thinking creatively about how we can still have lots of positive events and how we can celebrate in a safe way:

- Children will have class parties in their bubbles on Thursday 17th of December (but please do not send in any food unless it is in individual wrappings or cartons. We will put a list out nearer the time).
- We will be celebrating Christmas Jumper day on December 11th and we will also be having Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th.
- The PTA are organising a Winter Raffle.
- The children will be making decorations for their classroom environments. Pictures will be sent out in our winter newsletter for all to see.
- Musical event in each class, which will be hopefully linked to all to share.

More details will be shared in a follow up letter.

Some parents on the gate have approached SLT to ask about the school's position in accepting cards and gifts for children and staff. I would like to make it clear that **there is no expectation to provide cards and gifts to staff**. However, I am aware that many parents and carers like to show their appreciation in this way. In this letter, I intend to provide information in line with the restrictions that we have in place:

If you wish to bring in cards and/or gifts for any children or staff, the deadline for bringing these into school is: **Monday 14th December 2020**. Any items brought into school after this date will unfortunately not be accepted. This will allow enough time to quarantine all items in classrooms, and hand them out before the last day of term. Please also note that we are not permitted to give any items out that may contain nuts. Therefore, I suggest that no food items are brought into school to avoid the disappointment in having them refused.



School staff, feel very privileged to do the job we do and the difference it makes to your children's future. This is reward enough. However, in the eventuality that you were intending on providing cards and/or gifts to children or staff, it is important that we do this safely and in line with current restrictions.

COVID-19

As lockdown for the country eases next week we still want to make sure that we are all keeping to the guidelines for personal health and safety and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

We will continue to use the extra cleaning, fogging with anti-viral products, the one way system, staff and children in bubbles of classes and year groups, regular routines of handwashing and hand gel and monitoring any child or adult who shows a symptom.

We have, unfortunately had a few cases, which has meant a disruption to many families. This is a repeated pattern across all schools: many having multiple closures like us and some having to be fully closed.

I have been in constant contact with other Headteachers and the local authority to monitor and evaluate what we can do on top of our measures in place already.

What we cannot prevent is the transmission of COVID-19 on public transport, in shops and the local community. This is where we rely on everyone following the government's guidelines.

The latest news about better, quicker testing and several inoculations being ready for January is at least a glimmer of hope for the world.

We want to thank you all for helping and supporting us and would ask that you keep following the tighter guidelines the government have set including not mixing with others. We do ask that you continue to wear a face mask coming to drop off and collect your children and that you do not gather to chat but maintain the distance rules between family and friends.

FYI again: Please find the link to access added curriculum activities for your children if they are at home.

<https://mayflowerfederation.org.uk/blog/category/home-learning/>

As you know Oliver Goldsmith, Ilderton and Phoenix primaries plan together and the teachers from all sites work on providing learning for an on-line link.

Oliver Goldsmith is in the process of updating the website to allow for clearer access so in the meantime please use this link to the work all three schools have planned together. We hope this will support your children's learning on top of the purple mash, dojo and google classroom work.

I wish you all well.

Lesley Murdoch
Headteacher