

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am incredibly proud how well our children have risen to the challenge of working in the new Covid restricted ways. Before Christmas, Year 6 will have done two complete sets of mock SATS papers and Year 2 have been preparing hard for the National alternative to the Phonics screening, which they will also be taking before the end of term. Throughout school, in addition to their learning, all the children have accepted our demands for them to wash their hands frequently, sit in rows instead of in collaborative learning groups and manage with their drawers at their feet to restrict their need to move around the classroom. As a school we have done *so well* not to need to close any class bubbles:— thank-you so much for your role as parents in helping us to achieve this. We hope and pray this is the case for the rest of term.

At our staff meeting, we all felt that we needed to inject some more fun into the end of term by adding a few more Christmas Celebrations into our calendar...in a safe, socially-distanced way!

#### Christmas Cards

To prevent potential transfer of any virus on Christmas cards passed from one household to another, we will **only accept Christmas cards in school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. As we do with reading books, we will quarantine the cards over the weekend so the children can take any cards from their friends' home on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### Santa Dash

On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, instead of the Daily Mile, the children can come into school with **Santa Hats/costumes or dressed as elves** for a Santa Dash. We'll upload some photos to Seesaw or Class Dojo so you can share the fun!

#### Christmas Lunch/Jumper Day

We've ordered some crackers for the children to pull as they enjoy Christmas Dinner in their classrooms. They can also wear their **Christmas jumper** – no need to wear uniform on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**.

#### Hearts and Carols

Schools all over the country have been asked to cheer up lonely residents in care homes by sending messages on hearts. Our children will be doing their part and will be adding messages onto some heart cards to send to Dr Andersons care home, where our choir would usually go to sing Christmas carols. As it is now permissible for the children to sing in class groups – (providing they are all facing forwards and socially distanced or outdoors!) we would like to send the recording of each class singing (which we will share with you on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December on Class Dojo or Seesaw) with the residents of this care home.

**If you would prefer your child not to be on this recording, please can you inform your child's class-teacher or ring the school office.**

#### Christmas Parties

Please could you provide a plate of individual party snacks for your child on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. All classes will be holding their Christmas party on this day. The children can wear party clothes and we hope that Santa might be able to Zoom into some classes from the North Pole.

#### Online Pantomime

On **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** Whitby Pavillion are screening a live interactive pantomime (Cinderella) for schools. The children will watch the star studded cast including Percey Weasley from Harry Potter as the Fairy Godfather in the classrooms at 1pm. The cost for this has been met by our PTA. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity! (To watch the pantomime at home over Christmas is £14.97 for those of you who would miss this annual tradition!)

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Unfortunately we **cannot have Toy Day** on the last day of term as we would usually. Instead we are planning a Polar Express Day. Children can come in pyjamas or joggers and they will watch the film whilst sharing hot chocolate and cookies.

We are sorry we can't offer the usual Christmas activities for the children this year but pleased be assured all the adults in school are working very hard to make it as special and magical as we can.

Kind regards,

*Helen Acton*