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Our Value of the Month for December is **KINDNESS**



## Newsletter – December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of the Autumn term and what a term it has been! Your children have worked so hard after settling in very well, following the routines and safety expectations in school. Your support has been truly amazing this term. We ask that with the level of cases and current lock down, all adults continue to wear a mask and follow our procedures as this helps keep us all safe. Please keep this up when we return in January as we have remained one of the few schools in the county not to have a case in school during Autumn term. We know your support with all the guidelines and the changes that have occurred have played such an important part in keeping our school community safe.

### Christmas



Christmas this year will be very different for families as we continue to keep our communities safe. We will continue to be as safe as possible within our school and follow the current guidance. This means that some of the festive treats we love so much such as plays where parents and grandparents are invited to school and Christmas lunches for families won't take place. However, that doesn't mean that children won't experience Christmas activities and festive cheer in school. Staff have thought very carefully about how to offer festive fun whilst keeping safe and have each put what they will be doing in their 'Class News' section in this newsletter.

### Procedures in School

Book bags with homework and reading records are to be returned on a **Wednesday**. This allows enough time for them to be quarantined and books to be cleaned, ready to go out on the following **Friday**. If your child's book bag is returned later than Wednesday, books will not be changed that week. Thank you for your continued support with this. Also, should your child have a medical appointment, please email a photo or copy of the letter to the office in advance allowing us to safely have proof of absence. Your support with this has been appreciated this term.

### Rights Respecting

As always, we explore the rights of children. Over the festive period we are supporting children by taking part in two great causes. First, we are supporting the 'Save the Children' Christmas appeal with 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Secondly, children and parents can get involved and help us donate to the Samaritans 'Shoebox Appeal' scheme we are running through school. In school, we will continue to discuss the rights of children, with special focus on a joyous but challenging time of year.

### Parent Governor Vacancy



Just a reminder that we are advertising for a Parent Governor and as this is such an important role within our school we are keen to ensure the high skill level remains on our very competent governing body. If you require further information on the roles and responsibilities of School Governors visit the [Durham County Council](http://Durham County Council website) website 'School Governor' section and information regarding the role of a parent governor can be found on the National Governor Association website [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk). If you are interested in strategic school development, contributing to the overall improvements of the school and have the time and commitment to give then please contact the school to speak to Mrs Snowdon who will inform you of the necessary steps to apply.

### Family Support Advisor

Just a reminder that our Parent Support Advisor is Claire Donnelly. Mrs Donnelly works in school each week and is keen to keep supporting children and families. If you would like to speak to Mrs Donnelly please contact school on 01913854291 and we can arrange an appointment. She is in school each Wednesday morning and is available to meet with children and families to offer support and advice.

### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December children can join in with SAVE THE CHILDREN Christmas Jumper Day to try and raise funds for this charity. We thought it would be good if children could wear their festive jumpers that day if they have one (please note non-uniform is allowed instead). Donations towards SAVE THE CHILDREN can be made through [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk) as we are unable to accept money in school.

## School Closure Procedures



In cases of extremely bad weather this winter we may have to consider school closure. We always avoid this option but at times it is required. If our school has to close because of adverse weather conditions, any announcements will be made by: text, via the school website ([www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk](http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk)) and local radio stations i.e. Metro Radio and Radio Newcastle. If you are lucky enough to get a new mobile phone for Christmas, please make sure we have your up to date mobile phone number so you can be contacted.

### EYFS Classroom News

As part of our topic, 'Let's Celebrate', we have been learning about birthdays and weddings and how different people celebrate them. For the last few weeks of the half term, we will be focusing on Christmas. We have started by decorating our classroom and have had some very special visitors who have come all the way from the North Pole to see how hard we have been working - some of Santa's elves! The elves get up to mischief every day and I am sure your child will tell you all of the stories about what they have been up to! We will also be learning about the Nativity story as part of our RE and reading lots of other Christmas themed stories. Alongside this, we will be completing Christmas themed activities to get us feeling festive! We will be making cards, calendars, tree decorations and other craft activities. We will also take part in 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday 11th December, supporting 'Save the Children'. On Tuesday 15th December we will be having a Christmas dinner - this will also be a non-uniform day. At some point in the last week, we will also be having a Christmas party in our bubble with lots of games and dancing and watch a live virtual pantomime! All of the crafts and activities that we complete will be allowed to quarantine for 48 hours before they are brought home by the children.

### Year 1 Classroom News

At this festive period of the year, Miss Hartley has created some amazing activities to get us full of Christmas cheer and ensure we still celebrate properly. Our Naughty Elf is going to make an appearance and will be getting up to mischief, so listen out for what he gets up to! We will also receive a special video message from Santa and will be writing a letter to him, he is also going to video call us in class, to make sure we are being nice and not naughty. We are planning to complete Christmas cards, 2021 calendars, tree decorations and a number of other festive activities including watching a live virtual pantomime. The children will have Christmas dinner on Tuesday 15th December, followed by a bubble Christmas party. We will also be supporting the 'Save the Children' Christmas appeal with their 'Christmas Jumper Day' on Friday 11th December. Crafts and activities will be completed in the final week of the Autumn term, allowing for 48 hours quarantine prior to items being taken home by children.

### Year 2 Classroom News

Christmas is coming to Year Two! In the Glittering Rainbows class this year, pupils are going to complete some fantastic festive activities. We are planning to make Christmas cards, 2021 calendars, Christingles, tree decorations and Christmas cross-stitches that they have designed themselves. It will be a glitter bonanza! Furthermore, we will be celebrating Christmas by devouring a delicious dinner on Tuesday 15th December and also supporting the "Save the Children" appeal by wearing fabulous Christmas jumpers on Friday December 11th 2020. As a special treat, pupils will be able to watch a live virtual pantomime too – I hope they have their loud cheers and festive spirit ready. The Naughty Elf might visit Year Two as well... Please note that any crafts activities will be completed in the final week of the Autumn term to allow forty-eight hours quarantine time prior to items being taken home by children.

### Year 3 and 4 Classroom News

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and this will be the case in the Perfect Planets classroom too! Miss Purdy and Mrs Chapplow are planning some wonderful Christmas activities so the children can feel festive and enjoy some Christmas cheer. The children will create Christmas cards, 2021 calendars, Christingles, and other festive crafts. The children will also help decorate the classroom, enjoy Christmas tunes, have a Christmas party in our class bubble and watch a live virtual pantomime...oh yes, they will!!! In addition, we are supporting the "Save the Children" Christmas appeal with their "Christmas Jumper Day" on Friday 11th December and having our delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday 16th December. Crafts and activities will be completed in the final week of the Autumn term, allowing for 48 hours quarantine prior to items being taken home by children. Please keep checking our text messages for any further information regarding our festivities.

### Year 5 and 6 Classroom News

In the Glorious Galaxies this year, Mr Seaton and Mr Dent have created some amazing activities to get us all in the festive mood and ensure we still celebrate the festive period properly. We are planning to complete Christmas cards, 2021 calendars, tree decorations and a number of other festive activities. Together, we will be decorating our classroom ready for our Christmas dinner on Wednesday December 16th and also supporting the "Save the Children" Christmas appeal with their "Christmas Jumper Day" on Friday 11th December. Crafts and activities will be completed in the final week of the Autumn term, allowing for 48 hours quarantine prior to items being taken home by children.

**PLEASE NOTE WE ARE CLOSED ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020 FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND RETURN ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021. WE WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.**

Yours sincerely, *Mrs Laura Snowden* (Headteacher)