



Friday 27th November 2020

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

The days are getting colder as we are heading into December! The term is nearing its end!

Needless to say, we are busy and working hard in school but with one eye on the approaching festivities of the season.



A month of Christmas Activities

Christmas Lunches

We will be spreading our Christmas lunch over next week so that we can socially distance bubbles from each other. It will still be fun and is a great start to feeling Christmassy!

Christmas Jumpers

Even though it is the "official" *Christmas Jumper Day* on December 11th, we think it would be even more festive to wear Christmas jumpers any day in December! We look forward to seeing them!



Christmas Fair

The school will hold the Christmas Fair on December 11th for children only. As with so many things in 2020, we have had to change how we organise the event while also ensuring that the children get maximum enjoyment out of it. Therefore, we will make sure that every child:

- makes something festive and brings it home after the fair
- has the opportunity to take home items that other children have made
- takes part in games and other activities

We are asking that children **do not** come to school with any money as there will not be anything to 'purchase'. Instead children will be allowed to choose at least one item that another children has made to take along with what they have made.

Each class will also have a range of festive games and activities taking place during the afternoon and there will be special quiz for each class to compete against each other. We look forward to sharing lots of photos on Class Dojo with parents as well!

The end of the day will be as normal with children leaving at their usual allocated times.

Father Christmas

We are so looking forward to seeing Father Christmas via Zoom this year. We hear his technical skills are bang up to date and with the help of our own school elves, he will deliver a present to each of our children!



Christmas Decoration Day

We are looking forward to making decorations and decorating our classrooms on December 1st.

End of Lockdown – but there are new restrictions

As you will know the lockdown ends on 2nd December. However, make sure you know what you can or can't do from then onwards. We really want to keep the schools safe so please do not break the restriction laws.

- You cannot have anyone round your house to visit, unless they are in your support bubble.
- Children cannot have friends round to play or have sleep overs
- You can only meet other people outside (not inside your home) up to 6 people.
- If your sport or exercise class is allowed, you must still socially distance
- Pubs can open but they have to operate like a restaurant, serving a meal with any alcohol.
- You should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- Shops and businesses must be covid secure.

These restrictions will be in place until further notice with the exception of 5 days over Christmas.

- From 23rd to 27th December one household can form a bubble with 2 other households for the whole period.
- You can meet with the 2 other households indoors.
- You cannot meet up with any other different households on different days- once a bubble of 3 households is formed, it is fixed.
- You can meet with up to 6 people outside. These could be from another household outside your Christmas bubble.

Please be considerate of others and wear a mask when you come onto the school grounds – we ask this politely. Still some parents are not doing so.

Volunteering Opportunities in School

If you have been furloughed or are out of work for a while and feeling bored, have you thought of applying to volunteer in school? The checks can be carried out quickly and you could soon be helping in school! Why not give it a try? Contact the school office if you have time on your hands and want to put it to good use.

School Lunches in the new year

We really want to start getting school closer to normal but remaining as safe as possible. We will trial year groups eating in the dining hall and having a proper cooked dinner again more days of the week. This is difficult to organise but we know that children need a good hot dinner especially when it is cold outside. We can work this for year groups on different days. The menu and days for each year group will be sent home and will start after Christmas.



Support over the Christmas holiday for pupils eligible for free school meals

Norfolk County Council is working with the food voucher company EdenRed to provide vouchers for the Christmas holiday period to children who are eligible for Free School Meals, and children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium. For each eligible child entitled to Free School Meals the voucher will have a value of £15 per week each week of the Christmas break. This support is being funded from Norfolk County Council's Winter Support Package.

If your financial circumstances have changed, you may be entitled to claim Free School Meals. Contact the school if you need help.

Bowthorpe Church Advent Calendar Challenge Competition!

Advent is the time when we get ready for Christmas. This year make your own Advent calendar!

1. Choose a window that other people can see from OUTSIDE your house. (If this is impossible, inside will do)
2. Choose a theme for your window.
3. Design a backdrop – remember, the window is for people outside your house to see and to cheer them up on a dark winter's evening.
4. Every day for 24 days leading up to Christmas Eve put ONE more object in your window. For example: I might want to tell the story of what happened the first Christmas so my first item might be a palm tree and the last one would be Jesus in the manger! Have a look at some Christmas cards – you could do 12 days of Christmas, or Santa's toy shop – whatever you like.
5. Keep a look out on your daily walks for other windows. There will be one at the church for sure and one at 11, Layer close. We will put a list of all the entries on the church website and the church doors.
6. Send in photographs of your window
7. The judges are the people of Bowthorpe including you and one secret judge (oooohhhh! Does he have a red suit?)
8. So, vote for your favourite window!!! Just post the number of the window and your name and address to pastongriffin@gmail.com or through the church letterbox.



Have a good weekend and stay safe

HJ McCarney

**Mrs McCarney
Headteacher**



						
				  Save the Children CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY		
				CHRISTMAS BREAK 		

