



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Christmas is coming!



Unbelievably, it is only 4 weeks until the end of term and, understandably, we are starting to receive queries about how some of our normal Christmas traditions will work under the current circumstances. Unfortunately, we have had to make many changes to our normal Christmas arrangements to ensure that we are keeping everyone safe. However, we do feel it is still important to keep our festive spirits up and make sure that we have plenty of Christmas themed activities! The following letter outlines some of the information you may find useful and some dates to make note of.

Christmas cards

The children have always enjoyed sending Christmas cards to each other and we feel it is important that we still provide them with the opportunity to do so if they would like although there is no obligation to do so. We will be providing each child with an individual bag which any cards, crafts or activities will get added to and will be used to 'quarantine' items before they come home. The bags will stay in school until the end of term and then be sent home. Children are welcome to bring in Christmas cards for their friends which can be delivered to these bags but we ask that you ensure the following:

1. Cards should only be brought in for members of the child's own bubble.
2. Cards should not be sealed by licking the envelope – "stick, don't lick!"
3. Any cards should be brought in from **Monday 30th November until Friday 11th December 2020 ONLY**. Any cards that are brought in after this date won't be able to be delivered as they will need time to sit in the bags before we can send them home.

If they would prefer, children may wish to send one card to the whole bubble and this will be displayed within the children's classroom.

Christmas lunch and parties

We will be having a Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 9th December 2020** as part of our normal lunchtime sittings which is always delicious! If your child normally brings a packed lunch but would like the Christmas dinner on this day, please notify the office by **Friday 4th December 2020** (cost of a lunch is £2.20 which will be added to School money). The lunch will be followed by Christmas parties in our class bubbles so children are welcome to wear non-uniform on that day if they would like. If your child is in Nursery and does not normally attend sessions on a Wednesday, please contact the Early Years team or school office by **Friday 4th December** if you would like your child to attend on that day to be able to participate.

Christmas jumper day and movie day

On **Thursday 17th December 2020** we will be having a whole school 'Christmas Jumper Day' where the children are welcome to come to school dressed in any Christmas top or outfit that they would like to wear. If the children do not have a Christmassy item of clothing, they are welcome to dress in non-uniform as an alternative. During the day, they will also be treated to a film in their classes.

Christmas craft

In order to raise money for the PTA, we have always produced an item of Christmas craft which went on sale at our Christmas Fair. Unfortunately, the fair cannot go ahead this year but we will be creating items within our bubbles and selling them to parents to raise money for school funds. The items will cost £1.50 and, if you would like to purchase your child's item, please send in £1.50 before the end of term and the item will be added to the children's bag to bring home.

Christmas performances

Sadly, we are unable to provide performances to parents this year. However, we are looking at alternatives and will be creating some whole school Christmassy videos to share with parents as an alternative. The videos will be shared with parents through Google Classroom or Tapestry and we do ask that these are not downloaded or shared by parents outside of these applications in any way.

M&M Productions

M&M Productions are still due to perform 'The Wizard of Oz' to expanded bubble groups in the school hall on **Friday 27th November 2020**. We have consulted with the Health and Safety team and have also been provided with detailed risk assessment information from M&M Productions themselves. The performance will take place in the school hall with each bubble clearly spread apart to allow for social distancing. We are looking forward to starting the Christmas events with a well needed pantomime!

School photographs

I have had a few queries about whether the school photographer will be able to visit this year under the current restrictions. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to book sessions at this time but we will let you know if this is something we are able to provide later in the school year.

Easyfundraising

As Christmas approaches, I would imagine that online shopping will be a popular choice this year for many of us. With that in mind, I would just like to draw your attention to the Easyfundraising page which the PTA are promoting as a quick and easy way to raise funds for the school. If you access your normal online retailers (Argos, Boots, M&S, Amazon etc) through the Easyfundraising site then a small donation is made to the school and this can quickly add up to a sizeable amount. It is free to use and, to sign up or for further information, you can either visit easyfundraising.org.uk or follow the link on the High Hesket PTA Facebook page.

Last day of term

Traditionally, we have always closed early on the last day of term following our Carol Service. However, due to the current circumstances we have made the decision to close at our normal times on Friday 18th December 2020 (3.10pm for EYFS & KS1, 3.25pm for KS2). However, we are aware that many of the secondary schools do close early for the Christmas holidays and so, if you do need to collect your child at an earlier time due to specific arrangements, we are happy to accommodate this if you let us know what time you would like to collect.

We are looking forward to all our Christmas events and I am sure there will be many more activities happening within the classrooms. Due to the current circumstances, we will need to allow some flexibility within our timetable but I do hope this answers any queries you may have for the time being. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require any further information.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 27th November 2020 – M&M Productions performance

Friday 4th December 2020 – Deadline for Christmas lunch orders if your child normally has packed lunch

Wednesday 9th December 2020 – Christmas lunch and parties (non uniform)

Friday 11th December 2020 – Last day to bring in Christmas cards

Thursday 17th December 2020 – Christmas jumper day

Friday 18th December 2020 – Last day of term

Tuesday 5th January 2020 – School reopens

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey