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## **We are an Operation Encompass School**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you so much for your continuing support during these challenging times, particularly during this second National Lockdown. We will be ensuring that whilst all our children are in school, they will experience Advent and the spirit of Christmas throughout the remaining weeks of term.

### **Christmas Cards**

Unfortunately due to the logistical complications posed by Covid-19 we will be unable to distribute individual Christmas cards from their friends this year, but we would encourage them to send one card to their class by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, which will be quarantined before being displayed in the classroom.

### **Christmas Gifts**

Our parents are always very generous with the gifts they give to staff each year and we are always very grateful for them. However, we recognise that along with the many safety implications, this has been a very challenging year for many of our families financially, with many losing their jobs or being furloughed. **Therefore we ask that parents do not spend their money on staff and buy us any presents as we cannot accept them.** Instead it would be lovely if parents could bring in some contributions of food (non-perishable) and toiletries that we will donate to our local food bank at St Aidan's who will distribute food to families in need in our local community; or alternatively buy a new unwrapped gift for a child. These will be donated to the Cash for Kids Mission Christmas which aims to ensure no child wakes up on Christmas Day without a gift under a Christmas tree. Either of these options would be greatly appreciated and we will ensure that all donations are safely quarantined and all safety procedures adhered to before passing them on. We will accept donations from **now up until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** Please bring them to the School Office entrance when bringing or collecting your child to/from school and the member of staff on the door will take them from you.

### **Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

This year our Christmas lunch will be served in school on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. As normal, children who usually have a packed lunch can join us for a Christmas lunch that day - **please contact the office if your child would like this and to organise payment.** All children are asked to wear a Christmas jumper this day and bring in £1 which will be used to support 'The Customs House Appeal' as we will be receiving a free dvd from them of their renowned pantomime to show in school.

### **Christmas Crafts**

Over the next few weeks children will be making some Christmas crafts in school. These will be quarantined so they can be safely brought home at the end of term.



## Christmas Plays

Unfortunately due to current restrictions and our school bubbles we will not be having any Christmas productions this year as we cannot invite our families into school and have bubbles mixing. However all classes have worked in a Covid-19 secure manner to put together a Christmas Carol Service for parents which we hope will help to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Once the service has finished children from each year group will then perform some classic Christmas songs for you. A video of this will be put together and uploaded onto a secure private Youtube server for you all to watch. We will give our parents a link and a password which should not be shared, for you to log in and watch this as often as you like. **If you would not like your child in the video please contact the office and let us know so we can ensure they do not appear in it.**

## Christmas Parties & Pantomimes

Children will be having their Christmas party day as usual. Children should come into school on the day of their party in their party clothes (non-uniform). They will have a party box which contains half a sandwich, sausage roll, pizza slice, Christmas shortbread biscuit, crisps and a drink and will watch a virtual pantomime in their classroom and spend the rest of the day having fun and playing party games.

The dates for the Christmas parties are as follows:

**EYFS and KS1 (Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 2) - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6) - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Thank you once again for all your support. We recognise that some of these decisions may not be popular but we must always put the safety of our children, staff and our school families ahead of everything else as we want everyone to be able to have a happy and safe Christmas.

Thank you once again,

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Steele  
Acting Headteacher

