



Cubbington C of E Primary School

Our aim is as simple as ABC

Achieving, Belonging, Caring

6th December 2019
Newsletter No.7

Dear Parents and Carers,

Life in a primary school really starts to get fun in December! We started the week by holding a lovely advent service in St Mary's church which was led by the Kingfishers. We learnt about the advent wreath and its candles and we were able to see the first one lit. On Wednesday I was lucky enough to join the Swifts to take part in a Christingle services at Coventry Cathedral. It was a lovely service and the sun was shining through the beautiful windows of the cathedral which made it feel quite magical. Today the children look fantastic in their Christmas jumpers and every time I step out of my office I hear children singing carols or rehearsing for their performances. We have a fabulously decorated Christmas tree thanks to the children's creativity and the members of the PTA are very busy today preparing for our Christmas fair which is taking place after school. Please do pop along and bring your family and friends. There are lots of things still to come over the next two weeks so please check your calendars against the dates at the end of this newsletter.

Midday supervisor vacancy

We currently have a part time vacancy for a midday supervisor for two sessions per week. If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact the school office for an application form.

Pantomime

We have arranged for the Pantomime (Jack and the beanstalk) to visit us on Wednesday 18th December at school and we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per child to cover the costs. You will find a request on Parent Pay.

Steel pan concert

The steel pan players will be performing some Christmas songs to the school on Friday 20th December at 9.10am. Parents and friends of players are welcome to attend.

Donations for St Mary's Church

Thank you to everyone who has already donated gifts to the collection in the entrance hall. We will start to take the items over to church so that the members of the Mothers Union can start distributing hampers. They have told me that they can collect items up to Thursday 12th December.

Christmas postbox

The Christmas postbox will be open from Monday 9th December. All children can post Christmas cards to their friends and teachers and these will be delivered by the Year 6 post people in the last week of term. The last day for posting cards will be Wednesday 18th December.

Please check that your child writes the full name and class on the envelope to ensure accurate delivery. Unfortunately class teachers are not able to give out class lists to parents. The year 6 post people will be collecting donations for postage which will go to a charity of their choice and we suggest a single donation of 50p for an unlimited number of cards - Bargain!

This is the method that we recommend for distributing cards in school as children will not have the opportunity to hand their cards out individually so please encourage them to get writing and posting!

Healthy snacks in KS2

The teachers have asked me to remind you to provide a healthy snack such as fruit or vegetable sticks for your child in KS2. We have noticed some unhealthy snacks starting to come into school. Children in KS1 are provided with a piece of fruit as part of a government scheme.

Our Christian Value this half term is RESPECT



Advice from the local Health Authority

Public Health Warwickshire have been informed by Public Health England that there has been an increase in levels of norovirus in Warwickshire and it is now circulating within schools, nurseries and the community in general.

Norovirus is commonly known as Winter Vomiting Disease and occurs commonly in the community and in schools and nurseries in particular at this time of the year. We have been asked to issue this advice to our families.

What are the symptoms?

- diarrhoea and vomiting usually lasting 1-2 days

What should you do if your child is unwell?

- Make sure they get lots of rest.
- Ensure they drink plenty of fluids, taking sips rather than gulps to avoid vomiting.
- Give infant Paracetamol or Ibuprofen, according to product instructions, to help keep their temperature down.
- If your child is unusually sleepy, won't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as blood in their diarrhoea, an unusual rash, headache, neck stiffness or difficulty breathing, ring NHS Direct (0845 4647), contact your GP or take your child to hospital.
- Please ring your child's school and let them know that your child is ill and what symptoms they have.
- Keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. However, if your child has been suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting keep them at home until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours.

How can you prevent the spread of these infections?

Hand washing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person looking after them.

Hands should always be washed, using liquid soap if possible:

- Before and after caring for your child.
- After using the toilet.
- Before eating or handling food.
- After cleaning up a mess (vomit, faeces or urine).

Other ways of preventing the spread of infection are to:

- Keep a separate towel for family members who have symptoms.
- Dispose promptly of used tissues and other items that your child may have coughed or sneezed on.
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels in a washing machine. Use the hottest wash for that fabric.
- Clean baths and washbasins thoroughly and disinfect after use.
- If cleaning up diarrhoea or vomit, wash the surface with hot soapy water and disinfect before allowing to dry. If using bleach remember that it can remove the colour from fabrics and can burn the skin.

Keep your child away from other children and people that are particularly vulnerable, e.g. the elderly and those with chronic illnesses

Open days for prospective parents

We will be holding open day sessions for prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2020. Please share these with anyone that you think may be interested. The last date before the application deadline is Thursday 9th January 9.30

Online safety

With the festive season fast approaching, many children will be thinking about what they may like for Christmas and I am sure that top of many lists will be electronic devices and games. Now is an ideal time for parents to become more digitally aware and check out how to keep their children safe online. There is a wealth of information and guidance out there and it can seem very overwhelming but a short amount of time spent reading this guidance and applying settings to devices will be hugely beneficial to your child's online safety in the long term. If buying games for children it is worth checking out the PEGI rating. This is similar to the age certification for films and DVDs. Visit askaboutgames.com for more information. Games such as Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto and Assassin's Creed all have a PEGI rating of 18+ yet we know of some of our children playing these games or watching them being played on YouTube, which is equally damaging and inappropriate. Parental controls can be set up easily and there is very helpful guidance for all devices, apps etc. on <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>

We also wanted to highlight [this interesting article](#) about the impact of social media on young people that we think you may find helpful.

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Here are some helpful Online Tips:

- **Always make sure an adult knows what game you are playing.** Ask them to join in! You might be able to teach them a thing or two!
- **Ensure that you are playing games in the ‘offline’ mode.** Almost all apps allow you to do this. Adults should check you are using safe settings on all online devices.
- **Christmas photos and videos are often shared to your family around this time of year.** Make sure they are shared on a safe platform such as ‘WhatsApp’ and not accessible to strangers.
- Think carefully about the things you say to your family and friends online and the way you say them. You should always be striving to **create a positive digital footprint.** If you wouldn’t say it to someone face to face, you shouldn’t say it screen to screen.
- **One of the best presents you can give your parents this Christmas is to be present!** Agree on an amount of ‘screen time’ you can have daily/weekly. Spend lots of time offline. Go outside, play games, paint pictures and have fun with family and friends offline!
- **If anything gives you your early warning signs,** tell an adult in your network right away. They will be able to help you.

Here are some fun, safe apps that you might want to explore over the Christmas period

App	Description
Word Crush - Christmas Brain Puzzles (iPad - Free) 	This Christmas word search puzzle app feature hidden Christmas words to find. Word searches are great ac-tivities to help your kids develop their problem solving and analytical skills.
Christmas Tale HD (iPad - Free) 	Ideally suited to younger children, this Christmas tool is full of toys and games, with challenges to find hidden objects, spot the difference and more as you work your way through the festive story.
Google Santa Tracker (Android/iPad - Free) 	Google Santa Tracker is a special app by Google which helps in tracking the journey of Santa Claus all the way from North Pole. It also allows the kids to play santa games and other fun activities. The Google San-ta Tracker will launch on December 24, but the count-down to the journey starts early December!
Christmas Picture Quiz Game 	Guaranteed to keep the kids entertained and in the festive spirit! All they have to do is guess the Christ-mas pictures/characters and spell them correctly. Great for spelling practise!
Christmas Fun Sing-Along 	Enjoy lovable Christmas songs and exciting education-al Christmas games

Future academic year planners

All INSET days now added to the diary dates below

The dates for the next two academic years are now published on the Warwickshire website so you can start holiday planning early! **Remember that the Mayday bank holiday has moved in 2020 and will be on Friday 8th May.**

[2019 – 2020](#)

[2020 - 2021](#)

Autumn and Spring term dates for your diaries

Thursday 12th December – Reception/KS1 Production 2.30pm

Friday 13th December – Reception/KS1 Production 9.30am

Wednesday 18th December – Pantomime at school for all children (Jack and the Beanstalk)

Wednesday 18th December – KS2 Carol service in school 2.30

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Friday 20th December – 9.10 Steel pan showcase – parents of players are welcome to attend
Friday 20th December – 2.45 Christmas sing a long
Friday 20th December – Break up for Christmas
Monday 6th January – Whole School INSET day – School is closed
Tuesday 7th January – Start of the Spring term
Wednesday 9th January – Final open morning for prospective parents
Thursday 16th January – NHS Height and weight check for children in Reception and Year 6
Friday 31st January – PTA Film night – more information will follow
Monday 10th February – PTA Bags to Schools collection
Friday 14th February – Year 4 cake sale
Friday 14th February – Break up for half term
Thursday 19th March – Parents evening 4-7pm
Friday 20th March – Year 3 cake sale
Tuesday 24th March – Parents evening 4-7pm
Tuesday 31st March – Easter service in St Mary's lead by Year 4. Parents of Year 4 invited.
Friday 3rd April – Break up for Easter

I hope that you have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

Juliet Jones
Head teacher