

ST MATTHEW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Alnwick Grove, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear NE32 5YT
Tel: (0191) 489 8355 Fax: (0191) 422 6395
Email: office@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk
Website: www.stmatthewsrc.org

Headteacher **Martin G Humble** B Ed (Hons)



20 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

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

Christmas Parties

The children will come into school on the day of their party in their party clothes (non-uniform but no football strips!) and they will be in school all day with lunch as usual. In the afternoon school will provide party snacks and drinks. In the morning the children will watch an online Pantomime in their classroom.

The party dates are as follows:

Tuesday 8 December - Year 4
Wednesday 9 December - Year 2
Thursday 10 December - Reception Class
Friday 11 December - Year 3
Monday 14 December - Year 1
Wednesday 16 December - Year 5
Thursday 17 December - Year 6

Christmas Cards

Unfortunately we will be unable to distribute Christmas cards from children to their friends this year, but we would encourage them to send one card to their class, which will then be displayed in the classroom.

Christmas Lunch

This year our Christmas lunch will be served in school on Tuesday 8th December 2020. As always children who normally have a packed lunch can join us for a Christmas lunch that day. Mrs Young will forward a booking form next week to all those currently on packed lunch.

Christmas Plays

This year our Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 have been rehearsing separate Christmas plays. Although we cannot invite families into school to watch the plays, we will premiere these performances for you to watch in the comfort of your own homes. Further details will follow soon – they all sound amazing and the 'Countdown to the Premieres' will be on our School Facebook page and Website.

Customs House Pantomime

We are unable to attend this year's Pantomime at the Customs House due to current restrictions in place for large groups. To support the Customs House 'Family' during this period, we are going to receive a free DVD to show in school of this year's Pantomime performance. Donations from our Christmas Jumper Day (15 December 2020) will be collected to support the Customs House Appeal.

Christmas Jumper Day plus 'Holly and Ivy' – 15 December 2020

Our annual visit from the Holly and Ivy team of musicians will take place for all pupils on Tuesday



15 December. Each class will have their own session of Christmas classics performed by the group and this will be COVID compliant. We encourage all children to wear a Christmas jumper that day, or even better, their own creation of a Christmas top/jumper.

Christmas Craft

Our class elves will be in their workshops to create Christmas crafts for you to purchase and support school funds. Each class will send out information in relation to their pieces of craft for sale.

Operation Christmas Child 2020 – Shoebox Appeal

Thank you so much for the contributions received so far – we currently have 82 boxes!!! The closing date has been extended to Friday 4 December 2020 so please get your boxes to us by this date.

Friends of St Matthew's (FOSM)

FOSM would like you to return the cash-filled Smarties tubes as soon as possible. All money collected will support the school playground 'play markings' upgrade.

Playground Markings Installation

The play area for our children is bland and needs a facelift, so we have exciting new designs for play markings being installed on 8/9/10 December (weather permitting). All funds collected over the Christmas period from Christmas craft sales, raffles and FOSM fundraising will be used to support this playground initiative. The installation will have an impact on pick up arrangements each day but we will confirm the changes nearer the dates. Timings will not change but the places from which your children are to be picked up may alter.

Christmas Raffle

There will be a Christmas raffle this year and further information and prize lists will follow soon. We are holding off our annual chocolate raffle until Easter 2021 due to the current restrictions.

Birthday Sweets Sharing

Unfortunately due to current restrictions we are still unable to distribute sweets from children when it is their birthday – so sorry!

HM Forces – Information Required

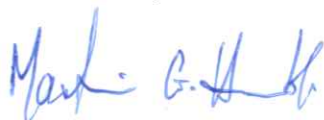
If any parents are in HM Forces could you please inform school as this is information we are required to have on our school records for your child. All information is confidential and we are a GDPR compliant school. Thank you.

Training Day – change of date

Please note that the Training Day scheduled for Monday 21 June 2021 has been brought forward to Monday 8 February 2021. School will now be closed to pupils on Monday 8 February 2021.

Thank you once again.

Yours faithfully



Martin G Humble
Headteacher