

Giffards Primary School

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Headteacher
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'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

17th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite the national relaxation of many restrictions, we are mindful of how widespread Covid still is. With this in mind, we have made Christmas plans that will minimise contact but allow the children to have fun and for you to share in some of it too, albeit in a virtual way. We apologise that more can't be done in person, but as staff and pupils are still falling ill, we have tried to make plans that we won't need to keep cancelling, will keep us all safe and hopefully allow us to get through to the Christmas holidays so everyone can share this time with family and friends.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 10th December – children can wear their Christmas Jumper to school alongside their usual school uniform. Donations of £1 will be collected in aid of Save the Children. Please use the link on your SCOPay account for donations.

PSA Christmas Wrap – Friday 10th December. This popular event will allow the children to buy surprise gifts for that special someone for Christmas. All gifts cost £2 and will be beautifully wrapped; after choosing their gift, children will be able to write their own tag and then take their gift home the same day. We believe the children will really enjoy picking out a gift themselves for a special Mum, Dad, Nan, Grandad, Aunt or Uncle to name but a few. A letter has already gone out about this previously including how payment should be made. A further copy is attached to this letter for your convenience.

Christmas film and Popcorn – week beginning 13th December - instead of a pantomime visiting the school, we will be watching Christmas films and eating popcorn one afternoon this week!

Christmas Dinner – KS1 – Monday 13th December/ KS2 – Wednesday 15th December. The children will be able to enjoy a full Christmas dinner with festive music playing. All of the children will eat in the dining halls in year group bubbles. Where two bubbles are in the hall at the same time all social distancing guidance will be followed. A letter went out earlier this month, a copy of both KS1 and KS2 letters are attached for your info. Please note that we are unable to take Christmas dinner orders after Friday 3rd December under any circumstances so please order before then via SCOPay if you have not already done so.

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Class Christmas Party afternoons – Thursday 16th December, each class will hold their own special Christmas Party with fun games and prizes to be won. The children will be able to come into school in their party clothes – but flat sensible shoes please as they will still be going out to play. **We will** provide the children with a drink and party snacks, please do not send in any food. We are asking for a minimum donation of £2 to cover food, this will also help subsidise popcorn costs for the Christmas Film and Popcorn sessions. Payment can be made on your SCOPay account. Last year many of you donated for Christmas parties but these were unable to take place due to Covid. You are welcome, of course, to donate again for this year but we fully understand if you have already donated that you may not. If your child has developed any food allergies that we have not been made aware of please do contact the school office.

Christmas Performances – each class will be creating a festive performance for parents. We are sorry you can't join us in school to watch, but these will be recorded and posted on google classroom before the end of term for families to enjoy. As we are recording them ourselves due to restrictions, the filming may not be Oscar worthy but the performances will all capture the spirit of Christmas. I'm sure the odd wobbly footage will just add to the occasion. We will let you know before the end of term how you can log on to watch these. All children will take part in rehearsals but only children who have parental consent will be filmed – **please see details below about parental consent**. To ensure the privacy and safety of pupils, no names will be displayed but pupil images will be clearly seen via the google classroom link. Traditionally we would have had a collection in school at the end of each performance; if you would like to make a donation to the school once you have seen the performances, there will be a link on your SCOPay account for it.

Christmas Cards – As part of our commitment to becoming more sustainable and educating the children on the importance of reducing waste, we are continuing to promote an eco-friendly way of wishing each other a Merry Christmas. Instead of sending individual Christmas cards to everyone in their class and friends across the school, we are proposing they send one card to the whole class and each class will collectively send a card to other classes, these will be displayed and shared in each classroom. We worked out that if every child in a class sent 30 cards that is 13,290 cards! By adopting this approach the children can still send their best wishes whilst saving paper and card. We are not going to stop the sending of individual cards if that is what children really want to do but we are working towards a more sustainable way of sharing our Christmas wishes.

Christmas Gifts – we know how generous you all are, especially at Christmas. Please can we ask that if you do wish to send a gift in, that these are given to your children to hand directly to staff. We are still minimising contact and movement around the school and no gifts should be handed into the office for delivery to classes.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Haslam-Davis

Headteacher

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Consent details

If our records show you have **not** previously given consent, you will receive a phone call from your child's teacher or LSA asking whether you would like to give a one off consent for your child to be part of the performance recording that will be uploaded to our website. Please make sure you respond with your consent either verbally or by emailing office@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk by **Wednesday 24th November 2021** if you do wish them to be included.

If you do not receive a phone call, then our records show we already have your consent. However if you do **not** wish your child to be part of the performance recording, please contact office@giffardsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk by **Wednesday 24th November** to advise us.

All replies to be received by **Wednesday 24th November 2021** as filming will be beginning after this date.

If you would like any further details please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Haslam-Davis
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