

Harewood C of E Primary School

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“Educating for Life In All Its Fullness”

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID Update

Thank you again to everyone for their vigilance and for working with changes put in place this week to limit the spread of COVID in school. We had done really well to last as long as we did but it was bound to find Harewood at some point.

The middle of next week should see the return of most of the adults and some of the children. We are going to continue the limited bubble system for the week and will monitor how this is working with guidance from the Local Authority Health and Safety Team. It maybe that we need to keep things as they are until Christmas, to protect the community for the last couple of weeks but also to limit any need for self-isolation over the Christmas break.

Class 2 Trip

Class 2 went on a trip to Kirkstall Abbey House Museum yesterday. It sounds like they had a great time and learnt a lot linked to their class topic. I would like to thank the children for their great attitude while on the trip and the staff for taking them. Please have a look on the school Twitter feed, Tapestry and website in the coming days for photos.



Advent

We are now 3 days into Advent and the children have started to think about some of the challenges on our Advent Wellbeing Calendars. Please talk to your children about these and see which of the challenges you can try at home. It would be great if the children could then report these back to the classes.

Other Christmas Events

Tonight should have been the PTA movie night but I am sure you can understand why this had to be postponed. We are looking at potential dates in the Spring Term and will let you know about these in January. If you had paid for the event your entry will be carried forward to the spring.

This week all the children have been making their own baubles to hang on the school tree. At the start of next week each class will take their turn to add their decorations to make our school tree truly special and individual, with each child contributing their own bit of Christmas joy. We will make sure there are photos available for families to see. The decorations will then come home at the end of term



with the children. I would like to say a big thank you to the East Keswick Plant Nursery for their generosity in donating the tree to school this year.

The Christmas Post Box will be out in school from next week for children wanting to distribute Christmas cards. This will be situated in the Library and will be sorted daily by some of the Y6 children. We ask that to help them, as well as adding the person's name you add their class as well.

Christmas lunch and party day is Wednesday 15th December. If your child normally has a school lunch you do not need to do anything differently to order a Christmas Lunch but if your child has a packed lunch and would like a school lunch that day, please look out for communications from the office about ordering a lunch and making choices.

After what has been a tough few weeks for the school, we thought it would be nice to end the term on a high. On party day the PTA have planned a few activities for the children to enjoy in school. There will be no charge at all for this as the PTA wanted to do something to say thanks for all of the support everyone has given so far this year.

Father Christmas is due to visit, and will give a gift to every child. The PTA have also provided some Christmas decorations for the children to decorate in class. Classes 1 and 2 will also get to make up their own reindeer food mix in school. All of the teachers will have some fun crafting planned and the PTA have provided some additional treats for them to hand out during the day. The children will also have crackers to pull with their Christmas Lunch.

On the day the children are welcome to come in home clothes, with Christmas jumpers if you have them. We will collect any donations for the charity [Save the Children](#) who always celebrate a Christmas jumper day, if anyone would like to donate, but this is optional.

Hopefully, it will be a very memorable and fun way to end the term.

The children are currently working hard to learn songs, carols and words for our Nativity. The original plan was to hold this on Thursday 16th December with parents invited. We are still hoping that something of this nature will be possible but in the light of quickly changing Government guidance and the current school situation we have postponed making a final decision on arrangements. We will try to get information out to families by the middle of next week, but many things could have changed by then – Sorry.

St Gemma's Hospice Christmas Novelties

Over the next couple of weeks our Class 4 children will be helping to sell a range of Christmas novelties including knitted Christmas badges. These are all priced at £1 and we have limited stock. If you are happy for your child to make a purchase to support the charity, they will be on sale from Monday.

Music In Worship – When We Seek Him – Shawna Edwards

This is a new song for this Christmas, Shawna only released it a couple of weeks ago. It is a beautiful reflective song sung by children. It tells the story of the nativity during the verses but the chorus is about how Jesus is relevant for us today. I like the line that says, 'his light shines inside me' which encourages us to be positive in our life. The lyrics say that we don't need to travel as far as the shepherds and wise men to follow the star to find Jesus; Jesus is with us wherever we are.

Here is the website link for the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGcrMbx0K1c>



Events and Dates for this half term – More details of each will be in future newsletters or by separate communications.

Please note there will be no PTA Bun Sale this coming Thursday as previously planned.

Date	Event
Thursday 9 th Dec	Class 2 trip to Harewood House
Wednesday 15 th Dec	Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper and Party Day
Thursday 16 th Dec	Nativity Performances (Details to follow)
Friday 17 th Dec	Last day of term

Have a good weekend, look after yourselves and please be vigilant for signs of COVID. If in doubt, please book PCR tests rather than relying on the home LFTs. We really want to stop things quickly and avoid disruption more to the end of term and the Christmas break.

Mr A. Ratcliffe

