



Weekly Newsletter: Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot tell you how pleased I am to be back in school today and being able to see the children and staff again. I am delighted to say that after my isolation period has ended I have had no symptoms and feel very well, though isolation is not something I would rush to do again by any means. I have managed to keep in touch with staff and governors during this time and Zoom and Teams calls have made the process so much easier. Everything has kept running and we are looking ahead to the final three weeks of term. My hope is that we can keep this period as safe and calm as possible, so that everyone can have a well-earned holiday.

One absolute highlight was being able to 'dial-in' and see the performance of Macbeth by our Year 6 actors. This year with no parental audience allowed, we employed a specialist film crew to record the event so parents will get their own special DVD copy of the performance filmed in the school hall. I want to thank Mr Rimmer, Miss Bellwood and Miss Smith for all their work with the cast. We will also make sure that we have some pictures of the cast printed onto canvas for our Shakespeare wall of fame on the main stair-case. I am so proud that despite so many issues and challenges to overcome, we succeeded and put on a performance of this great play.

We are continuing to use the 'Weduc' App for rapid communication with parents so please download the App and check it – though notifications will pop up, e.g. when this newsletter arrives.

In the past we have frequently held collections in school to support the local foodbanks linked to the Trussel Trust. As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, this year instead of Christmas cards in school we will yet again be collecting for the Newcastle foodbanks as we feel this year, more than ever, it is important to support such a worthwhile cause.

From **Monday to Thursday next week, every morning**, we will be accepting food donations onto trolleys placed at the entrance gates to school. Please ensure as you make your donations as you come into school, that you keep a safe distance from others and observe all social distancing measures in place. The donations are going to be collected by the Newcastle West End foodbank at 9.30am on Thursday morning.

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The foodbank currently have a list of urgently required food items on their website. These include:

Teabags	Tinned Vegetables
Instant coffee	Tinned Fish
Sugar 500g	Biscuits and Snack Bars
Cereal	Tinned Meat
Pasta	Tinned rice pudding
Pasta sauce	Rice
Milk UHT or powdered	Tinned Fruit
Fruit juice (long-life)	Tinned Tomatoes

Thank you for your continued support; together I know we can make a difference.
Mrs Oades (Raising Aspirations and Enterprise Co-ordinator)

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Like most things in 2020, Christmas in school is going to be very different this year. However we still want this to be a special and enjoyable time for the children and staff in school. Some things we can still do, some things we won't be able to do to stay in line with our risk assessment.

We will still be having a Christmas dinner in our year group bubbles which we'd like the children to come to school in festive jumpers for.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have theirs on **Thursday 3rd December**. All children in these year groups are welcome to have a school meal that day. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a school packed lunch or can bring their own that day.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have theirs on **Thursday 10th December**. All children in these year groups are welcome to have a school meal that day. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be provided with a school packed lunch or can bring their own that day.

In place of our usual performances and carol services we will be posting an online advent calendar – please check our website and social media from the 1st December. In place of the usual class parties, each class will be having a Festive Fun Day (dates to follow soon) where the children can come to school in their festive jumpers and enjoy a day with their teacher with Christmas related fun. Please do not send any party food into school on this day. Likewise, unfortunately we will not be able to facilitate children exchanging Christmas cards in school this year so please don't send cards into school. Instead, if you are in a position to donate, we are going to have a collection for a local foodbank.

Retirement News

I wanted to let all of our school community know that Mrs Wendy McCubbin will be retiring at the end of this term after 20 years of service at the school. Mrs McCubbin has been part of our Higher Level Teaching Assistant PPA team, covering classes to release teachers and prior to that was a Teaching Assistant helping children with Special Educational Needs.

We want to wish Mrs McCubbin well for her retirement and I know that in the future she would like to volunteer to support children with their learning.

With my very best wishes to you all

Gary Wallis-Clarke
Head Teacher

