



December 2021

Dear Parents,

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, I would like to thank all parents for your continued support over the past term. Although we have been hit by some positive cases within school which meant changes needed to be made, the children have enjoyed the run up to Christmas with nativities, parties, Polar Express, virtual pantomime, Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and enough glitter to last a lifetime.

### **Christmas Raffle and Pick a Pound**

A huge thank you for your kind donations towards the class hampers. Anybody who has won a hamper will not be disappointed! The winners of each hamper are detailed below as well as the lucky winner of the Pick a Pound draw. I would also like to thank Kelly and Rebecca (from our parent group) who also worked hard to create 2 hampers and raise money selling knitted keyrings.

Photo Shoot - Theo (fireflies)  
Pamper Hamper - Mrs Sandwick  
Coffee Machine - Noah (Dragonflies)  
Parents Hamper - Amelia (Class 3L)  
Chocolate - Corey (Nursery)  
Stationery - Jaxon (Dragonflies)  
Activity Hamper - Fynn (Fireflies)  
Sweet Hamper - Mrs Grylls  
Sweet Hamper - Ethan (Class 2S)  
Biscuits - Tom (Class 6)  
Book Hamper - Jaxon (Dragonflies)  
Biscuits - Destiny (Class 3L)  
Biscuits - Ellie (Nursery)  
Alcohol - Alice (Class 2S)  
Chocolate - Gracie-Mae (Class 1H)

Pick a pound was Scarlett (Dragonflies)

I am delighted to announce that we managed to raise a staggering £897 towards our school fund. Thank you so much!

### **Mr Hornsby**

Mr Hornsby has been our Acting Deputy Head Teacher since September. As he was seconded from another school, he unfortunately leaves us today. I would like to thank him for his amazing work over the past term. He has been an asset to our team and will be a huge miss.

The advert for our permanent Deputy Head Teacher will go out early next term.

### **Teacher Training Day**

Just a reminder that we have a teacher training day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. All children return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### **COVID Update - Including New Variant, Omicron**

I appreciate that you will already be aware that some national measures have been reintroduced in response to the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant, which is called Omicron.

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test.

There are still high numbers of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for COVID-19 and the highest case rates are in school age children. This is leading to spread of COVID-19 within families and into older age groups.

If your child tests positive during the first week of the holidays and they are found to have the new variant, Omicron, please can you contact school by either:  
Class email, School email or Facebook message.

### **What to do if there is any case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in your household?**

It is strongly advised to increase testing when there is a positive COVID-19 case in your household:

- PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in their household\*.
- Daily LFT testing at home for 7 days for any adult and also for all children aged 5 years and over who are exempt from isolation and continue to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive\*.

*\*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms*

Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing of close contacts.

**Merry Christmas**

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy Christmas with your families. I know the children are very excited and will keep you all very busy in the few days leading up to Christmas Day!

We look forward to welcoming all children back to school in January.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs R. Leonard  
Head Teacher