



## Weekly Newsletter: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Very unusually, I am writing my weekly newsletter from home this morning. I was contacted on Wednesday morning to inform me that I had come into close contact with two teachers in another school who had tested positive for COVID 19, and as such had to take action immediately to protect our staff and children. Fortunately, as yet I have no symptoms and am fully able to work from home. It is very challenging for me as I want to be in school, especially to see the Year 6 theatre group perform Macbeth this evening. Though I know the risk of transmission is low, I felt it was important that the safety of our whole school community came first.

Fortunately Mr Jones and I were not in the office together at the beginning of the week and I cannot thank him and the Senior Leadership Team enough for keeping everything going. I fully understand how parents feel when they are informed that children have to isolate, but in this term and in light of rising cases in Newcastle we have to ensure we continue to adhere to all of the rules to protect each other.

I want to thank parents for adapting to our new traffic arrangements outside of school. Hopefully this will make arrival and dismissal as safe as possible for us all. We are going to have an increased police presence around school as part of a Newcastle city wide initiative at these important times of the school day. This is to keep everyone safe from traffic and viral dangers.

Listening to the news this morning, it is still unclear what national arrangements will be by December 18th when term ends. All we can do until then is to stick to our agreed plan and follow the guidance as closely as possible. The news re a COVID vaccine is sounding very encouraging and perhaps we can glimpse a return to a very different way of living and learning. I certainly hope so.

With my very best wishes to you all

Gary Wallis-Clarke  
Head Teacher

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## 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 bubble 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Details of this will be in next week's newsletter.



## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week we came to school on Monday in odd socks to launch Anti-bullying Week and show our individuality. Through the week the children have taken part in sessions around the issue of "United against Bullying". Whilst this is not an issue within our school, it is an important reminder to the children and a key part of our PSHE curriculum. A big thanks to Mrs Young for coordinating the week.

## SHAKESPEARE

Good luck to the cast of Macbeth, Mr Rimmer and Miss Bellwood for tonight's performance of Macbeth in the school hall. Hopefully as part of the Shakespeare Schools Foundation, this will be part of a world record of simultaneous Shakespeare performances. Break a leg!





## CODING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Quanren from Y3C who was involved in a global programming competition. Coming 10th in the world, he programmed a game in which you collect rubbish from the ocean floor, as this was an area he felt incredibly passionate about and thought the game would raise awareness. Mr Collier, Mr McGrath and Mr Wallis-Clarke were very impressed too. If you would like to have a go, you can play here: <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/443402654>

## FINALLY, A FEW REMINDERS FROM YOUR FRIENDLY DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

We know the majority of our parents are following the procedures we have put in place in line with our risk assessment. As we've said before this isn't to make life more difficult for you, it is in the interest of the safety of the children, staff and you. Please could all parents make sure:

- If anyone is awaiting a test in your household, you do not send your child into school
- Please can only one parent pick up and drop off from site
- You only use the designated year group entrance and exit unless you have a pushchair, leaving the site straight after drop off and pick up
- All children wait with you and don't play on the equipment or run around the yard

We really appreciate your co-operation with all the above and the kind words to staff on the gates do go a long way.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Tom Jones  
Deputy Head Teacher