



Marsh Hill Newsletter

December 10th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

Christmas Jumper Day

It has been lovely to see the children in school in their Christmas jumpers and other sundry festive wear today. They all looked fabulous while raising money for **Save the Children**. Save the Children are active in 122 countries, including the UK. Save the Children have three main aims that they want to achieve by 2030, these being that:

- No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday
- All children learn from a quality basic education
- Violence against children is no longer tolerated

We are proud that our wonderful school community has come together today to play our part in helping them achieve these aims. I would like to thank Mr. Hamblett for promoting and organising this event. We will inform you of how much money has been raised by your children in next week's newsletter.

Christmas Free School Meal Vouchers

Birmingham City Council have secured funding for free school meal vouchers for two weeks (£30) for the Christmas Holidays. Next week parents whose children are entitled to free school meals will receive a text message from school. The message will have a website address on it where you can redeem your vouchers. You can then spend these eVouchers at the supermarket. **Vouchers will not be printed at school and vouchers must be redeemed by 7th March 2022.**

Guidance Regarding the Omicron Strain of Coronavirus and Schools

You will be aware of Omicron, the latest strain of the Covid-19 virus, and may be asking yourselves what this means for school. I can inform you that the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open; and yesterday the Department for Education (DFE) stated that:

- Schools will not be closing early and face-to-face education continues
- School attendance remains mandatory
- Nativities and Christmas events can continue to go ahead
- Schools are strongly encouraged to ask parents and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before visiting the school
- Masks should be worn by adults in communal spaces. Masks do not need to be worn in classrooms

With this guidance in mind, it is, at the moment, our intention that parents and carers be allowed to attend the Carol Concerts and Nativity Play. We will only stop this being the case if we receive further Government and/or UK Health Security Agency advice to the contrary.

We will, as I am sure that you can appreciate, need to put in some additional measures in order to minimise and manage the risk of infection spreading. To this end we will be operating a ticketing system for the Carol Performances and Nativity taking place in school next week and so only one family member from each child performing will be able to attend the event. Parents and carers will also be asked to wear masks when entering the building and for the duration of the performances. No parent or carer will be allowed access into school for a performance without a ticket. We also ask that parents and carers attending, to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before visiting the school.

When entering the school building, all parents/visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering unless exempt.

| Event | Date | Time |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Ks1 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Carol Performance | Monday 13 th December | 9.00 am and 2.15 pm |
| Years 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Performance | Tuesday 14 th December | 9.00 am and 2.15 pm |
| EYFS(Reception)Nativity Play | Wednesday 15 th December | 9.15 am and 1.45 pm |
| Year 1 – Year 5 Pantomime at Sutton Town Hall (Cinderella) | Wednesday 15 th December | pm |
| Christmas Disco | Wednesday 15 th December | Ks1 3.45pm – 5.00pm Ks2 5.30pm – 6.45pm |
| Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Performance | Thursday 16 th December | 9.00 am and 2.15 pm |
| Christmas Parties | Thursday 16 th December | 1.00 pm (Year 5 and Year 6 will enjoy their Christmas Party either side of their Christmas Carol Performance). |
| School closes for the Christmas Holidays | Friday 17 th December | 1.00 pm |
| Teacher Training Day – School is closed to all pupils | Tuesday 4 th January | All Day |
| Spring Term begins for all pupils | Wednesday 5 th January | 8.50 am |

Christmas Parties

Please ensure that the food/goodies that your child brings in for their Christmas Party on Thursday afternoon is pre-packaged and nut free. School will provide pop for the children.

Children may wear their home clothes on Party Day.

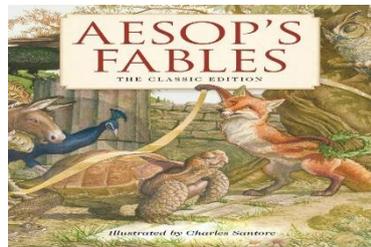
Reading Inspirations

This week's recommendation comes from Miss Caven, who is a Teaching Assistant in Year 2.

My favourite childhood book is Aesop's Fables by Aesop. It is a collection of short stories that all have a moral.

A popular fable that most people know, and one of my favourites is The Tortoise and the Hare. The hare assumes that if he races against the tortoise he will win easily. He is so confident that he takes a nap during the race. The tortoise plods along at his own pace, passes the sleeping hare and wins the race.

The moral of the story is slow and steady wins the race. Never give up, keep going at your own pace and you will reach your goal!



I wish you a happy, safe and peaceful weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J Cusack

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Cusack'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Head Teacher