



DISHFORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Grange Close, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 3LN  
Telephone: 01845 577206  
Head Teacher: Mrs J Lyon



### **Newsletter 14 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Dear Parents / Carers

I can't quite believe we are at the end of the autumn term and break-up on Friday. I hope your preparations are well under way for the festive season and on behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish you all a very peaceful Merry Christmas.

We break up on Friday afternoon at a slightly earlier time. EYFS and Class 3 will finish at 2.20pm and Class 1 and 2 will finish at 2.30pm. As with the current system, siblings can be picked up at the earlier time. We will look forward to seeing the children on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January when school opens for the spring term.

Please can I also draw your attention to the paragraph about COVID and the document that has been sent out with this newsletter outlining what you need to do if your child/ren develop symptoms and has a positive test result during the first few days of the holidays – thank you.

#### **Class News**

Every week the classes will share the highlights of what they have been learning about with our families:

**EYFS** – This week in EYFS we have been putting together the finishing touches ready for videoing our Nativity play – we hope you will enjoy our production! We have also been learning about four-sided shapes and trying to use mathematical words to describe the difference between squares and rectangles. We have learned why putting on a Nativity play is important to Christians.

**Class 1** – This week in Class 1, we have been busy filming our Nativity to be shared with families. We have continued our learning on subtraction and have enjoyed making our Christmas cards.

**Class 2** – This week we have had a great time in Class 2! On Tuesday we took part in an archery competition in school which was run by Sporting Start. In English, we have been writing our own stories based on 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. Our Topic work has been Design and Technology focused and we have been designing our own wooden Christmas Eve boxes which we will make and decorate next week.

**Class 3** – This week Mrs Chester made our classroom into a museum of railway artefacts. We explored these with interest and recorded our work using Google Classroom. We have also carried

out a series of practical experiments to investigate forces, including testing our parachutes. We have written a story, based on our book, finished our electrical devices and printed Christmas cards.

### **School Council – charity for school to support**

A huge thank you on behalf of the School Council for all your support in donating items for Thirsk Community Works. The donations will be taken to Thirsk later this week.



### **Sporting Events**

On Tuesday 8th December KS2 took part in an Archery competition. As is the case in these times, we had to take part within school with our results going forward to an overall cluster competition. Each class took part in 3 challenges. An accuracy challenge; where the children had to make sure their arrows remained as straight as possible, a distance challenge; where they had to see how far they could fire an arrow and a target challenge; where they had to aim the arrows at a target and accumulate points. We had a great (if very cold) morning. Congratulations to Class 2 who came in second place in the whole cluster and took the silver medal.

Thank you again to Sporting Start who continue to provide us with opportunities for competitive sport throughout these strange times.



## **Christmas Events 2020**

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Thank you to everyone who took part in Christmas Jumper Day last Friday – it was a sight to behold with all the colourful festive jumpers! We managed to raise £97.



### **Christmas Cards**

Tomorrow is the last day children can bring in Christmas Cards for delivery in school.

### **Nativity Plays**

There are two Nativity plays this year, one by EYFS called 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity' and Class 1 are presenting the Nativity through the story of 'The Very Hopeless Camel'.

Both Nativity plays are being filmed and a link will be sent to families this week with a password so that you can watch them!

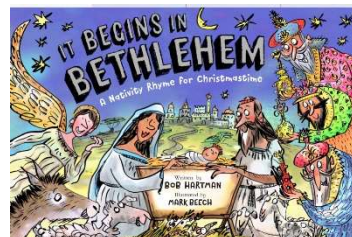
## School Christingle



We had a beautiful Christingle Service this afternoon on the playground with the whole school together singing carols and thinking about the importance of each part of the Christingle.

## Open the Book

All the children in school are bringing home a book today which is a gift from the Open the Book volunteers and from Grace Church, Boroughbridge. As the team have been unable to present bible stories this year, they wanted to give each child a gift and have given them all a lovely little booklet called 'It begins in Bethlehem'.



## Virtual Pantomime

The children will enjoy a virtual pantomime this week with the date and time to be decided by the class teachers. Older children will watch 'Best Christmas Ever!' and the youngest children will see a pantomime of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

## Christmas School Dinner



**School Dinner Special Events: Christmas Lunch – this needed to be ordered in advance and the deadline has passed.**

We will be having Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## Christmas Party afternoon – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

On Thursday, the children will have their Christmas Party in class bubbles. Please can children come to school wearing their uniform and bring their party clothes in a named bag to change into after lunchtime. As in previous years, we are asking for a donation of £1 towards the party food. This can be made through ParentPay. Thank you.



## Break-up for Christmas – staggered finish – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, school closes early for Christmas. In line with current guidance this will need to be a staggered finish therefore EYFS and Class 3 will finish at 2.20pm and Class 1 and 2 will finish at 2.30pm. As with the current system, siblings can be picked up at the earlier time.

### **DfE Information regarding COVID over the Christmas Holidays**

The DfE recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- › For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- › Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

### **Emergency Procedure for School Closure – weather related / loss of utilities**

It is rare, however there are occasions where it has been necessary to close schools because of inclement weather, no electricity or because of lack of heating, so I would like to bring to your attention the procedures I will follow if this event occurs now that we are heading towards winter:

- A notice will be posted on the school Facebook page
- An email will be sent to all families
- County Hall will be informed.

Hopefully, this will not happen but I feel it is better to be prepared.

**Please always assume school is open unless you hear via any of the above methods. Please do not phone the school to ask if we are open as we may need to keep the line clear in order to contact staff. Please check on the school Facebook page and check emails.**

**Learning would be sent home via the class email system.**

## Friends of Dishforth School – upcoming events

### SELF PORTRAIT SCHOOL TEA TOWEL

These are a lovely keepsake or gift for Christmas!

We are delighted to say the Tea Towels have arrived, they feature all our children and staff's faces drawn by the children. It is a large Tea Towel on natural material and cost £4 each.

If you have already ordered your Tea Towels with Friends of School then they have been reserved for you but still require payment via ParentPay. We believe these are going to sell out, so please complete your ParentPay purchase as soon as possible.

This week at school pick up times on Wednesday and Thursday, there will be a table at the front of school where the paid for Tea Towels can be collected from. Please note this is collection only – no payments can be made in cash, only via ParentPay. If you need the Tea Towels earlier please just let Mrs Lynch or the office know and we can sort that for you.

A huge thank you to Mrs Lynch for co-ordinating this!

### VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR 2020

Hopefully, you will have already seen on our Facebook page. Following government guidance and for the safety of all we are disappointed to confirm we will not be having our School Christmas Fair physically in school this year.

However, due to the popularity of our lovely fair we did not want to cancel altogether. We will be having our Christmas Fair virtually! The Fair will be a group event on Facebook which will continue until 20<sup>th</sup> December.



We will be supporting small businesses as they provide you with pictures and details of all the wonderful Christmas gifts that you can buy to be delivered to your door or collected if you prefer!

How can you help? Please share our virtual fair on your own social media, inviting friends along.

We would be delighted if you have a small business yourself to become a virtual stallholder with us. The cost is £5 which includes a post a day along with as many pictures you would like to keep in the albums that we will dedicate to stall holders.

Please contact us on our Friends of School Facebook messenger or Friends of Dishforth School at [friendsofdishforthschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdishforthschool@gmail.com).

Funds raised from our Virtual Fair will be put towards enriching the facilities available for the children and teaching staff. **There are 45 stalls and anyone can start shopping now!**

Here is the link to join our Virtual Fair which will continue until 20<sup>th</sup> December - [Friends of School Virtual Christmas Fair](#)

## **Celebration Assembly**

On Friday afternoon, we have our Celebration Assembly. This week the following children were given our weekly ribbons;



### **Ribbons**

**EYFS** – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been doing some super writing, using her phonic knowledge and presenting it beautifully. Well done, Polly!

**Class 1** – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has enthusiasm in our free writing lessons and he has written some great stories. Well done, Harry!

**Class 2** – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has written a wonderful story opening and they always offer their help around the classroom. Well done, Lily A!

**Class 3** – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has mature, entertaining story writing and they always take care to present their work neatly. Well done, Chloe!

Kind regards

J M Lyon

Head Teacher

## Diary Dates

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>December</b> |  |
| <b>14/12/20</b> | School Christingle   |
| <b>16/12/20</b> | Christmas School Dinner  |
| <b>17/12/20</b> | Christmas Parties  |
| <b>18/12/20</b> | Break-up for Christmas.<br>Staggered finish: EYFS and Class 3 finish at 2.20pm<br>Class 1 and 2 finish at 2.30pm |
| <b>January</b>  |  |
| <b>4/1/21</b>   | Training Day for staff   |
| <b>5/1/21</b>   | School open for the spring term  |
| <b>13/1/21</b>  | No after school childcare club due to staff training in Safeguarding   |
| <b>26/1/21</b>  | Skip 2 be fit day  |
| <b>February</b> |  |
| <b>12/2/21</b>  | Break-up half term   |

I will be in each school every day as follows:

| Day       | Monday                      | Tuesday                     | Wednesday                   | Thursday                    | Friday                      |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Morning   | Dishforth<br>Airfield       | Dishforth C of E<br>Primary | Dishforth<br>Airfield       | Dishforth C of E<br>Primary | Dishforth<br>Airfield       |
| Afternoon | Dishforth C of E<br>Primary | Dishforth<br>Airfield       | Dishforth C of E<br>Primary | Dishforth<br>Airfield       | Dishforth C of E<br>Primary |