



Dear Parents,

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

It's December already and the elves have clearly been very busy this week. We may be in a pandemic but it's not going to stop the children getting excited about Christmas.

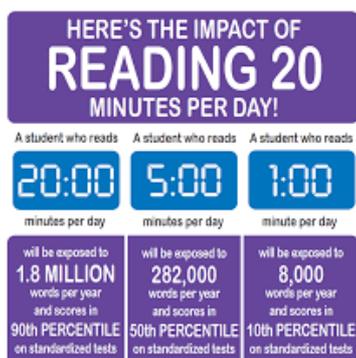
At school we are trying, as much as possible, to keep our Christmas traditions going. You will have noticed that we are starting to put some Christmas artwork on the front fence, to share with our local community. Hopefully they will make people smile as they walk or drive past. The Angel Gabriel has been created by Pre-School and was the first to be installed.

The dates for the rest of the term, at the end of this newsletter, will help you to keep track on what is happening. Please read on to learn about the other plans we have for the last 2 weeks of this term.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Kay Hemmings

Head Teacher



## Reading

Reading is such an important skill and habit to develop which allows children to access books for pleasure as well as supporting the whole curriculum. Across the school, we encourage parents to hear their child read and complete their reading comments in the organiser. Thank you for doing this. In the Upper School, teachers emphasise that children should be reading for 20 minutes a day and completing their Accelerated Reader quizzes. If, as occasionally happens, parents forget to fill in the reading comments, teachers will look at their weekly reading minutes on AR and make allowances where children are clearly reading a lot!

## Numeracy guidance for parents of children in Reception

If you've not had chance to look yet, this guidance for parents is on the website. Go to the 'Key Information' tab at the top of the home page on the website, click on Early Years and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. You'll find it there.



## Internet Safety

You need to be vigilant at all times with regard to children's safe use of the internet. Please make sure you know what websites your children are accessing and when they use the internet, to do this in a public area at home, not tucked away in their bedroom. For further advice please go to <https://www.internetmatters.org/> and <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

## Messages

If at all possible, if you have a message for your child's teacher or the main office, rather than coming to the main entrance can you email via the year group email, ring the main office or catch any adult on the yard at the start or end of the day. Thank you.

## New Appointments

This week we have been busy interviewing for the post of Clerical Assistant and Breakfast Club Assistant. I am very pleased to inform you that Mrs Hole will take up the position of Clerical Assistant and Breakfast Club Assistant. We look forward to welcoming her in January.

## And so to our Christmas plans...

### Theatre Visits

I am pleased to say that our Big Foot Arts Theatre production for Pre-School and Reception can still take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10 a.m. We've also looked into how the Bumblebees could attend so that they do not miss out. If parents of Bumblebee children would like them to attend this, please come to the usual gates for 9:45 a.m. that morning. Staff will open the gates to collect your children. We'd then ask you to return at 11 a.m. to collect them. Don't worry if you can't do this, but if you can and you'd like your child to take part in this, please bring them along.

We would usually have been taking all the other year groups from Y1 to Y6 to the Northern Stage to see their production. This year, they are bringing it to us. They have offered us a free screening of their production 'The Emperor's New Clothes' so all children will have the opportunity to watch that on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December along with their traditional Freddo treat. 😊



### Santa's Visit

We still remain hopeful that Santa Claus will have time to fit us into his busy schedule. We know he'll have to socially distance as the rules apply to him too, but he does intend to call in on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. He always comes to see the children in the Lower School. If the Ladybirds from Pre-School would like to come to meet him they can come to school that morning - arriving between 9 and 9:10. If Ladybird parents could line up with their child under the covered walkway at the entrance to the lower school at this time, then the children will be taken through to meet with Santa Claus first. Parents can just wait under the walkway to take them home once the children have spoken to Santa Claus. Thank you.

### Christmas Cards

If your child is wanting to share Christmas cards with friends in their bubble these should all be given to the teacher by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December so we can ensure that they are all given out before the end of term. Thank you.

**Don't forget, we are not going to let children give cards beyond their bubble.**



### Nativities and Carol Service



I think you have some exciting viewing to look forward to over the Christmas period. The children have been busy rehearsing and we are just about at the recording stage (although Y1 have already done theirs!). Once the performances have been uploaded to our school YouTube channel - Tanfield Lea Primary - we'll send you an email and then it's over to you to be entertained by the children this Christmas - we've performances from Early Years, Y1, Y2 and the Upper School Carol Service. Plenty to enjoy.

## Extra Measures of safety in the last week of term

I am very conscious that as school is working up until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, if we were to have a child or member of staff test positive during the last week of term it would have an impact on family plans over the holiday period. We have made significant changes to our daily routines to reduce possible transmission but are also mindful that we want to keep things as normal as possible for the children. It will be party week in the last week of term and we have decided, to reduce possible contact even further, we will have class parties rather than bubble parties. This will apply to all classes except Pre-School and Reception. Due to the nature of their educational set up the children in these year groups mix all the time anyway (they are not in separate classrooms) so they can still have their bubble party. We are also going to encourage children from Y1 to Y6 to only play with children in their own classes during that last week (which is easier for Y3-6 than the lower school). This would hopefully mean that, if someone was to test positive having been in school, it should only be their class and anyone they have had direct contact with who would have to isolate. I hope you understand the logic of this. The children will enjoy the activities planned but will do so within their own class, rather than bubble, for the last week as much as is possible. Please see below for dates for the parties.

On the day of their party we'd like the children to come to school in their party clothes. We'll try to keep them off the grass at break times and lunchtimes so they don't spoil their clothes before their party!

<b>Dates for the rest of this term</b>	
Tuesday 8th Dec	5M Multi Skills Festival
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Christmas Dinner for those children who stay for dinner</b> <b>ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other festive clothing.</b>
Friday 11th Dec	Y1 Hockey Competition Y2 Hockey Competition Anti-Bullying Champions' Meeting via Teams with Brandon and Langley Moor
Monday 14th Dec	<b>Reception Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes <b>Class 3M and Class 3D Party</b> –Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Santa hoping to visit children in Lower School a.m. - if he can fit us into his busy schedule. The Pre School Ladybirds are invited to join us from 9:15 until 10:15 <b>Class 1Mc and Class 1D Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes <b>Class 4E and Class 4R Party</b> - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Pre- School Party</b> – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes <b>Class 5M Party</b> Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Big Foot Theatre Production for Pre-School and Reception in school this morning <b>'The Greediest Christmas Elf'</b> – from 10 a.m. in our Lower School Hall <b>Class 2B and Class 2W Party</b> – Lower School Hall p.m. <b>Class 6P and Class 56T Party</b> – Upper School Hall p.m.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Last day of the autumn term</b> – viewing of The Emperor's New Clothes for Y1 – Y6
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>
<b>Spring 2021</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Back to School</b>

