

Dear Parents and Carers,

November 2021

With December just round the corner I thought it was the right time to write to you to explain our plans for the Christmas celebrations.

We have a lot of enjoyable activities planned and hope that we will be able to carry these all out. Please read on to find out more.



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

Christmas Performances



Lower School

This year we are planning to invite parents (one adult per child) to attend the Lower School celebrations. We are able to consider doing this because we are doing separate year group performances. This will limit the number of parents in the hall at one time. We will ask that all parents also wear a mask whilst indoors.

However, if the situation changes and there is a surge in transmission we may have to cancel these plans. I hope you understand this and will bear with us. We want you to be able to come in and enjoy a live performance but will only do this if we feel it is safe to do so.

For all performances only one adult per child will be able to attend and we request that all adults wear a mask whilst indoors watching the performance.

We will record one of our dress rehearsals of the performance so that we can share this with all parents on YouTube. If we do not have photographic permission for your child, then they will not be involved in this unless you inform us otherwise.

Pre-School

A letter has already been emailed to parents of children in Pre-School explaining about the Stay and Play sessions on Wednesday 8th December. Please make sure you respond to this by Friday 26th November.



Reception

The Reception children will be doing a short Christmas performance on Tuesday 7th December at 2:15 p.m. We'll ask parents to enter the school via the usual entrance gate. We will open the gates at 2:05 p.m. The performance will finish before the end of the school day so we hope parents will just have a short wait before being able to collect their child as usual.

Y1 and Y2 are doing a joint performance but Y1 parents are invited to the morning performance and Y2 parents are invited to the afternoon one. Again – only one adult per child.

Y1

The Y1 parents are invited in on the morning of Monday 6th December. We aim to start at 9:15, once the children are in, changed and ready. Parents should see their child into school in the normal way and then come round and enter the Lower School Hall via the doorway near the hall. Once the performance has finished parents will be able to leave by the top gate, as usual.



Y2

The Y2 parents are invited in on the afternoon of Monday 6th December. We aim to start at 2:15. We'll ask parents to enter the school via the usual entrance gate. We will open the gates at 2:05 p.m.



Upper School Carol Service

The Upper School children (Y3 to Y6) will attend their Carol Service at St. Margaret's Church on Friday 17th December.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite parents to this as there is not enough room in the church. We will record the service so that parents can enjoy watching this later. The service will be held during the morning. All children will walk down to church for the service and will then walk back before lunch.



Theatre Visits

Children from Y1 to Y6 will be visiting the Northern Stage on Thursday 16th December to see their performance of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice'. You may remember we were booked for this last year but the performance was not able to take place.

Thank you if you have already paid a voluntary contribution towards this cost. If you have not been able to do this yet, please do so as soon as possible. We have asked for a voluntary contribution of £12. The school (through school fund and fund raising) will fund the buses, along with a contribution from the Friends of Tanfield which we are very grateful for.

Meanwhile back in school the Early Years children will enjoy a production of 'The Greediest Christmas Elf' performed by a travelling company. Again, this will be paid for using our school fund so thank you for your support with this.



Christmas Parties

The children will once again enjoy a traditional Christmas Party. The dates for these are in the table at the end of this newsletter. On your child's party day, they should come to school dressed in their party gear. On Wednesday 8th December we are also encouraging children to come in wearing something Christmassy – this can be a jumper or anything else they consider to be festive.

Now on to other news and information ...

Teacher Training Day update

Last week your children did not attend school for 2 days due to our teacher training days. These are used for professional development – time spent to further develop our practice, directly benefiting the children. The focus was our school curriculum. On the Thursday we invited a colleague in from the Local Authority to lead the day exploring the role of the Subject Leader, considering how our curriculum meets the needs of our children in our curriculum and how we can articulate and evidence that to any visitors who may come in to school. On Friday we did a GDPR update (General Data Protection Regulation) and then looked at the curriculum experiences the children get across the school, ensuring that these are progressive, developing their skills and increasing their knowledge. We also had two members of staff carrying out the first part of their paediatric first aid training. Both days were very productive.

Staffing

Mrs Bell, our Parent Support Advisor, is no longer employed by us. She is now working full time at another school. I know those of you who have worked with her in the past will have appreciated that support and advice she has given. We wish her well as she takes up a full time post in one school.

We will not be replacing her. Mr Mansfield is available to offer advice to parents or signpost to other agencies if necessary.



Parking

We appreciate that parking can be difficult outside of school and we continue to encourage parents to walk to school if this is possible. If not, could you please continue to ensure that you park considerately.

Please don't park on the double yellow lines and if you are parking in the housing estate opposite, please be mindful of the residents and don't block their driveways. Thank you.

Current Assessment Information

If your child is in Y1 through to Y6 you will receive an update on their current assessment information. For those children who are in Upper School you will have received this information termly prior to the first lockdown. We are now in a position to start sharing this again as we have been able to have some consistency in assessments. Please watch out for this.

Photographic Consent

In line with advice from the General Data Protection Regulation guidelines we have been recommended to update our Photographic Consent Form. You will have been sent that with this newsletter and a paper copy will have been sent home with your child.

Could you please complete and return to school as soon as possible. You can either complete it on the document we have sent and return that to school via email to tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net or return the paper copy to school as soon as possible but no later than Friday 3rd December. Thank you. As it will take some time to collate all this information, we will continue to use the current photographic permission that we have until the start of the new year in January. Thank you.



Catch Up – Extended Day on a Wednesday

Wednesday 8th December will be our last extended day. Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with this. I know that many of you said you could see the benefit of this when you completed our Parent Questionnaire in April. We feel that it has had benefit for the children both in Maths and English and we could not have done this without your support. Unfortunately, the funding has run out but we feel we have made good use of it to help to narrow some of the gaps caused by the lockdowns.

From Wednesday 15th December onwards the children will return to their usual end of school day.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Finally, it was excellent having four parents who put themselves forward for the post of Parent Governor. We really do appreciate that. Thanks to all who voted. Mrs McElrue is the successful candidate and will take up her post once all the necessary paperwork has been completed.

Dates until the end of term	
Week Beg 29 th Nov	Assessment Information to be shared with parents this week (Rec to Y6)
Monday 29 th Nov	Mini Medics to visit Y2 this afternoon
Tuesday 30 th Nov	Football Matches after school for boys' football team
Start of December	Parents of children starting Pre-School in January to be invited to come for a visit
Friday 3 rd December	Non School Uniform Day – please send in a donation for school fund, one per family
We still hope to be able to welcome one parent per child in to school to see the Christmas performances in the Lower School (as per this newsletter) We will also record the dress rehearsal and share this with all parents via our YouTube Channel.	
Monday 6 th December	Y1 Christmas Performance a.m. Performance to start as soon as children ready – approx. 9:15 Y2 Christmas Performance p.m. (Gates open 2:05. Performance starts 2:15)
Tuesday 7 th December	Y5 Multi Skills Festival Christmas Performance by Reception p.m. (Gates open 2:05. Performance starts 2:15)
Tuesday 7 th December	Football Matches after school for boys' football team
Wednesday 8 th Dec	Pre-School Christmas Activities (each child to invite a parent) a.m. Bumblebees and Caterpillars Pre-School Christmas Activities (each child to invite a parent) p.m. Ladybirds and Caterpillars Christmas Dinner ALL CHILDREN TO COME DRESSED IN THEIR CHRISTMAS JUMPER TODAY or other Christmas clothing.
Wednesday 8 th Dec	LAST CATCH UP SESSION FOR ALL CHILDREN. From next week the children will finish at the normal time at the end of the day.
Friday 10 th Dec	Y1 and Y2 Hockey Competition and ABCs meeting
Monday 13 th December	Reception and Y1 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y3 Party – Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Tuesday 14 th 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 until 10 Y2 Party – Lower School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes Y5 Party - Upper School Hall p.m. – come to school in party clothes
Wednesday 15 th Dec	Pre- School Party – a.m. and p.m. Lower School Hall – come to school in party clothes Y4 Party Upper School Hall p.m. - come to school in party clothes
Thursday 16 th Dec Theatre Day	Y1 to Y6 booked for a visit to the Northern Stage to see 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' Early Years to see a performance of 'The Greediest Christmas Elf' at school
Friday 17 th Dec	Carol Service for Upper School children only, in the church Y6 Party Upper School Hall p.m. – bring party clothes to school
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Monday 20th December until Monday 3rd January
Spring 2022	
Wednesday 5 th Jan	Back to School (Don't forget – this is different from the original date we gave you. This is the extra bank holiday date for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.)

