



Hambrook Primary School

Newsletter

Whole school. Whole child. Whole hearted.

Message from the Acting Head Teacher

We are soon reaching the end of Term 2 and, although we have had to do things differently this year, we have already been getting into the Christmas spirit! The children enjoyed their Christmas lunch this week and EYFS and KS1 have been practising their Christmas performance that we will be sharing with parents at the end of the term. We recently sent out a poster of the Christmas activities at Hambrook and I have included the upcoming event reminders on the next page.

I would like to once again thank everybody for following the measures we have put in place to help keep the school community safe. Staff have also done an amazing job at keeping the class bubbles separate and doing extra cleaning around school to help protect everyone. We have been very impressed and proud of all the children who are following all of the measures in place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the support and kind messages we have received from parents. It has been lovely to have all the children back in school and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing what the children have all been learning about over the past two terms. A highlight of my day is seeing the children come into school in the mornings and having the opportunity to greet them all at the gate.

As you know, several children have accessed our remote learning this term. I have been thoroughly impressed with our children in Year 1 and Year 5 as well as the children who have had to self-isolate at some point over the past few months. They have put in an amazing effort with their remote learning and should feel very proud. We appreciate learning from home comes with its challenges but the resilience shown by the children has been brilliant.

On behalf of all the staff at Hambrook, we would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. We hope you all have a relaxing Christmas break and stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 5th January. 😊

Staffing:

As shared with you in a previous email, Miss Dover, our Year 4 teacher, will be leaving Hambrook at the end of this term to begin her new role. Miss Dover has been a brilliant teacher in the Hambrook Team and wish her all the best at her new school. Mrs Golland, our teaching assistant currently in the Year 4 class, will also be leaving Hambrook next week (Tuesday 15th) – she has been a fantastic teaching assistant and we are very sorry to see her go. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Miss Dover and Mrs Golland for all their dedication and hard work over the years – they will be greatly missed by us all.

I am delighted to announce that we have now appointed Miss Kemp who will be teaching Year 4 after Christmas. Miss Kemp will be visiting the Year 4 class on Wednesday to spend some time getting to know them. She has provided a 'Get to know the teacher' poster which I have attached to the Newsletter email and has also provided the following message to share with you all:

Dear Children and Parents,

My name is Miss Kemp and I'm really excited to share that I will be teaching in Year 4 after Christmas. I have been working in KS2 the last few years and most recently taught in a Year 4 class so have lots of experience working in this year group. I love teaching maths and exploring outside so can't wait to begin our new topic all about Going Green! During lockdown one of my favourite things to do has been reading, so I'll be sharing some of my favourite books I've read with my new class. I play hockey for my local team and also take part in a weekly quiz - my specialist subject is Harry Potter which sometimes comes up... I hope you have a brilliant holiday and I'm looking forward to meeting you all properly when we return after Christmas.



Upcoming Dates for the Diary:

- Thursday 17th December – Christmas Parties
- Friday 18th December – PTA Christmas Jumper Day and end of Term 2
 - Monday 4th January – INSET day
 - Tuesday 5th January – Term 3 starts

Christmas Events Still to Come...



- A reminder that our EYFS and KS1 children are taking part in a Christmas performance which will be shared with parents via the Google Drive. You will receive an email when the video has been uploaded. KS2 children will also be producing a Christmas video to share their festive activities and celebrations with parents.
- The children will be taking part in Christmas crafts next week and we look forward to sharing each class' wonderful creations via our [Twitter](#) page.
- A reminder that the final day to bring in Christmas cards is Tuesday 15th December to allow for a quarantine period before they are handed out.
- Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 17th in the afternoon. The children will enjoy some traditional Christmas treats such as yule log and mince pies. These have been kindly funded by the PTA. Unfortunately, Father Christmas himself will not be able to visit school this year but it won't stop him from delivering the class Christmas present ready for the Christmas party afternoon! The children are welcome to wear Christmas accessories such as hats, headbands, tinsel etc.
- PTA Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 18th December. Those who wish to participate should come dressed in their favourite Christmas jumper and bring a £1 donation.
- Don't forget to check out the PTA's virtual Christmas fayre which you can access via the Friends of Hambrook Primary School Facebook page.

HELP FOR FAMILIES IN FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

If your child is eligible for income-based Free School Meals (not the free meals that all infants receive), you will receive a voucher for £30 to help you over the Christmas period. This is a scheme organised with the local authority, and you will receive the vouchers before the end of term. These vouchers can be used in several different supermarkets.

If your child is not currently eligible for income-based Free School Meals, but you feel they may be eligible for them, please see the criteria on the [government website](#).

In addition to this, the local churches have given us a generous amount of money to help any families who have been affected by Covid. If you feel that your family had been significantly affected and you are experiencing financial hardship at the moment, please email the school office and then I will contact you to discuss in confidence how we can help you. This could be, for instance, funding your child's school meals for the next term, providing school uniform, helping with unexpected expenditure or heating bills, extra supermarket vouchers or whatever will help you provide for your family over Christmas. Let us know by Wednesday 16th December how we could help your family over the Christmas period. Alternatively, if you contact us after this date, we can still offer support after the Christmas period but this will be organised following the Christmas break.

This will be confidential; we don't have to report to the churches who has received the money.

How fantastic to have so many people in our local area willing and able to contribute to make sure that local families have a happy Christmas!



COVID-19 Update

Self-isolation Period

The Covid self-isolation period will be cut from 14 days to **10 days from Monday 14 December**. Anyone currently isolating will need to review their timeline for self-isolation. The isolation period now ends 4 days earlier.

Self-isolation periods will begin on the day after exposure, a test or the start of symptoms.

What do I do if my child tests positive in the Christmas holiday?

Our Local Authority have provided a flyer that I have attached in the Newsletter email. This explains how you can report Covid incidents over the Christmas holiday period and has been provided to take the pressure off school leaders over the holidays. Please see below as well as the attached Covid-19 parents' guide for further information.

Date	Who to inform	What information to provide
Saturday 19 December to Sunday 3 January* <small>(*excluding Christmas and new year bank holiday weekends – see below)</small>	Email the Early Years-Schools Covid-19 Incident Mailbox: ey-schoolscovidincidents@southglos.gov.uk REMEMBER: Your whole household needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the start of symptoms/ booking a test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name of the school / setting• The year group and class your child is in• When your child's symptoms started• When they were tested• When they were last in school We will reply to your email with any additional advice. We will contact the school if necessary to let them know, and advise on any actions they will need to take.
*Friday 25–29 December or Friday 1–3 January	Please note there will be no response to your email on these days.	

Please **also email the school office** with this information but be aware that you may not receive a reply so the **schools Covid email** must be used in addition to this.

