



Longhoughton C of E Primary School
December 2020
Newsletter

Wow - who can believe that we are now in December and the season of Advent is upon us.

Thank you to the RAF for organising activity packs for Road Safety Week and well done to all the children who took part in the Road Safety Competition. The standard of entries was so good that the RAF awarded more prizes.

Fundraising

Harvest Collection for Self Help Africa raised £151.50

The British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £149.62

Children in Need raised £166.95

Thank you so much for all your donations.



Thank you also for all the Operation Santa Paws competition entries and donations for the RSPCA. Constable Peter Baker has collected all the entries and donations so now we need to wait and see if anyone from our school wins a prize.



Ollee - Parent Zone - a virtual friend

ParentZone/BBC Children in Need have created a new resource.

Meet Ollee, a virtual friend developed by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

Aimed at 8-11 year olds and their parents, Ollee helps families talk about difficult topics.

Find out more about Ollee via the links below – and **try it out here**.

Information can also be found on the school website

[http://www.longhoughton.northumberland.sch.uk/website/ollee - parent zone - a virtual friend/524019](http://www.longhoughton.northumberland.sch.uk/website/ollee_-_parent_zone_-_a_virtual_friend/524019)

Christmas

As everyone will be aware by now Christmas is going to be a little different this year. In school we are trying to keep as much as we can as normal even if we have to do things in a slightly different way.

The Christmas tree is up in the hall – thank you to Homebase and Mrs Rowntree for supplying us with a real tree this year.

Emily McDonough and the PFA have already organised the Pop Up Shop and Raffle.



We also held a virtual Advent Service in school on Tuesday 1st December.

Christmas Cards

As you know we are working extremely hard to stay COVID safe and have robust systems in place where reading books, reading records and homework are quarantined before going back into circulation. We are therefore asking that children **do not bring** cards into school to distribute to

friends. If they would like to they can send one card to their class and this will be displayed in their class bubble.

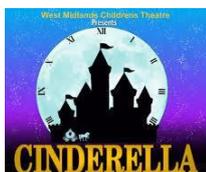
This will also support our work as a biodiversity school that thinks about our effects on the planet.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16th December

Mrs Hinson and Miss Dodds will be serving Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 16th December**. The children will have their Christmas lunch within their bubbles and there is no need to pre order. If your child has a special dietary need that is already known to the kitchen, please let the office know if they want a Christmas Lunch. The cost will be £2.20 for Key Stage 2 children.



The children can also wear their own clothes on this day as we will not be able to go to the RAF Base for the annual Christmas party this year.



Instead of the RAF Christmas party the children will be doing Christmas activities in school and we have organised for the children to watch a **virtual pantomime performance** of Cinderella by West Midlands Children's Theatre

Christmas Performances

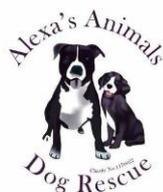
Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to perform a school performance this year as we cannot bring bubbles together and we cannot invite parents into school to watch. However each class is going to record a Christmas song that will be recorded and shared with parents. The children are currently practising their class song and we will hopefully be ready to record next week. We will then let you know how the videos can be accessed during the final week of term.



Friday 20th December - Dress Down Friday for Alexa's Animals and the RSPCA

As it is the end of another half term the children will be able to wear their own clothes to school (they might want to wear something Christmassy this time) in exchange for bringing something in for an animal welfare foodbank. We would normally ask for donations to the Alnwick Food Bank but they have been in touch and they have been overwhelmed with donations recently so have asked that we do not collect again at this time. We have decided to carry on the work we started through Operation Santa Paws and support Alexa's Animals in Alnwick and the RSPCA. Alexa's Animals would appreciate dog toys/tennis balls, unsweetened peanut butter or fleece type blankets. The RSPCA look

after a variety of animals so pet food, toys or treats would be welcomed. Remember **one packet or can of food is all it needs**.



Finally, some parents have been asking if the children can still bring presents in for the staff. Whilst this is always really appreciated we do not expect families to do this and realise that this is an expensive time of year. However, if you would like to donate more to Alexa's Animals or the RSPCA, that would be appreciated just as much.

Friday 18th December – School closes, 3:15pm.

Monday 4th January 2021 – School re-opens

This newsletter can also be read on the school website –

www.longhoughton.northumberland.sch.uk – through the 'News & Events' link on the Home page