

Otterham C P School

Headteacher : Helen Ward
Email: secretary@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk
Tel. 01840 261344
www.otterhamschool.co.uk



Marshgate
Camelford
Cornwall
PL32 9YW

Dear Parents

December 2020

Well, here we are with just a couple of days to go until we break up for the Christmas festivities, whatever that might mean for us this year. Here at Otterham we are accepting the fact that we have made it thus far, COVID free, as a Christmas miracle all of its own and are extremely grateful for it. Actually, the absence of COVID within the school is a direct result of cautious parental behaviours out in the wider community. Thank you – it has meant teaching and learning has been uninterrupted for the duration of the term, which is of huge benefit to the children. On that note, and far be it for me to dictate how you should go about your festive celebrations, but the behaviours of everyone within our school community will set the tone, COVID wise, for the start of the Spring Term. For staff here, our priority is to keep ourselves safe so that we can be here, raring to go in January and beyond. We very much hope that your priorities are of a similar ilk.

The run up to Christmas has been far from normal and whilst this is tinged with sadness, there is definitely a feeling of staff and pupils having a little more energy than they would usually have and a healthier and calmer ending to an epic term. In terms of wellbeing, there may be a benefit to a COVID Christmas. However, exciting activities have been taking place throughout the school with the latest addition (not on the diary dates), a showing of a film adaptation of the Mousehole Cat, performed by the Theatre Company, Cousin Jack's, taking place on the last day. Rather than popping a few of the photos taken during the past couple of weeks on this newsletter, teachers have been/will be updating their class pages on the school website so please do take a look.

I would like to say a big thank you to our Friends and also to you the parents for the support you have shown towards the raffle and the Bag2School. £183 was raised through the Bag2School collection and £346 through the raffle. As the Friends continue to support the school through donations towards resources and activities, these funds are much needed and appreciated.

Over the first few days of the Christmas holidays, it is my responsibility to inform the school community of any positive COVID tests that may appear, and so the following information from Public Health England is very important.

- If your child develops COVID symptoms **within 48 hours** of leaving school on Friday afternoon, you must contact me via head@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk and a test should be taken as soon as possible.
- If there is such a case, I will contact the rest of the class bubble to notify parents/staff as a precaution and then again once the result of the test has been received. The individual will remain anonymous.
- If the test result is positive then unfortunately, the rest of the class bubble will need to isolate for 14 days and if symptoms develop, get a test.

Having made it thus far without the need for any isolating, I am hoping we can continue this run into the holidays but for the safety of our immediate and potentially wider family groups, it is vital that the above advice is adhered to.

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and get to spend some quality time together, maybe even with some friends and family, albeit at a distance, with the windows open and an abundance of hand sanitiser 😊.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it arrives – surely to be an improvement on 2020!

Kindest regards

Helen Ward



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