



PRIDE IN ALL WE DO

<http://www.primaryschoolsnorthdevon.co.uk/website>

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4th December 2020

School News

A message from Mrs. Denham

We have so enjoyed seeing week 2 of Christmas jumper week – the variety of jumpers is quite astonishing and the school is a blaze of colour! The classrooms are starting to look very festive and the children are starting to prepare for the various Christmas activities we mentioned in previous emails – including Christmas lunch with handmade place mats, Christmas swap shop, Christingle, making a special card for someone in their class and making a present to bring home. I am so grateful to all the staff for being so willing to go the extra mile for your children during such a busy and difficult time. They are just so dedicated and wonderful.

We are also so grateful to the amazing PTA for all they are doing to help make Christmas at our school so special for the children too. They have been so understanding and supportive and we can't wait to see the gorgeous school T towels when they arrive.

Don't forget the children can wear their Christmas jumpers on Christmas lunch day too!

Christmas swap shop – Monday December 14th at 9.30am. Parents may send in any small donations of presents. **Due to COVID restrictions, donations will ONLY be accepted on Thursday 10th & Friday 11th December.** A tray will be left on the doorstep of the main entrance for donations and they will be put in the back of the hall over the weekend to be isolated for 72hrs. On swap shop day, we will ensure the children will hand sanitise before and after the swap shop. They will only touch the item they choose as their present. They will put it in a **decorated white paper bag** and then take it home the same day. Parents can then isolate the item for 72 hours, in line with all present guidance.

Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays

If you are entitled to free school meals, please look out for a letter or email from Devon County Council on or after the 8th December next week, for details of how to access your vouchers or an alternative food box. On or after the 8th December you should receive a unique code per child. Each code can be used once on a website call 'Hawk Select' to redeem your voucher/s to the value of £30.00 per child (£15.00 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

If you have any questions in the meantime please visit the Devon County Council website -

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

Many parents may be entitled to claim for free school meals. This is based on the benefits you may receive

- *Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)*
- *Income Support (IS)*
- *Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA)*
- *The guaranteed element of Pension Credit*

- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*

If you are in receipt of any of these benefits, we ask you please to apply through the Devon County Council Citizens Portal https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCSCitizenPortal_live

For each child registered we receive additional funding of £1,320.00 for our school. Please see letter attached for more information.

Severe weather conditions and the closure of School

I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the procedures for the closure of the school in bad weather.

1. We will send out a message on Bratton Fleming CP School Facebook page as soon as we know the weather conditions, we will also put a message on the Bratton Fleming PTA Facebook page and we will also email you.
2. You can register with Devon County Council school closures, alert me -stay up to date. The email link is: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/> They will then alert you if the school is closed.
3. Listen to Heart Radio.
4. If you are unsure, as a last resort please telephone either Bratton Fleming school on 01598 710337. However, if we cannot get into school to man the phone please try Holywell School on 01271 345908, they may be open to assist you. We will always have staff, if possible, to answer the telephone. We will always try, wherever possible, to remain open. Alternatively, it may be safer to open school later than normal.

Individual families should assess the risk posed by their journey to school and make their own decision. Many families who live close to the school will have a different level of risk to those who have much more complex travel arrangements. Let's hope that we have a trouble-free winter!

FACEBOOK PAGE

School staff use our Bratton Fleming Facebook page as a regular way to communicate information, messages, trip, visits etc. to parents, carers and friends of Bratton Fleming school. We often share messages and photos. Please regularly check the Facebook page as we find more people check Facebook than they do the website. If we have to close for bad weather, this is a place we would announce what is happening with the school

School News

Christmas Dinner

This will be served next Wednesday 9th December. Please can you fill in the order form attached using this link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3RWFZvuneEGMNLpFLdk_cM79_WVekrBNL-VYcH8OwIZUNTZLM00xWkpYS1BPMVYxNOINTEJHM0gxSy4u by Monday. Please note the cost of a school meal is £2.30 this will need to be paid in advance on ParentPay.

ParentPay

Please may we remind parents that school meals, after school and breakfast club needs to be paid in advance. We do not allow debt to accrue.

Certificates

Congratulations to all children who received certificates in assembly today.

Spring Term Menu

The menu for the Spring Term is attached to this newsletter. Please can the parents of those children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 who would like a meal on a regular basis, complete the order form that has been given to your child today, then return to school by Friday 11th December at the latest.

Bratton Fleming School is a NO NUT Zone

Dates for your diary

9 th December 2020	Christmas Lunch
11 th December 2020	Christmas Jumper Day also then on 18 th December
18 th December 2020	Last day of Term
5 th January 2021	Spring Term begins
27 th January 2021	Bags2School
4 th December 2020	Flu Immunisation
18 th December 2020	Last day of Term
5 th January 2021	Spring Term begins
15 th February to 19 th February 2021	Half Term
1 st April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 th April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 rd May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 th May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 st May to 4 th June 2021	Half Term
23 rd July 2021	Last Day of Term

Community News

Bratton Fleming Pre-School

What a busy, Christmassy week we have all enjoyed at Pre-School! The children have been absolute Superstar Actors and Actresses, taking part in their Christmas Performance which will go out to our Pre-School parents for the end of term, we even had 2-star guest Reindeer!! When we finished filming during the week we started making some Christmas cards and baubles! We are looking forward to finishing them off and taking them home to display. We have been busy in Santa's kitchen making lots of yummy Christmassy treats, whilst others have been busy reading each other bedtime stories. Outside we have been exploring in the woodland area and dancing in the rain, some of us had races on the bikes whilst others enjoyed whizzing down the slide!

We now take children from 0-5yrs we have a lovely designated 'Bunnies' area for our under 2s, we currently have spaces for all ages.

Barnstaple Library

Book Track is the reading challenge for primary-aged children run by Libraries Unlimited through your local public library. Lots of children enjoy taking part, earning badges and stickers as a reward for reading lots of books and talking about them. Now Libraries Unlimited has received some funding, from Tesco Bags of Help, to create a brand-new reading challenge to replace Book Track. This is where you can help. Before making any changes or creating something new, Libraries Unlimited would like to find out what you think. They are interested in the views of all parents and children that are interested in books and reading.

Please follow [this link](#) to a short survey that is designed for children aged 5+ and a parent/carer to complete together. It won't take long to complete, and you could win a fantastic prize. The survey is open until Friday 11th December 2020 and all entries submitted before then will be entered into a prize draw to win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet! (T&Cs apply)

Christmas Events St. Peter's Church

Nativity Trail:

You may have already seen that a nativity trail has been put up around the village. It starts from the top church gate and involves a short walk around the village to discover the characters from the Christmas story, and asks some questions to help us 'wonder'. On Christmas Eve these figures will move to the stable outside the church. Just follow the directions around the trail, or use the 'what3words' app to help out.

Christingle Service online

This Sunday at 4pm, Martyn will lead a Christingle service via zoom. For more details and how to connect, see poster attached or email Rosie at rosieaustin@live.co.uk.

Unrehearsed Nativity Service via zoom

This is our usual 4pm Christmas Eve service, but this time we'll come together in our own homes. It'll be the usual chaos, I am sure, with a few songs and the telling of the Christmas story. You are invited to dress up as a nativity character, whatever your age. That might be a tea towel on your head, or something more creative? The links are on the posters around the village, (and attached) or via Rosie (rosieaustin@live.co.uk).

Online carol service

Sunday 20th at 6pm, for more information please see poster attached.

All information will also be on the St Peters Bratton Fleming facebook page, so please like that to keep in touch.