



# Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Academy

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Monday 16th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately, with the current restrictions and no communication from the Government linked to or what we will all be able to do and not do this Christmas, it is clear that some children may not be able to complete all of your normal family traditions this year. Many of my family's Christmas traditions have already been cancelled and I am sure mine will not be the only one that this affects. As I have always said, I feel it is our duty to ensure that Christmas, here at HINS, is as magical as we can possibly make it for the children this year. In this letter you will find information linked to a range of events that we will be completing during the month of December. It is my hope that the children have the best school Christmas experience they possibly can whilst still remaining safe.

## **Christmas starts with a bang -**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December our official Christmas celebrations will begin. On this day the children will be invited to attend school wearing a Christmas hat/head wear. During the day, each class will complete our annual festive Daily K. We started this tradition last year and the children loved it so we decided that this would be a nice way to start our festive celebrations. To mark the beginning of our Christmas celebrations the kitchen will cook a special menu - Pigs in Blankets, chips and beans with a Christmas biscuit.

## **Bedtime stories -**

Bedtime stories will continue to take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. This event will take place in classes. Children will be invited back during a staggered time slot and have a shorter story time before the children leave the class following a staggered time slot. To take part in this event, the children will be invited to attend in their pyjamas and dressing gown with the option to bring slippers to change into. All children should be dropped off at, and collected from, their own classroom. The children will sit in their normal spaces - our COVID secure safe practices will continue as they have been for the rest of the year. During the event, the children will be provided with milk and cookies while listening to different stories. All children will leave with a special gift from the class teacher to mark the event. **There will be no charge for this event.**

If you would like your child to attend, please find the staggered times below -

|                                      | Drop off time for event | Pick up time for event |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Surnames beginning with A - E</b> | 5:30pm                  | 6:40pm                 |
| <b>Surnames beginning with F - K</b> | 5:40pm                  | 6:50pm                 |
| <b>Surnames beginning with L - P</b> | 5:50pm                  | 7:00pm                 |
| <b>Surnames beginning with R - W</b> | 6:00pm                  | 7:10pm                 |

***The times above are for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Separate times will be provided for Nursery via Seesaw.***

For the safety of everyone, it is very important that all parents follow the times above. If you would like your child to attend this event, please complete the online form before Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. This form can be accessed using the link below or by accessing the online forms sections on the school's website.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNRBdi4liPfs1xt5grCiF2RBKPTJSGAZAjy9nmyrKZUo8gg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

### **Christmas cards -**

Children will still be able to receive and give Christmas cards this year. Each class will have a box for the children to place their cards into. These boxes and cards will not be touched and given out until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The last day that the children will be able to give Christmas cards will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This will allow for the cards to be quarantined for 72 hours before being sorted and then 72 hours before being given out. Class lists (which will contain the first names of children in your child's class) will be sent out via Seesaw by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure any cards that need to be delivered to different classes have the child's full name and class name are clearly marked on the envelope.

### **Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinners and Christmas Parties -**

All three events listed above will all take place on the same day. The days can be found below -

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery / Reception

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery / Year 1

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Nursery / Year 2

Christmas dinner will take place in the hall. Four large tables will be set up and classes will take it turns to have their Christmas dinner. Only one class will eat in the Hall at one time and these tables will be cleaned before the next class arrives. The menu will change during the Christmas dinner week - the children who are not having Christmas dinner will be provided with party food in Christmas boxes for their lunch when it is not their Christmas Dinner day. As always the children will also be allowed to bring their own lunches in. ***Mrs Bennett will send out further information linked to Nursery Christmas Dinners.***

### **Christmas Jumper Day will not require a donation from the children.**

During the morning of your celebration day, each class will have a 30-minute session in the hall. During this session, your child's class will play some safe party games. During the afternoon, the children will complete the rest of the party in the classroom. Food bags of party food will be supplied for the children - no donations of food will be accepted into class.

**There will be no charge for the events that take place on the celebration day.**

### **Panto Week -**

During the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December, classes will have access to 5 pre-recorded Pantomimes. Teachers will plan time for the children to access at least one of these shows throughout the week and the weeks that follow. We would normally offer the children the opportunity to watch a pantomime in the main Hall together; however, this is not possible at this time. It is our hope that the children will still enjoy watching our pre-recorded versions. **There will be no charge for this event.**

### **Christingles -**

Rev Paul Stow and his team will create a video that we will share with the children linked to Christingles. The video will cover the meaning behind the Christingle as well as instructions of how to make one. Your child could access this from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Once the children have made their Christingles they will bring them home with them. The school will purchase all of the items needed for the Christingles. **There will be no charge for this event.**

### **Supporting our local care home - Elizabeth House -**

My Wellbeing Team have been in contact with Elizabeth House (our local care home) to discuss how we might be able to make Christmas special for both the residents and the staff especially as their normal level of contact may currently be reduced. The team have arranged that we will create the following things:

Paper chains for the entrance hall

Cards for the residents

A Christmas 'poster' for the entrance hall

Gifts for staff - from our staff.

I hope that your child enjoys being part of this very important project to sprinkle a little HINS cheer to those who need it most in our local area.

## **Christmas Productions -**

Each class will create content for a short online Zoom Christmas celebration. This celebration will take place on the dates found below -

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Reception

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Year 1

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Year 2

***Mrs Bennett will send out additional information linked to the Explorers' Christmas Celebration.***

Each night there will be 3 different Zoom meetings - one for each class in the year group. These will start at 5:45pm / 6:15pm and 6:45pm. The pre-recorded sessions will be very short and will last no longer than 15 minutes per class. I know our Year 2 parents enjoyed watching the leavers celebration with their children at home last year. It is our hope that you enjoy this special time with your child also. This is not how we would ideally like to celebrate Christmas but it is the safest and most inclusive way currently available to us. **There will be no charge for this event.**

In the coming weeks I will send out a further letter providing more information about the productions.

The events I have set out in this letter will run alongside the rest of the class Christmas activities we would normally complete. I would like to thank you all for your support in advance of all of these events. I hope the children enjoy them as much as we hope they do.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Proctor