

Northam Schools' Federation Newsletter.



FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2020

“TO LEARN EVERY DAY, TO HELP EACH OTHER AND TO BE HAPPY”.

Headteacher Update

DfE guidance re : Covid-19 contact arrangements over the Christmas Holidays

The most recent update from the DfE states that:

- Should a pupil test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours** since being in school, the school **should not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first **6 days after 18.12.20**, if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please inform us of this via an email sent to covid19@northamfederation.devon.sch.uk This email address will be checked on a daily basis until December 24th. The DfE requires us, the school, to assist Public Health England, in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the pupil may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to a positive test or having been in contact with a positive case **after the first 6 days following the end of term** (25.12.20) there is not the need to inform us about their absence until the first day of the new term.

On a lighter note: It is Christmas time!

The wearing of a Christmas jumper, the receiving of a Christmas card, the participation within a Christmas performance and the singing of a Christmas Carol are all examples of our ongoing festive activities which are providing the children with an abundance of enjoyment and a sense of joy. These festivities all contribute to our celebration of the Christmas message of unconditional love, which the arrival of baby Jesus provided the world over 2000 years ago.

Enjoy your week-end, Mr. Jim Williams (Executive Heateacher)

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

Thursday 17th December will be our Christmas Party day and Christmas Picnic lunch day. Don't forget that children can wear party clothes or Christmas outfits for the day.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMINE

During next week the children will also be able to view our online Covidella pantomime. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of 50p per child towards this. If you haven't already done so could donations please be brought in next week.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

The children are currently practicing their year group based Christmas performances. These will be videoed next week and a link will be shared with parents via email to enable you to view the performances which will be live for

one week after receipt. If you do not wish your child to be videoed please let the school offices know as soon as possible.

CHRISTINGLE

Although we are unable to go to Church this year the children at St. George's will still be making their own Christingle candle next week and taking part in a special online Christingle service led by Rev Derek.

HAMPER APPEAL

We are currently collecting donations of food, toiletries and small gifts - anything that could help out a family needing a little boost this Christmas. We will then put hampers together to give out to families of Northam Schools who may be struggling this Christmas.

There is a collection box in the school foyer at both schools so all items can be collected in a COVID safe way and quarantined before distribution. This is completely

voluntary. We understand that putting an extra item in your weekly shopping isn't an option for everyone - please only give if you are able to. Any donation will be gratefully received.

*** If you would benefit from a hamper, or would like to nominate a member of our school community to receive one, then please email afrost@northamfederation.devon.sch.uk or visit the school office. This will be managed in the strictest of confidence. ***

If no one comes forward for a hamper, we will take all donations to the Bideford food bank to help out other families in the area. Thank you in advance for your support.

END OF TERM

Just a reminder that we break for the Christmas holiday next Friday 18th December at 3.20pm. Children return to school on Monday 4th January 2021.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEME FOR NEXT WEEK:

Advent: Joy

“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.” Rumi

“A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” John Keats

KEY DATES

Christmas Party Day: Thursday 17th December

Christmas Holiday—Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021 (Children return to school on Monday 4th January 2021)

February Half Term—Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021

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