



Ely St Mary's C of E Junior School

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30th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your useful guide to all things Christmas at Ely St Mary's

Apologies for mentioning Christmas before December, but I wanted to write and let you know what it will look like this year in school. Due to the pandemic, things will look a little different this year; however, we still want the season to be full of hope and joy. Please see below for information regarding key dates and activities.

Key Dates

14th December - Virtual Christingle

This year, we are unable to visit the Cathedral for our annual service, so we are going to be taking part in the Virtual Christingle Service. We are delighted that we have been invited to take our Year 5 choir to be part of the socially-distanced event. I am sure all of the children will enjoy seeing their school friends singing during the service.

We will be raising money for The Children's Society as part of the service and, if you are able to afford it, please send your child into school with 50p on the day, to go into our lovely Christingle Collection boxes.

16th December – Christmas Lunch, and Wear something Christmassy Day

We have chosen not to take part in the Christmas Jumper Day this year as we appreciate that, in current circumstances, trying to source additional clothing can come at great expense. Instead, we are inviting everyone to come to school on the 16th December wearing something 'Christmassy'. This could be a sequined top, a sparkly head band, tinsel trimmed gloves – let your children's creativity flow!

Also, on this day, the children will be having their annual Christmas lunch. This will take place in their year-groups, and we are looking forward to having a fun-filled time celebrating the festive season. I am looking forward to cracking open the Michael Bubl  CD to add to the festive atmosphere.

18th December – Last School Day of the Autumn Term

Heads of Year will be in touch to let you know what activities will be going on in class on the last day.

Other useful information:

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards can be sent within your child's class. Each class will have its own postbox, and cards must be sent in by **11th December** at the latest. These will then be sorted and handed out the following week. The children will then bring them home to open. We will have placed the cards in quarantine for 72 hours before handing these out, but we advise that you consider doing the same when the cards come home.

Please label cards clearly with the child's name. Please note that we are unable to provide class lists.

Presents for teachers

We have no expectation of children bringing in presents for their teachers, as we appreciate that this is a very difficult time for many in our community. We are also keen to avoid families going on additional shopping trips when it will be very busy, especially after lockdown has ended.

If, however, you would still like to send in a small gift, please could we ask that these are in school by **11th December** at the latest? The teacher will then place them in quarantine and then open them the following week.

Snow Plan

Although we're not expecting snow imminently, this has a tendency to arrive at short notice. We will therefore be circulating our updated Snow Plan, for information in case of need during the winter months ahead.

Holiday support

Finally, we appreciate that, for some, the holidays will be a tricky time for one reason or another. If you are worried about finances, emotional support, or just the general well-being of your family, then do please reach out to us between now and the end of term. We are here to listen, and can signpost you to places of support. Often, the hardest part is taking the first step. Please use the worried@esm.school email, where your communication will be dealt with confidentially by a trained member of staff.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ireland-Curtis
Headteacher