

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

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Dear parent/carer,

With only five and half more weeks until Christmas Day, and only four and a half weeks of this term, we can be forgiven to start thinking of the season of goodwill. To be fair, some of the staff would have started earlier if they had been allowed.

Every year, we look forward to our festive activities but we have had to really consider what is feasible from a safety perspective under the current restrictions. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to give to you some information with regards to how we are going to make Christmas as exciting as possible for our Newchurch robins, whilst also considering those in our community. Here goes...

Dress down days

Each year, because they grow so much, children are bought Christmas jumpers to wear but they do not always get their wear out of them. This year, we have decided that we are going to get our money's worth! I have decided to recycle mine from last year, and the year before! Christmas officially begins on **Friday 27th November**, when the children can come in Christmas jumpers (or a hat with own clothes) in exchange for a food item to be donated to Warrington Foodbank. This will be repeated on **Friday 11th December** when the children do the same in exchange for a small selection box which will also be donated to the foodbank. All donations will be collected in a box in the classrooms and quarantined for 72 hours before being donated to the foodbank.

Christmas tree decorations

Christmas would not be Christmas in a primary school without an enormous tree and this year is no exception courtesy of Cheshire Christmas Trees, who have once again donated a 9ft Christmas tree for the children to adorn with their beautifully handcrafted tree decorations. The tree will take pride of place in the school hall where all children can enjoy it throughout the lunchtime period and when they have their PE sessions. Remember to leave a special space on your Christmas tree at home for your child's bespoke Christmas decoration.

Up to now, we will be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Newchurch Parish Church. For families new to the school, this is a beautiful community event where schools, charities and



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organisations in the village come together and present decorated Christmas trees for people to enjoy. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Usually, all our children would be in the school hall and they would enjoy Christmas dinner together. However, due to the restrictions of not mixing groups of children, we will need to keep the current rota system we have in place. So, on Wednesday 16th December, Christmas music will be playing, lunch will be served and crackers will be pulled. On this day, the children usually come in their Christmas jumper or a Christmas hat to add a sense of occasion. More details on how to order your child's Christmas lunch will be provided closer to the time.

Christmas Parties

All Christmas parties will take place on the last day – Friday 18th December. The children may once again come in their Christmas jumpers or party clothes. Each child will receive a brown paper bag, which they can decorate in advance of their party and fill it with treats and a drink. In order to ensure that we keep to our 'nests', the parties will be held in their classrooms with lots of games and fun activities.

Christmas Productions

Since the start of the pandemic, we have found ways to overcome any areas of school practice that cannot be the way it used to be. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Christmas productions, this is simply a sacrifice we will sadly need to make this year as we are unable to bring so many children together in a way that is safe and does not increase the risk of infection. We have tried to find a way!

Instead we are working on a little project that brings our school together in a virtual way which will be shared with you when it is completed. This will involve the children being filmed and we will need to have parental consent for this as we aim to share it with the whole school like as if it was an assembly and you were in the audience. Therefore, please could we ask that you complete the parental consent via the google form which will be uploaded onto your child's Google Classroom, alternatively you can click on this link <https://forms.gle/kWEP8FYDWzFAoRm27> . If you do not give consent to your child being filmed, they can still enjoy being involved in the creation of the Christmas Project but not be included in the final release.

Christmas in the community

Our amazing Year 6 children will be treating some of our local elder residents to an open-air short carol service which will hopefully spread some Christmas joy – they do have the voices of angels! If this cannot go ahead due to restrictions, we will record the children and send them a link so they can enjoy it virtually.

Classroom door decorations competition

We have decided to sprinkle our school environment with a little Christmas sparkle by having a Christmas door decoration competition. The children will decide on a theme for their door and then work together to decorate it. The school community will then have a look at each other's and then take a vote. The winning class will have a Christmas surprise to look forward to.



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Christmas is an expensive time at the best of times and we are sure that with the challenges some families are experiencing, due to changes in circumstances such as redundancies etc, this is becoming an increasing burden. Each year we are overwhelmed by the gratitude families show by presenting gifts to the staff and although your generosity is respected and appreciated, this is something that is not expected and should you feel in a position to gift someone, please consider a food bank or a local charity.

There may be other activities we may include in school time and ideas that may formulate over the coming weeks, but hopefully you can see we are not going to let a global pandemic dampen the spirits of our Newchurch Family for Christmas 2020.

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2020, we are ready to welcome 2021 with open arms and optimism. Who knew what we had ahead of us this time year as we sat and watched our children perform, but together we are riding the storm and the rainbow is on its way. Hang on in there!

With kindest regards,



Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher

