



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love

Newsletter – 8/12/22

Dear Parents,

It seems like such a long time since I've been in touch – E-schools is so useful but it's nice to write a proper letter.

Winter complications

Winter is hitting us quite hard at Parochial; we have several members of staff with poorly chests and flu symptoms, and you will have noticed that we have been without Mrs Jackson for over a week now, her chest infection became pneumonia so we are encouraging her to continue to rest at home for as long as she needs to. Staff absence inevitably leads to lack of continuity for the pupils, but please rest assured we are working to ensure that work follows our curriculum and is delivered well. We're sure you'll join us in wishing all our poorly adults a quick recovery,

Our pupils are also currently affected by cold and stomach viruses. You will have heard in the news that a particularly nasty strain of the infection Strep A, is on the increase. For now, we just need to ensure our cleaning processes are continuing and ask that pupils who are ill with respiratory viruses, sore throats or temperatures are kept at home until they are well or are recovering with medication. We will continue to send home any child who is feeling too ill to stay, has vomited or had diarrhoea, or has a temperature. If a virus turns out to be Scarlett Fever and they have been given antibiotics, they can return after 24 hours. I've included an [NHS link](#) and if you click this and scroll down you'll find the symptoms to look out for.

Our lovely caretaker, Mick, has been absent from school since September and won't be returning until the new year at the earliest. This means that we are relying on a volunteer to help us with ensuring our paths are gritted and safe. We will make sure that this is done regularly during this very cold weather, but if it freezes unexpectedly, please take care on our paths and our yard – we will remedy it as soon as we can but we thank you for your patience.

Plea for donations

We have a couple of requests for you – we are going through tissues at an incredible rate! If you could add a box to your shopping to donate to us we would be so grateful.

We know that this is quite a difficult time financially for many people, but if you are in a position to help, we'd be so pleased if you could contribute to our Foodbank Friday on 16th December, this is in aid of the People's kitchen who offer foodbank services and hot meals to vulnerable and homeless local people.

Coming Soon, Whole School Events

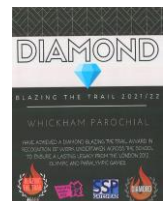
Sunday 11th December Between 10am and 11am, our junior choir will be singing at a special service at St Mary's Church to launch their 'Help a Child Smile' toy drive for local children who wouldn't otherwise get a gift. If you can attend, and you wish to bring a child's gift, please wrap it and on the label, give an indication of the age group it would be suitable for, and bring it into church with you. If you can't attend, but would like to donate, your gift can be dropped off in the special wheelie bin in Father Barry's driveway to the left of the church entrance, or dropped off at school and we will deliver it for you.

Monday 12th December The KS2 children will walk to St Mary's Church to do a dress rehearsal of their carol service – they will need packed lunch, sensible shoes, a guitar if they are due to perform, and a Christmas jumper if they are not wearing a costume.

Tuesday 13th December Reception and KS1 will perform their nativity in the school hall at 9:30am and 2pm. Parents of the children performing are welcome to attend either performance but we ask you extend this to no more than two audience members per family.

Don't forget, you can find lots of school information on our [website](#) – our letters are saved on there, you can find out about our curriculum, and we have our calendar and term dates too. If you are ever in need of information, it's a good place to start!

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Thursday 15th December KS2 will perform their carol service at St Mary's Church at 2pm (doors will open 10 mins before). Parents of the children performing are welcome to attend but we ask you extend this to no more than two audience members per family. Children will need to be collected from the church at 3pm. If parents also have younger children to collect from school, please don't worry, we will keep them safe until you arrive.

The children are walking down to school in the morning to do an additional rehearsal, so they will need a packed lunch, any instruments they are playing and a Christmas jumper if they are not otherwise in costume.

Friday 16th December Foodbank Friday

Monday 19th December Reception and KS1's party in the afternoon – they can come in their party clothes on the morning.

Tuesday 20th December The whole school will be attending the Northern Stage performance of The Sorcerer's Apprentice. More details to follow.

Wednesday 21st December KS2's party in the afternoon – they can come in their party clothes on the morning.

Thursday 22nd December Last day of term and our Christmas Jumper day in aid of the Save the Children – children are asked to wear their Christmas jumper and bring in £1 for the charity.

Friday 23rd December – school closed to children for our INSET day.

Tuesday 10th January – First day of the Spring Term.

All these dates are on our website calendar and also on the calendar found in e-Schools, in addition to other upcoming dates and holiday information. Please call or message if you have any questions.

Many thanks, as always, for your continuing support, and enjoy the festive season!

R Walton

Mrs Walton and the Parochial Staff