



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream - Discover - Flourish

Dear Parents and Carers

26th November 2020

Christmas Performances



Usually at this time of the year we are looking forward to hosting our wonderful Christmas Performances. Obviously, with the pandemic, this is no longer possible. Covid has placed certain restrictions on us this term, such as restricting singing at volume in a confined space. This, together with the ban on mixing bubbles, means that any normal performance cannot go ahead.

So this year, we have an alternative plan to share the joy of the season with you.

The teachers have decided to produce a whole school Winter play called **Eddy the Penguin Saves the World**. This is a fabulous play thinking about environmental issues and will encourage your child to think about recycling, saving water and energy.

Each class will be taking part in their own individual song or scene within this play. Your child will perform this with Covid adaptations such as miming/singing quietly to the songs, performing outdoors or in a well ventilated space indoors where possible. We will video each bubble performing and then assemble our own DVD production!

The disc is going to be too large to upload onto facebook, so we are aiming to produce DVD discs for all parents and carers, and would ask for just a small donation to cover costs. Please bear in mind that we are Educators rather than Film Crew and the DVD quality may not be Oscar-winning (although we have no doubt the performances will be)!

A letter will come out shortly with details of costume requirements for the characters. The costumes will be kept as simple as possible (coloured t-shirts and trousers). We don't want anyone to feel they have to make a special purchase at this time. Pupils who cannot be photographed will either wear masks, or be positioned off-screen, so that everyone can still take part. If you would prefer your child not to be on the DVD, please let us know.

We aim to have the DVDs available in the final week of term, and will be exchanged in class for a small donation. There is no need to pre-book your DVD!

Christmas Cards

Your child can still exchange traditional Christmas cards with their friends if they wish to do this. Each class will have its own separate box, which will be placed outside the classroom. All cards will need to be posted by **Friday 11th December**. They will then go into isolation and be distributed towards the final day of term. To help us with this, please can cards be brought in no earlier than 1st December .

Reading challenge and clothing bin - Thank you!

I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to the PTFA for organising such a successful Reading Challenge, and to thank our wonderful children and parents who took part. We have been amazed by the amount of money raised, which is £777! We are currently in the middle of upgrading our selection of home reading books, and this money will enable us to buy many new books which we know the children will love choosing from. Thank you for your time and generosity!

Another thank you to everyone for continuing to fill the clothes bin outside the school. It has been well used this year, and the PTFA tell me that they've had quite a task in keeping up with emptying it. The PTFA are so grateful, especially this year, as it is really their only fundraising effort for 2020. Please keep using it and spreading the word around the village. The PTFA raises approximately £900 a year from the collections, so they really want you to keep filling it up!

"Celebrate and smile" mufti day! Wednesday 9th December

Your child has been through a lot this year, and it's easy to forget how well they've coped with it all! We couldn't end the year without celebrating the Values they've shown. We've noticed their Perseverance and hard work in all subjects, their Courage and Patience in the face of all the changes they've had to take on board, and their Trust and Kindness in following all these new rules and keeping their friends safe! Let's celebrate their hard work, and your fantastic support, with a mufti day.

Bright clothes, optional wacky hair and huge smiles should be worn! This will be a day mostly off timetable, and your child will enjoy making winter craft activities.

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 18th December

Children can replace their Thomas Johnson jumper with a Christmassy one (or their favourite brightly coloured jumper) on the last day of term. More news about how we will be organising the end of term parties will follow.

With best wishes



Marian Haimes

Headteacher

When Your Child is Unwell



COVID-19 Symptoms

- A raised temperature - feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or having 3 or more coughing episodes in a day
- Loss of smell or taste - this means you can't smell or taste anything, or things taste or smell different to usual

If your child, or anyone in your house, shows COVID-19 symptoms you must self isolate and take a test. You can book this online or call NHS 119 for advice. Phone us (01525 402377) and we will talk you through what to do.

Colds, sneezes, sore throats and sickness. We have received the following guidance: "The Government recognises that families will be unsure about what to do if and when their child develops the usual colds and sneezes this winter. Based on evidence from the UK and internationally they have found that COVID symptoms are generally milder in children than in adults: most infected children present with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, and very few rarely develop severe or life-threatening disease. Children with simple cold symptoms such as coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19."

However, if your child is full of cold, or has a stomach upset or feels sick they may not have COVID-19, but they are still not well enough to be in school. Keep your child at home and see if any other symptoms develop, or until they are well enough to return. Tickly coughs, sniffs and sore throats are not generally thought to be symptoms, but should still be monitored carefully.

If you are unsure whether or not to bring your child to school, or whether to have them tested for COVID-19 please phone us and we will do our best to give you advice.