



# Parental Information and Update

## 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

With December and the winter break beginning to appear on our horizons, I hope that an update at this time would be helpful. We have continued to share additional updates like this alongside our regular school and nursery newsletters, so I hope that the balance of information feels about correct at this difficult and uncertain time. Our children have continued to work hard and make good progress across the school and I am delighted that, up to this point, we have had so few interruptions to the day to day attendance and flow of learning for almost all of our children.

### **Tier 4 restrictions and guidelines:**

In a primary school setting within Scotland at this time, there is actually little change in the move from Tier 3 to 4 in our day to day guidance for learning & teaching. All of the additional Health & Safety measures remain in place and, at this time, we continue to complete all of our PE lessons outside. Please therefore ensure that your child has appropriate, additional clothing for these times as we enter the winter weather period.

### **Pupil Leadership:**

Many of our children have been standing for class Pupil Group Representative roles. In addition, the vast majority of our Primary 7 children have been preparing their manifestos in order to stand for House Captain and these are being voted on by all of the children and adults in school this week. Our whole school leadership assembly (virtual of course!) will be on St. Andrew's Day when we look forward to celebrating these announcements together.

### **Whole school gatherings, community events and our Parent Council:**

Sadly, it remains the case that we cannot plan gatherings. This means that many of the events which we normally share and enjoy at this time of year are not possible. We cannot plan a church gathering, Community Cafes, our School Choir singing on the steps or indeed our annual Christmas Fayre. Nonetheless, as you will see below, we do intend to celebrate the season of Christmas through school activities, which is enjoyed by so many of our families whatever their religion and personal beliefs. We are very grateful to our Parent Council for their continued efforts to do all that they can, including the 'dress up days' that our children have enjoyed, and the upcoming Christmas Hamper Raffle which has previously provided such important funds for our children.

### **Christmas cards and presents in school:**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and our health & safety guidance, we would like to ask all children to not bring cards and/ or presents into school for other children this year. Given the potential for shared 'touching' of these items, and also given the hundreds of cards that would ordinarily be brought in, we would ask all families to refrain from sharing these in school. We hope that you understand and thank you in advance.



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In addition and with regard to sharing presents with our staff, at Giffnock Primary our staff fully understand the financial challenges for many of our families at this time of year and we would not want to add to any difficulties that you may have at this time. Therefore, were you to plan a card or even gift for one of our staff, please understand that we have no expectations of this and would not want anyone to feel any pressure regarding this either.

### Seasonal events:

The coming weeks will bring a chance for joy and excitement for us all and we intend to plan all that we can to celebrate the time of year in school too. Many of the things that we usually plan will go ahead. Our Christmas Tree is on order and all of the usual decorations in school will go on. We are planning to have classroom based class parties, without the 'high-energy' party games, and all of our children will be enjoying a class Christmas Movie (rather than whole school) in our blue hall at some point during the last few weeks.

Our P7 children are unable to take part in a Cluster Ceilidh at Woodfarm High School, nor indeed go out for a Christmas meal at this time. However, we are planning an alternative day for them, including a cluster digital event and an alternative, hopefully special arrangement for food!

We cannot plan full Nativity events as usual, either for our Nursery Class or for Primary 1-3. However, alternative plans are in place and we will be recording aspects of these for you to share. Similarly, whilst we cannot hold organised singing for us all to enjoy, we have plans in place to 'sign' some seasonal tunes and we will also be sharing recordings of these with you.

As you are aware, we are again working with our friends at Orchardhill Parish Church to support the 'Tree of Kindness' initiative. Many of you have begun sharing gifts for those less fortunate than us and we thank you for your generosity.

Finally, there is also a seasonal window-based class challenge that we are planning for all of the classes to take part in, which we hope the school community will enjoy being able to see in the last week of term.

We have planned to gather images and video together and to share these with you in a December Sway Newsletter that will be emailed to you during the last week of term.

As always, if you have any specific issues that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Kind regards,

Rob Lawson

Head Teacher