

Hi everyone,

It's the most wonderful time of year to be working with children. There's great excitement and anticipation in the air!

We really hope a special visitor in a red suit is able to take time out from his busy workshop in the North Pole to visit Cart Mill.

### **Lost Property**

We have lots of lost property hanging beautifully on a hanging rail at our reception. Please take time to have a look as we love when lost items find their owner.

### **Christmas PJ & Movie Day**

Children (and staff) are invited to wear their pyjamas on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Children will be able to spend some time watching Christmas cartoons, if they wish, and will also have lots of opportunities to play with friends.

### **Holidays are Coming!**

If you're wondering how you'll survive the holidays, there are top tips for keeping active, looking after yourself and of course keeping children busy with fun festive activities that won't break the bank here: <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/wellbeing-and-mental-health/wellbeing-for-parents> and <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/how-do-christmas-budget>

Julia Clements, Principle Educational Psychologist at Place2Be, has created a blog for parents and carers with tips, resources and advice on supporting children's wellbeing over the holidays. Please click on the link: [Wellbeing during school holidays](#)

### **Christmas Concert**

We ask children to wear something festive on Wednesday for our very special Christmas event. Children have been singing their songs enthusiastically in Cart Mill and I'm sure they're sharing them at home too.

There will be a performance on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 4pm. Children who are in all day will perform twice on the day. If your child doesn't attend on the day of the performance we would invite you to bring them along at the performance time you have chosen. Please let staff know before the event of your plans.

Doors will open 30 minutes before the concert start time as mince pies and hot chocolate (for adults) will be served on arrival at 9am and 3.30pm.

We now only have afternoon slots available, please remember to sign up. Due to limited space we ask that you only come to the concert you've signed up for.

We can assure you that this concert will be one of the highlights of the festive period, perhaps even the year! You'll be so proud!

### **Gifts**

Each year we are overwhelmed by the generosity of parents who give gifts to staff. We are always so thankful for your gifts but really want you to know that kind words, a homemade card made by your child or a little message via email, would be so lovely to receive and would be appreciated by us every bit as much as any bought gifts. We are very aware that Christmas can be a very expensive, stressful time particularly when everyone is facing such challenging financial times right now and would not want more pressure on families. We really hope you understand.

**Reusing/Recycling**

Do you ever receive beautifully wrapped gifts and then wonder what to do with the packaging once they're opened? Or perhaps you plan to pop open a few bottles over the festive season? We'd really love to accept any used gift boxes, gift bags, ribbon, cellophane, wrapping paper, corks or bottle tops after the holidays.

Children have amazing imaginations and can create wonderful pieces of artwork from the things you might want to throw away.

I really can't believe that this is the last Cart Mill Chat of 2023...looking forward to sharing more exciting news in 2024! We're all looking forward to the holidays and can't believe how quickly this term has gone. We open again on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 for 48 week children and Monday 8th January 2024 for term time children.

As always, we're here to help if you need anything at all, if you would just like someone to listen to you or a friendly chat!

Have a lovely weekend with your family.

Many thanks

*Angela Kerr*

Acting Head Teacher