



## ***Caskieberran Primary and ELC Newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021***

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another term already. It has been extremely busy for us in school, and I want to thank you for your support and understanding during these tricky times for us recently because of staff shortages and ongoing Covid concerns.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the team for all they have done to pull together and support one another through, at times, very trying and ever-changing circumstances. I can't thank them enough for their commitment and hard work so I would like to wish 'Team Caskie' a safe and well-earned rest over the holidays.

The children have had a lovely Christmas experience in school this year and we will be sending their Christmas performances to you via SWAY once we have finalised them – I am sure you will enjoy the range of items on offer. Please be aware that there may be some children missing depending on when they were filmed. There is also a wee summary below detailing some of the experiences they have enjoyed in recent weeks.

It just leaves me to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas when it comes, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Let's hope that 2022 brings much needed cheer and positivity for us all.

### **Staffing News**

I am delighted to say that we welcome back class teacher, Mrs Mandy McMaster on a Monday from next term as we have been given some extra teacher allocation from Scottish Government funding. Mrs McMaster will be covering Miss Potter's Probationer day and will take P3 each Monday starting on 10<sup>th</sup> January. The children know her well as she had them last session for part of the time. Welcome back!

We also may face some ongoing difficulties with staffing levels due to new isolation rules. The important thing is that we are all safe and well during these very uncertain times with the emergence of the new Omicron variant but, rest assured, we will do all we can to ensure the children have continuity in their learning as well as in terms of staff working with them.

### **A Caskie Christmas 2021**

Children enjoyed their [Christmas lunch](#) on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – thanks to Carol, our Cook and her team for the lovely food.

[Christmas Craft Day](#) was a real success and what a fantastic variety of creations – I am always amazed by how creative children and staff are. Special thanks to Mrs Buchan who created a host of craft for us to sell with proceeds going to school funds.

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School [Christmas Parties](#) ended on Friday and have all gone really well with the children having a lovely time. Thank you to the Parent Partnership who bought a selection box for every child in the school and ELC. The nursery will enjoy their party on Tuesday afternoon.

[School Calendars](#) have been a real success and are so lovely. Mrs Nellies put a power of work into organising it all so many thanks to her. I believe we have a few left if you wish to purchase one at a cost of £5. They are lovely quality and A3 size.

We have also bought every child in the school and ELC a [Christmas present](#) so children will receive them this week.



[Christmas Item](#) – The SWAY will be with you shortly detailing some of the special Christmas messages from classes and the nursery. The nursery performed a lovely Nativity which has been posted on Seesaw and the rest of the school have done a variety of things which include: singing, drawings, acting out stories and sign language. We hope you enjoy them!

[Christmas Pantomime](#) - All children enjoyed an online production of 'Robin Hood and his Socially Distanced Men' before the end of term.



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## School Dinners



As of 6<sup>th</sup> January, all Primary 5 pupils will now be entitled to Universal Free School Meals as well as Primary 1 to 4. Please do not load any credit on to your P5 child's iPay account for lunches. Please note this does not entitle them to Free School Milk unless you have applied and already qualify for free school meals.

## Covid Update

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, there was an update regarding guidance for schools to be in place for January when we return. The main change to affect us will be the reintroduction of groupings or 'bubbles' inside. This may mean a slight change to lunches again and the use of the dinner hall. The children are mainly in their classes for the majority of the time anyway so it will require minimum change for us. Please note that the recommendation only applies to inside the building.

Once again, I would urge you all to adhere to the Scottish Government and NHS Inform Covid guidance especially with the emergence of the Omicron variant which is thought to be more transmissible. As a reminder:

### When should we isolate?

If you, your child or anyone else in your home develops any of the following symptoms you or they **must not** come to school. **They and all other members of the household should stay at home** as soon as symptoms start, self-isolate, and take a PCR test. The symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, taste or smell (anosmia).

**Please note: Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should not take an LFD test but must arrange to have a PCR test.**

**If anyone in the family tests positive, all household contacts of all cases, regardless of which variant is suspected, must isolate for 10 days.** This applies to **everyone in the household**, irrespective of age, testing negative or being vaccinated. (There may be some exemptions to this for anyone in the family delivering critical services.)

If you are a low-income worker and Test and Protect tell you to self-isolate you may be able to get a £500 Self Isolation Support Grant. You do not need to pay this grant back. You can find out if this applies to you at <https://www.mygov.scot/self-isolation-grant>.

### What if others in the home test negative?


If anyone in a household has symptoms all household members must stay at home until they have booked and had the results from a PCR test. **If anyone in the household tests positive, the whole household must isolate for 10 days** This applies to **everyone in the household**, irrespective of age, testing negative or being vaccinated.

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I am sure we will all do what we can to keep each other as safe as possible during this very uncertain time for us all.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and New Year when it comes. Stay safe everyone!

With very best wishes,

Elaine Smith  
Headteacher 

### Dates for Diary

Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	-	School closes at 3.00pm for Christmas Break
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Term 3 – school re-opens at 9.00am
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	-	In Service Day
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Holiday
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Holiday
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	-	Parents' Evening
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	-	End of Term 3 - school closes at 3.00pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Easter Holidays
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Term 4 - school re-opens at 9.00am

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