

BISHOPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
Old Greenock Road, Bishopston, PA7 5BE

Date: 19 November 2020
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Head Teacher: Wendy McNaught

Ref: WM/EMcK

Dear Parent/Carer

Now that we are in Tier 4, we are having to adjust our festive programme accordingly. However, we do recognise that this is a difficult time for everyone, but we are hoping to bring as much festive cheer to the situation as possible whilst remaining safe within the current guidelines.

The last Friday in November (27 November this year) is traditionally 'House Art Day'. Each house works closely together to produce a large-scale art display around a theme that is displayed within the school. This year in order to maintain our 'bubbles' this will be done in classes and year groups. Each class will work on part of a display and the class' work will be put together to produce one larger piece of art per stage. Each stage will recognise the work of a group of Key Workers who have supported us all throughout the last few months. **Please send your child in old clothes on this day as it can get messy!**

Usually at the start of December the Christmas Post begins with pupils taking on the role of the Jolly Christmas Postman and delivering the cards around the school. This will not be able to happen this year. We ask that pupils **DO NOT** bring Christmas cards to school to share with others. Instead at the start of Art Day, each pupil will be given a tag. They will have a chance to decorate one side of the tag and to write a Christmas message to friends and family on the other. These tags will be used, instead of baubles, to decorate the tree in the hall. Throughout December all classes will have a chance to visit the tree and read the messages. A picture of the tree will be shared online for parents to view.

The infant Nativity always plays a big part in our Christmas calendar and will still feature this year. However, as we are still not able to sing in school, this year it will only involve the Primary 1 pupils. We will stream the event for parents and family.

Thursday 10 Dec – P1P & P1S – 10.30 am

Monday 14 Dec – P1M & P1W – 10.30 am

Thursday 17 Dec – P1C - 10.30 am

More information on how to access the event will be provided to the Primary 1 parents nearer the time.

We will continue to participate in Christmas jumper day this year. Pupils are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper on **Friday 11 December** and donate to the Save the Children charity. The opportunity to donate will be done through your Parent Pay account. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper please don't worry, they can wear a hat or some other decoration. It is the spirit of the day that we will be promoting. During the day, weather and current guidelines permitting, pupils will participate in some outdoor community Christmas singing. On return to class they will be served with some hot chocolate to heat them back up.

As it is unlikely that anyone will get the opportunity to experience live Panto this year, we have decided that instead of a Movie afternoon all classes will have the opportunity to view a Panto online. Each class will view this week commencing 14 December. Not every class will watch on the same day to prevent bandwidth issues when we are streaming this. Once again, the Parent Council will be providing pupils with snacks and juice for the event. We thank them for their continued support.

Santa, like everyone else, is having to adhere to the social distancing guidance. However, he has managed to find time in his busy schedule to put a few Teams calls in his diary. He will do a virtual visit to each class, P1-3, and his elves will deliver presents to school to be distributed during his virtual visit.

Individual class/ stage events will be communicated by the class teachers via the class Team/Blog.

As Christmas is a time of giving, we are also planning to give something back to the community in the form of some Christmas hampers. We will be working with the church and community groups to identify older, more vulnerable members of our community who would benefit from a little Christmas surprise this year. Therefore, we are asking each class base to donate a specific item that will allow us to make up these hampers. We are asking that all donations are received by **Friday 4 December**. This will allow ample time for quarantining items before they are delivered during the week commencing 14 December. Each hamper will also contain Christmas messages written by the children.

The items are as follows:

Mince pies –	P1C
Shortbread –	P1M&W
Pair of cosy socks –	P1S&P
Christmas Pudding (small) –	P2H
Tin of ham –	P2E&J
Cranberry Sauce-	P2F&G
Gloves -	P3A&M
Scented Candle-	P3C&W
Tea-	P3F
Coffee –	P4B
Box of Chocolates –	P4H&M
Crisps-	P4F&J
Christmas Crackers –	P5M
Puzzle book and Pen –	P5R
Napkins –	P6AG
Chocolate Orange –	P6M
Hot chocolate –	P7C&H
Magazine/TV Guide-	P5C&P7M

Although we are not able to participate in many of our usual events this year, I hope this letter goes some way to reassuring you that we still intend to make the festive period as fun and enjoyable for your children as possible, whilst remaining safe within the current guidance.

Thank you for all your continued support during these very difficult times. If you require any additional support from the school please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Wendy McNaught
HEAD TEACHER