



NEWSLETTER

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No. 8

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach Christmas, the reality is that this will be unlike any other any of us have ever experienced.

As we have said previously, we will do what we can to celebrate with the children and ensure that they still enjoy some of the Christmas cheer.

Obviously, there are many factors which are both out of our control and your control when it comes to the virus, however, the last thing we want is for any child and their family, or staff and their family, to have to self-isolate over the Christmas break when they hopefully may be spending time with other loved ones.

Please can we all be extremely careful and vigilant to ensure that we minimise the chances of a case in school so the above doesn't happen. Over the next two weeks, please be very cautious with **any illness** and keep your child at home until we are sure it is not Covid-related. The most recent guidance recognises that the three main symptoms are not always present in positive cases.

Displaying other symptoms letter – 16/11/20

If you have any questions please ask and as we always say if any other issues arise in school but please speak to either Mrs Lowe or myself. Please do not wait to contact us because the sooner we know about any issue the quicker we can resolve it. In the current situation it is best to ring to speak to one of us

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please remember that this is up and running for all children if they or their class have to self-isolate. If you have any issues, please email us via the home support email:

homesupport.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com

There is a home learning page on our website for the initial set up with links to some help pages.

Let us know if there are any other links that would be useful.

[Learning from home](#)

VIRUS PREVENTION

Please remember that one of the guidelines around preventing the spread of the virus is to keep rooms ventilated. Therefore, all classrooms have windows open even with the weather turning colder. Please ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed, maybe with extra layers, to keep warm. Thank you.

REPORTING ILLNESS AND TESTING

With the virus still being very prevalent in the local area please can we ask you to continue to report any illness or if a child has gone for a Covid-19 test to school as promptly as you can. Please use the office.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com email address to do this even over the weekends and the coming Christmas holiday. The email will not be checked constantly but clearly it is important to know where we are for the start of January. This helps us to track both testing and illness and will therefore enable us to carry out appropriate action promptly, giving families some time to make alternative arrangements. Thank you.

NEW PARENTS SEPTEMBER 2021

As with many events this year, we are currently unable to offer visits to our school for prospective Reception parents. However, if anyone has any questions please ring or email the school office and someone will reply to you as soon as they can.

We have released an information presentation and a video tour of our Early Years area on our school website:

[Starting School at Richard Wakefield](#)

Please register your interest via the office email to receive notifications of any updates for our prospective parents.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested. Thank you

Useful information:

How can I apply for a Reception place?

The quickest and easiest way is to apply online. Applications opened on 1st November 2020 and the closing date is 15th January 2021.

If you are unable to apply online, a paper form is now available and please contact the school office who will be happy to send a copy to you.

Note: you must make an application by 15th January 2021. There is no automatic entry into Reception.

Further information is available on the Staffordshire County Council admissions website at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary>

CHRISTMAS LUNCH and CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We are pleased to offer our traditional Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 16th December.

You will have received an invitation to complete a Google form to order a meal for your child and thank you to all those parents and carers who have already done this. I'm sure you will appreciate how important it is for the catering team to have a note of numbers to ensure no-one is disappointed on the day. Please ensure you complete the form by 10:00am Thursday 10th December. The cost of a Christmas lunch is the usual £2.25. However, no payment is required for children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 who benefit from the government's Universal Infants Free School Meal initiative, in addition to those children who are eligible for Free School Meals.

This year we are inviting the children to wear their Christmas jumpers on Christmas lunch day. We would normally take part in Christmas Jumper Day which is on Friday 11th December to fundraise for Save the Children, however, we are not collecting

money in school at present in order to minimise risk but if you would like to donate to the charity then please do so through the link below:

[Save the Children donation](#)

CHRISTMAS TREE COLOURING COMPETITION

As you know, children were asked by the Oncology and Haematology team at Burton Queen's Hospital to design and colour Christmas tree pictures to decorate the wards.

The children produced some fantastic designs which now adorn the walls at the hospital. Staff at the hospital have sent chocolates in for all children, which we will send home during the last week. They have also chosen winners from across the school and each of them will receive a prize too!

The winners were;

Archie	-	Reception
Kady	-	Year 1
Thomas	-	Year 1/2
Alice	-	Year 2
Mollie-Mae	-	Class 3S
Mila	-	Class 3B
Martha	-	Year 4
To be judged next week – Year 5		
James	-	Year 6

The staff and patients loved all the pictures and the school is really grateful for being asked to do this.

CHRISTMAS CARD POST BOX

The Christmas Card post box is up and running!

Remember, each class has a collection point in their classroom for cards to be placed. All cards must be clearly labelled with their name and class on the front. This year we can't investigate cards with no labels. These will be collected and placed in the main post box by the office during the week. The deadline for cards to be 'posted' is Friday December 11th. The cards will then be quarantined until Wednesday 16th December when they will be sorted and distributed to go home.



Please note children will not be allowed to distribute cards themselves. We are sorry for this but hope you can understand why.

PTA FUNDRAISING



Thank you very much to everyone who has supported the PTA 'events' this academic year. They have worked tirelessly, continuing to raise money to benefit all of the children in our school. **The Christmas raffle raised £1166.10.** This is a phenomenal amount and a fantastic addition to the green area fund.

The PTA has also received a £500 match funded donation organised by one of our parents. This is incredibly generous – thank you very much for arranging that for us.

Finally, whilst online shopping, remember to make use of the free fundraising apps that donate money to our PTA. It is very easy to set up and will donate a percentage of the amount that you spend to school at no extra cost to yourself. IF you have any questions about setting the app up, Kelly will be happy to help!



SCHOOL TERM DATES

Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day
Friday 18 th December	End of Term
Monday 4 th January	Inset Day – school closed
Tuesday 5 th January	Inset Day – school closed
Wednesday 6 th January	Start of Spring Term 2021