

COLDWALTHAM, ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Gibson

Head of School: Mrs Lizzie Martin



Learn, Discover, Achieve

Friday Flyer - 11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, here we are, going into the last week of the term and what a term it has been! When we returned in September, we knew that we would be facing a 'new normal' together and I feel that as, a school community, we have risen to the challenges well and have succeeded in creating a safe, happy environment that the children have been able to learn and play in. As ever, I am immensely grateful for your support with this and would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents/carers for your patience and encouragement through the last few months.



Letter from our Executive Head

Accompanying this Friday Flyer is a letter from Mrs Gibson, our Executive Head of the Arun Villages Federation. Mrs Gibson joined us just prior to the start of the academic year when we were in a state of uncertainty and were wondering how the future of the school was going to be shaped.

With her excellent and wise support, married together with her tireless and dedicated hard work, Mrs Gibson has helped both St. James' and Amberley to feel that the ships have been steadied and enabled us to find a sense of purpose and unity.

I would like to thank her personally for her support of me in my new role as Head of School; she has guided and advised me when I have needed help which I hope has reflected in how I have met the children's, the staff's and your needs. As a school staff team, we are grateful for her input and enthusiasm to ensure that St. James' remains a place where parents can feel confident that their children are safe, happy and gaining a first-class education.

We look forward to working with her in the coming term and hope that she continues to enjoy her time with us and feel happy being part of the St. James' family!



Congratulations for Excellent Attendance

Certificates have been awarded to the children who had excellent attendance in the first half of the Autumn Term. Well done, especially to those who achieved 100% attendance. The children who were required to self-isolate due to COVID 19 are also recognised as having good attendance as the figures do not take these days into account.



Record of Success Certificates

Well done to Elliott and Rex who have recently been awarded Record of Success certificates.

Christmas Cards and Presents

I have had a few parents contact me about bringing Christmas cards and presents into school this week; we had made Friday 11th December the deadline for items to be brought in. However, if (like me!) you have been so busy that cards are still unwritten and presents are barely thought of, please do not panic! Items may still be brought in up to **Wednesday 16th December** as this will allow the required time for quarantining.

Christmas Performances

Ash and Elm Classes have really enjoyed recording their Christmas performances this week; we are very proud of their singing and acting. Yew Class are going to be recording their singing during this week. It has been delightful to hear happy singing floating through the school; it lifts the spirits and reminds us, in these times, that there is still joy in the world and much to celebrate this Christmas.



Please look out for the email containing the link to each class video from your class teacher. We would be very grateful if parents could ensure the videos are not shared on any social media channels.

Christmas Decorations

All the children in the school have been making decorations in class to make our school look festive and bright. The decorations are hanging in the corridor and really cheer the school up. Ash Class made some beautiful concertina decorations whilst Elm Class made sparkly snowflakes and colourful Christmas trees. Yew Class created some paper bauble decorations, some of which ended up looking like reindeers! A big thank-you from me to Mrs Rigby for her creativity and leading of making Yew Class' decorations!



Christmas Celebrations

In the coming week, the children will be taking part in different activities to celebrate the festive period.



On Tuesday, all the classes will be making Christingles in preparation for separate class worships on Wednesday. In the worship, the children will see a special Christingle message recorded by Father Peter and will light their candles together for a short reflection time reminding us of the unity of light in dark times. They will probably all then be desperate to eat the sweets on their Christingle but we will attempt to make sure they wait until they leave school so you can see the Christingles too!

Also, on Wednesday, we will be having our 'Wear Something Festive Day' and we're very excited to see the children coming into school wearing festive jumpers, jingly hats and glittery attire! The staff will be joining the children with this and I hear they have been working very hard to make sure they are festive...who knows what they may be wearing?! It is also our Christmas Lunch Day; the children will be making hats to wear at this in the good old British Christmas tradition of donning a paper hat for an occasion!!

On Friday, the last day of term, we would like to invite the children to bring in a small amount of pre-packed food to share in the afternoon as each class has a Christmas party. **Please can I stress that there should be no home-made food brought in due to the current Covid-19 guidelines.** Any leftover food will be sent home with the children.

For Yew and Elm Classes, please still come to school dressed in your PE Kit as Joe will still be coming in and will be leading you in some fun activities as part of the afternoon.

Water Bottles

We would like to clarify the school's position on what is contained in water bottles brought in by the children. We would prefer for all the children to drink *only* water from their water bottles throughout the day. However, we appreciate that for a small number of children, a drop of squash may need to be added to encourage them to drink to maintain hydration. On being refilled, there will only be water available so the children will need to be aware of this. Drinking of squash, rather than water, during the school day should be considered an interim measure and children should aim to be drinking water. If you need more clarification, please contact Mrs Martin directly to discuss this.

Free school Meals Vouchers

Families who receive free school meals will receive £30 in supermarket vouchers to assist with food costs over the Christmas holidays. The vouchers will be sent by email, please look out for them at the start of the holidays.

If you think that your family may qualify for Free School Meals, please check or apply on the following website:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/#how-to-apply_tab

Those children and families that are not eligible for FSM will be able to access support for food and essentials via the WSCC Community Hub. The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 8am-8pm, 7 days a week, and will be operational throughout the Christmas Holiday period. If any families are struggling in these difficult times, please contact this number for assistance.

Books for the Library

We have recently taken delivery of 100 library books for use in school, including a box of new and exciting fiction books for Key Stage 2 children, a box of reference books and some picture books. These deliveries are received twice a year from the West Sussex Library Service ensuring our library is full of different, interesting books.



Transport Survey

West Sussex Transport Department have requested for parents and carers to complete a survey to help identify local and county wide transport issues. They hope to capture a wide range of views and use this information for transport improvements, especially where there are issues that have arisen as a result of COVID-19. The survey closes on Friday 18th December. If there are transport issues that you think should be raised by School on behalf of parents, please complete the survey and email the office with details. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UOQXMV/>

It only remains for me to say that I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright, hopeful and healthy New Year! I'm sure that you join me in hoping and praying for a very different 2021 where we may be able to enjoy some aspects of life that we have been missing so much. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays, stay safe and cherish the time that you are able to spend with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th January!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Martin
Head of School



Important Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 15 th December	Christingle making
Wednesday 16 th December	Christingle Celebration Chartwells Christmas Lunch and "Wear Something Festive" Day
Friday 18 th December 2020	Class Christmas Celebrations Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 4 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th January	First Day of Spring Term – children return to School
Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February 2021	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February 2021	Inset Day
Thursday 1 st April 2021	Term Ends
Monday 19 th April 2021	Term Starts
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term

