



# Newsletter

*December 2020*

We've almost made it to December and are looking forward to our Christmas preparations and celebrations in school and finding different ways to make it special. Please read the following information to find out what we'll be up to!

## **Christmas Festivities**

- **Whole School Recorded Performance** – All classes are working in their class bubbles to tell us about Christmas in different countries around the world. We'll then record this and link each class contribution together in preparation for our Premier Event.
- **Premiere Event - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (PM)** We have planned a premiere event for the children in school, where they can watch the whole school recording of Christmas Around the World. Children can choose to bring in clothes to dress up for this event, which will be held in individual classrooms. Ice cream refreshments will be provided. The Christmas recording will then be shared with parents.
- **Christmas Parties** – If your child's class party takes place on a **morning**, they should come to school in party clothes, which they can wear all day. If your child's party takes place on an **afternoon** (KS2), children need to come to school in their school uniform, with clothes to change into for the afternoon. This year, party food will be provided by school, funded by the sponsored fun run.

Nursery	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (am)
Reception	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December (am)
Year 1	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (am)
Year 2	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (am)
Year 3	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)
Year 4	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)
Year 5	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)
Year 6	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (pm)



- **Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** We are looking forward to Christmas lunch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. We'll have lunch in classrooms (KS2) or the hall (Rec, KS1) as we do now. Christmas jumpers are optional.
- **Spectacular Christmas Tree Festival** - This year, we are taking part in Ushaw College's Spectacular Christmas Tree Festival. Each class has designed and made decorations based on the country they are learning about for our Christmas Around the World Premiere. The tree with the children's' decorations on will be in St Joseph's Chapel for you to go and visit. The Tree Festival is ticketed but under 16s do go free! Here is the link if you wish to go and see Illuminating Ushaw and the Tree Festival! It begins on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December when the outdoor lights are switched on!  
<https://ushaw.simpletix.co.uk/e/60690?aff=HomePageLink>
- **Sponsored Christmas Fun Run** – We are holding a sponsored Christmas Fun Run for the first time, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Further details below.

## ***Christmas Fun Run Sponsored Event – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December***

We are looking forward to taking part in a sponsored Christmas Fun Run on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The School Sports Partnership will organise this and set up a course in our school grounds. Then each class (one at a time for approximately 15minutes) will have the opportunity to complete the course in their chosen festive dress. This could be something as simple as a Santa hat or Christmas jumper, or something more extravagant such a reindeer onesie! Children will not need to wear school uniform that day. The SSP Competition team will be on hand to organise the event proceedings, including a warmup, the start and finish and Christmas music. Every child will receive a certificate for participating.

The emphasis of this event is very much on fun and participation. The children can choose to run or jog the course and hopefully some of our staff will be joining in too!

Sponsor forms will be sent home with your child. Please get involved if you are in a position to do so. All proceeds will go towards Christmas activities and resources for the children, such as Christmas party food, extra art and craft resources, refreshments for our Premier afternoon etc. Any surplus funds from this event will be put towards a Polytunnel for the school garden we are creating.



### ***Poppy Appeal***

We are delighted with the success of our poppy appeal this year, with our highest ever total raised! Thank you for helping us to raise **£380.79** for this special charity. Our donations contributed to a district total of £1028.85.



Thank you for your wonderful generosity in donating items to our 'Feeding Families' appeal. This will support many families over Christmas time. The last day for donations is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

### ***Sorry, no Christmas cards***

In order to limit items that are brought in and out, Christmas cards will not be allowed to be shared in school this year.

### ***School closed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November***

Just a reminder that school is not open to children on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, due to a staff training day.

## **Picking up – Help us to keep everyone safe**

Thank you to everyone for your support in keeping everyone safe. It has helped to keep us open to all children throughout the term so far. Just another reminder to all parents to keep **at least 2 metres apart** from people you do not live with when picking children up at the end of the day. Where you cannot stay 2 metres apart, it is advised you take extra steps to stay safe such as wearing a face covering.

- Arrive at the designated gate within the specific time slot. Please avoid arriving **before** or **after** the time slot as this leads to too many people waiting
- Keep social distance from others that are waiting
- Leave the area as soon as your child is collected



## **School holidays 2020-2021**

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Closing date</b>	<b>Date re-open for teaching purposes</b>
<b>Training Day Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Spring half term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Summer half term 2021	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
Autumn half term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021