



Bridestowe Primary School – With Respect and Ambition We Flourish Together

14th December 2020

Christmas Break

After such an unusual and challenging year, this Christmas break feels more needed than ever. The last 10 months have allowed us to express the best qualities within ourselves: Compassion, charity, love for one another, support and kindness. I am proud to say that the children, parents and staff of our school have shown all of these qualities and more during difficult times. The facilitation of home learning, delivery of free school meal hampers, return to school, introduction of devices to reduce technology poverty, and the regular and consistent check-ins with each other to ensure we were all coping – all things to be proud of. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the miracle of his being, it is important we reflect on the last 12 months and practise our key values. The respect and care we show for one another, the ambition we have for our, and our children's, futures and, of course, to show off what makes us individual and special; to flourish in our own way.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you again in January.



Christmas Events

Christmas is fast approaching and we have some events carefully planned to ensure we comply with our Covid procedures.

Christmas cards – The children are welcome to bring Christmas cards to spread messages of goodwill and love on **Mondays and Tuesdays only**. These will then be quarantined for the required 72 hours before being distributed on Friday afternoon.

Owlets and Tawny Owls Christmas play –

We have maintained our tradition of participating in a Christmas play. This year the play was performed in school and filmed so that parents can view at home.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thank you to all who took part – you looked great and very festive! All monies have been donated to Save the Children.

Christmas Lunch – This will take place on Wednesday 16th December. Lunches will remain in bubbles but there will be the

normal festive music and provision of Christmas crackers. Thank you to FoBS for kindly donating Christmas gifts for each child again this year; these will be given out this week.

Christmas Carols – Although we cannot hold our traditional carol service, we will be recording the children singing, which will be shared via the school website and with local residential care homes for the residents to enjoy.





Christmas Tree Festival and village tree

The children have created decorations for a tree as part of St Bridget's Church Tree Festival, and also one within the village. Please do stop by and have a look (Tree Festival 12th – 19th December, 2.00 – 5.00pm).



Forest School

It has been fantastic to see the children back outside enjoying the environmental area. Ranger Rob has worked with all children over the half term.



Healthy Schools

Please can I remind all parents/carers that the school is committed to healthy lifestyles and we strongly encourage children to bring only healthy morning snacks and a balanced lunch. Children in Owlets and Tawny Owls are offered a fruit snack by the school.

More information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

We intend to work alongside the children, parents and carers to promote education about healthy lifestyles before implementing a clear expectation of healthy morning snacks only.

Christmas Craft bags from the West Devon Methodist circuit

We are very grateful to have received Christmas craft bags for each family from the West Devon Methodist circuit's Children, Families and Youth Team. The bags are full of Christmas craft ideas along with the materials needed to make them. There are also some extra little tasty treats included!

Reducing digital poverty

The recent pandemic has highlighted the reliance of home learning on technology. We are aware that some of our families simply don't have the digital devices necessary to facilitate efficient home learning in the event of the need to isolate. The Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust has given Chromebooks on long term loan to the families of targeted children in Year 5/6 to ensure everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Christmas break information on Covid

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 in the first 6 days of the Christmas Holidays, you must let us know by emailing pwhittley@dartmoormat.org.uk. We will need to seek advice from Public Health and we may need to ask children within the bubble to isolate, even though it is school holidays.

If you need advice or help urgently over the Christmas period, you can also contact Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust [Complaints Form - Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust \(dartmoormat.org.uk\)](https://www.dartmoormat.org.uk)

If you or a household member test positive for Covid-19 between Christmas and the 4th January, please contact the school on the 4th of January.

FSM vouchers

Free School Meals Over Christmas: Devon County Council (DCC) have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to families of children who receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.

From Tuesday 8th December, DCC will be sending a unique code per child to all families that are currently in receipt of Free School Meals. Each code can be used once on a website called 'Hawk Select' to redeem vouchers to the value of £30 per child (£15 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

The website requires families to provide an email address for the vouchers to be sent to once they have chosen their preferred supermarket.

When received, they can save the vouchers to their phone or tablet to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, they can print the vouchers off to give to the cashier.

We are conscious that a few parents may not have access to the internet or a mobile device to receive and store the vouchers on, if this is the case, please contact the office, as they will be able to complete the process for you on the Hawk Select website and print off the vouchers.

Parents will need to provide the office with their unique code in order for us to redeem the voucher on the Hawk Select website on their behalf.

DCC education helpline is available on 0345 155 1019 for any questions about the distribution of the unique codes.

There are also some useful FAQs on the Hawk Select website along with contact details for any technical support about using the codes and vouchers.

There is still time to register for your eligibility for free school meals and receive these vouchers. With financial circumstances continuing to change due to the impact of the second lockdown and tier 2 restrictions, some families may become eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and entitled to vouchers during holidays or school meals during term time as well as a free set of uniform, free Morning and After School Clubs and free or subsidised trips.

Please check the criteria below and follow the link, all you will need is your date of birth and National Insurance Number.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2F

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

If you are successful, please forward any evidence you receive (or do a screenshot of the result) to

admin@bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

If you need help applying, please speak to a member of the admin team who will support you through the process.

Diary

December

16th – Christmas lunch

18th – Last day of term

January

5th – All children return

Mr A. Hill – Acting Head of School

head@bridestowe-primary.devon.sch.uk

01837 861361

Attendance

96.2%