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1st December 2020



Autumn Term 2020 - Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents,

With the end of term approaching, things are quite busy in school. Even during these strange circumstances, there is a lot happening, with plenty of festive fun at school in the lead up to Christmas. The attached sheets tell you details of several events that will be happening.

We are really sad that we are unable to hold our very special Christmas Carol Concert at Christ the Cornerstone Church. It is one of our favourite events of the year and one which we will miss this year. If you are a new family to our school we hope that this will return in 2021 and will be something that we can all look forward to together.

We try very hard to make the end of term and Christmas celebrations a special time at school, and this year we have been working especially hard to plan some exciting activities for your children, although we have had to adapt the ways in which some of them can go ahead.

We hope that you all manage to have a restful holiday and enjoy spending time with your families. We wish you joyful celebrations, and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and well at the start of next term on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Best wishes,

Daniela Thompson
Headteacher



Foundation Stage 2 Nativities – this involves Zebras and Tigers classes

The Foundation Stage's Nativity plays of 'It's a Baby' take place next week. I would like to thank Ms Bancroft who has been visiting the children for socially distanced singing lessons over the past weeks. It is so lovely to see how quickly our Foundation Stage children are gaining confidence. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to invite parents into school to watch the plays. We believe that children having the opportunity to perform in nativity plays is a really important part of the infant school experience. We have decided to film the children performing the plays so that you will all be able to see your children shine.

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be having a '**Christmas Jumper Day**' on Friday 11th December, with any donations brought in going to the NSPCC. Please do not go out and spend money buying a Christmas jumper. If they do not already have one at home, they could wear an old jumper and they will have the opportunity in school to decorate it to make it look festive!



It's Party Time! – End of term activities

We have a week filled with fun and treats in the last week of term:-

On Monday 14th December, each class will get a visit from Santa Claus. He will be bringing a gift for every child in the school.

There are class party games with refreshments, on Tuesday 15th (Yr1), Wednesday 16th (Yr2) and Thursday 17th (Foundation Stage).

During the week, all classes will be watching a virtual pantomime performance of Sleeping Beauty.

On Wednesday and Friday we welcome our regular visitor, Children's Entertainer Colonel Custard – magician, juggler, and comic. This year Colonel Custard is doing seven performances, one for each of our bubbles.

Friends of Loughton Manor First School – THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Loughton Manor First School who have worked extremely hard this term, to create the Pumpkin Trail and Halloween craft packs and cakes. They have been busily wrapping hundreds of gifts, ready for the Christmas Shop this week – some of their homes have been looking like Santa's Grotto! They continue to support activities throughout school and have funded a virtual Christmas Panto which will be watched by everyone, provided presents from Santa, party treats and prizes as well as providing us with a very special secret visitor next week – sssh!

To those wonderful parent and staff volunteers who have made this all possible – thank you so much for all your time and effort. We couldn't provide these special treats without you!

Colonel Custard

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of **£2.00** towards Colonel Custard's show. **We have really struggled with insufficient contributions for the last couple of years, but can't bear to cancel this special end of term treat, which the children love so much.** It really is excellent value for a truly hilarious and very professional show. Please do try to send a £2.00 contribution into school, if you can manage it – we do understand that it's an expensive time of year.

All pupils can wear non-uniform or party clothes from Tuesday onwards.

END OF TERM FESTIVITIES – REPLY SLIP

Child's name _____ Class _____

I enclose a £2.00 contribution towards the entertainer, Colonel Custard
