



HILLINGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning and Achieving Together

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Term Arrangements

The end of the autumn term has traditionally been a time of excitement and heightened activity in our school community, as we gather together to enjoy Christmas performances, our popular Christmas Fayre and spread the message of peace and goodwill to all. This year, to ensure everyone's health and safety, we have reluctantly had to make some changes to our usual events. We have done our best to adapt as many of our traditions as possible, and have also introduced new initiatives, but hope you will understand that social distancing restrictions prevent us from opening these events up to parents, carers and our wider community.

Please see below a reminder of our festive events shared in the Autumn Term Dates letter to parents before the October half term, along with new events and additional information. We are really looking forward to celebrating this special time of year with our pupils in new and inventive ways, making the most of technology to gather together as a school.

Date	Event
Tuesday 1st December	<p>Start of the Snowman Christmas Kindness Calendar</p> <p>Parents will already have seen the message from Mrs Breslin requesting that pupils do not bring gifts or cards into school for their teachers or friends. This was a difficult but necessary decision made to minimise the number of items being shared between environments. We are however taking part in the Christmas Kindness Calendar, a British Red Cross initiative that gives pupils the opportunity to show their appreciation for their friends and staff without the need for cards or gifts. This year in particular we've seen the power of small acts of kindness and we can't think of a better way to bring 2020 to a close than to celebrate kindness and friendship.</p> <p>Further information can be found on the British Red Cross website at: https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/the-snowman-and-snowdog-kindness-calendar?dm_i=6O59.4</p>

Date	Event
<p>Week beginning Monday 7th December</p>	<p>Religious Education (RE) Week</p> <p>RE weeks provide an opportunity for children to learn about what other people believe and discuss their own beliefs based on the themes that might arise from the Christian festival of Christmas. Each year group will be given a BIG question to discuss and research, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the symbols in the Christian story? (Year 1) • Why is the symbol of light significant at Christmas? (Year 5) <p>This year we will also be holding creative competitions in class for pupils to showcase their artistic talents.</p>
<p>Monday 14th December</p>	<p>RE Assembly</p> <p>As it will not be possible for us to hold our traditional Carol Concert at St John's Church this year, the Reverend Alan has kindly agreed to lead a virtual assembly to share the story of Christmas. Pupils will tune in from their classrooms.</p>
<p>Week beginning Monday 14th December</p>	<p>The Compass Virtual Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk</p> <p>A wonderful pantomime treat for Year 1 and above! ProDuKtions and Compass Theatre Hillingdon will be bringing the magic of Compass pantomimes straight into our classrooms.</p>
<p>Week beginning Monday 14th December</p>	<p>Year 1 Nativity</p> <p>Year 1 will perform their own version of the Christmas story. We are hoping to be able to share this event with Year 1 parents through photographs.</p>
<p>Wednesday 16th December</p>	<p>HPS Festive Celebration in Bubbles</p> <p>All children are invited to attend school wearing their favourite festive jumper (or a top in festive colours: green, red or gold.) Our school meals provider, The Pantry, will be serving a festive packed lunch (this must be pre-booked). Pupils having packed lunches from home are encouraged to bring a festive treat to join in the special occasion. Children will enjoy a classic Christmas film and festivities in their classrooms and will be treated to a drink and popcorn*.</p> <p>Please let Mrs Childs' know if you have any concerns regarding these ingredients.</p> <p><i>*Ingredients for Butterkist Sweet Popcorn - Popped Maize, Sugar, Rapeseed Oil, Emulsifier (Sunflower Lecithins)</i></p>
<p>Thursday 17th December</p>	<p>Year Group Carols on the Playground</p> <p>Each year group, in designated class bubbles, will have an opportunity to join together for some socially distanced festive singing in the playground. Unfortunately it is not possible to invite parents to join us this year, but we hope in the summer term there will be other opportunities for us to gather together as a community.</p>

Date	Event
Friday 18th December	<p>Last Day of Term: Finish Time</p> <p>We originally published a finish time of 2.40pm. However, due to COVID-19 safety measures we have decided to keep to the normal school dismissal routine with one small change. Please make sure you collect your child by 3.15pm at the latest rather than the usual time of 3.20pm for our older children. This will enable staff to get away on time and begin their festive break after a busy and hard working year. Staff will be wearing festive colours on the last day. Parents/carers are welcome to join in the fun!</p> <p>A reminder that the 4.30 Club will not be operating on the last day.</p> <p>Mrs Childs will be sending out information before the end of term about booking the Breakfast Club and 4.30 Club for next term. Parents/carers using the clubs at present will be given priority.</p>

Please do not hesitate to contact us using the email address above if you have any questions regarding our plans for the last two weeks of term.

I appreciate your understanding that presents and cards should not be physically exchanged in school. We are planning e-cards in classes and teachers will talk to the children about this next week. The guidance asks us to minimise items shared between home and school and home again. I do know that many parents/carers have said that they wish to express their thanks to staff with gifts and cards. For the moment I ask that as a community we continue to express our thanks through our support for each other and our acts of kindness. We have been overwhelmed by the support of parents/carers during this time. Just standing outside each day and seeing our school community united together by wearing masks (unless you are exempt) and social distancing says something very special about us. I am beginning to be hopeful that with the new vaccine we can all start to look forward to the summer term and possibly organising our usual summer events such as sports day and concerts. If we are able, we will be planning events during the summer term when we can say thank-you and we can exchange gifts and cards. For the moment, it is helpful to keep our rules and routines as simple as possible so as a community we keep each other safe.

Kind regards,



Mrs Ann Bowen-Breslin
Principal