



Dear Parents,

This is just a short newsletter outlining all things Christmas! (Despite it still being November!). After the year we've had, we want to make sure that the children have as much of a 'normal' Christmas as possible in school and do as many of the annual things that happen each Christmas.

It comes with a slight warning of things may have to change last minute depending on what happens nearer the time but I wanted to share our plans with you and hopefully reassure you that whatever we do, it will be done in the most covid secure way we can make it to mitigate the risks as much as we can!

Mrs Walmsley



### Calendar of Events

<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Whole School	Non Uniform Day (Can be Christmas themed but doesn't have to be!)
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School	Christmas Extravaganza
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Reception LKS2 (Year 3 & Year 4)	Christmas Classroom Parties
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 (Year 1 & Year 2) UKS2 (Year 5 & Year 6)	Christmas Classroom Parties
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Whole school	Christmas Film (Another opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper)
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	School Closes for Christmas	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School Opens for the Spring term	

#### Non Uniform Day

To support the fundraising the FOPR are doing, and because we would normally do this – we are having a non-uniform day. I know it may be too early, but we thought this year could have a Christmas theme! This is only optional and please do not buy anything special – I'm sure lots of children have tinselly headbands, festive jumpers, Christmassy tights still in a drawer somewhere from last year (Unless you've just put it all in the bag2School collection!) and if you don't, may be something red green or gold to wear is just as good. It may be that some children don't want to get in to Christmas just yet and so ordinary clothes are just fine!

The 'charge' for not wearing uniform for the day will be: £1 (If this could be put in a small envelope so we can quarantine the money that would be great!)

#### Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

Our Christmas Dinner Day will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – we're working on logistics as I type, but as always, we are offering any child to have a dinner that wants one. A letter will come out very soon about this. On this day we always wear our Christmas Jumpers and this year is no exception! Jumpers are worn instead of school uniform jumpers/cardigans and there is no charge for this – its just part of the fun of the day!

## Caring for our School Community at Christmas

I have become very aware of the difficulties some of our families are facing right now. Whilst it is easy to think that we live in a lovely and affluent area, and that everyone is in the same position as ourselves – nothing could be further from the truth. We have a number of families who are for the first time, finding things really hard – families who are above any thresholds for things like free school meals and benefits. The first national lockdown and Greater Manchester being a Tier 3 area since September and now this second national lockdown have had a massive impact on many jobs and finances and mental health. It is all taking its toll on many families in our community.

One of our 4 school values is 'Caring'; caring for ourselves, caring for each other, caring for our community. I know that this is a value that parents fully support. I want to ensure that Park Road is doing all it can in caring for our community – especially at this time. Over half term, the inspirational work that went on from people like Marcus Rashford and Claire at Minikin (parent of an ex-pupil) got me thinking about what we could do to help our community. In the past we have done things like Mission Christmas and I know that a few of our parents are currently doing things to support other families – and in no way do I want to detract from the wonderful things they are doing but I wanted to do more.

I have therefore set up a Park Road Just Giving page so that parents can make donations. We will then use whatever funds we raise to support any of our families that many need just a little bit of help over Christmas. I know how generous our parent body is and I'm hoping that together, we can care for each other and show our support. I also think it's a great caring lesson for our children to learn – especially over Christmas; that there are families far less fortunate than their own.

You may be reading this thinking – 'Yep! What you've said Mrs W - that's us!' If there is anything we can do to support you this Christmas to make just the little things a bit easier, please - please let me know. We can get your Christmas dinner for you, we can make sure you have enough food over the Christmas holidays, we can get new shoes or a new coat ready for winter, and we can support you with Christmas Presents. If you email me to a new email address that I've made specifically for this – only I have access to it and so I can keep your confidentially. (christmas@parkroadsale.trafford.sch.uk). Let me know what it is that you need help with and we'll see what our school and our community can do to help.

Depending on your generosity, we may be able to help people wider than our immediate school community so please be assured that we will work with the relevant agencies to make sure that any money we do raise can make a difference to others too.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/parkroadsale>

## Christmas Film

Over this next week a vote will appear on ItsLearning under Mrs W's Special Page. Infants and juniors will be able to vote for the film that they want to watch.

Normally we would do the films in the hall but not this year! So, all the juniors will watch the same film in their classrooms and the infants will watch their film in their classrooms – but we will synchronise the films so that we are all watching at the same time!!

Christmas jumpers can be worn on this day (with normal uniform) and children can bring in a small bag of sweets/popcorn with them to eat whilst the film is on. They won't need drinks as they have their water bottles in school (Please note, children will not be allowed to share sweets/popcorn and the bag needs to be disposable.)

### Christmas Cards

We will be allowing children to send Christmas cards to each other this year. To make sure we are safe we will do the following:

- 1) Children need to label their envelopes with the child's name AND the class.
- 2) Children will take their cards to our Christmas post box; sanitise their hands, post the letters, sanitise/wash their hands again.
- 3) Each class will have a designated time to visit the post box each and the class teacher will ensure the post box is sanitised in between each class.
- 4) I will empty the post-box each day and put the cards into 'quarantine'.
- 5) The last day for posting cards is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- 6) Once all the cards have had their quarantine, they will be sorted (our sorters (Mrs Chadwick and I most likely!) will have washed hands, wearing gloves etc) and delivered to classrooms – where (with washed hands) the teachers will give them out.
- 7) When they come home, you may want to keep them on the side/in a drawer for a couple of days before you display – just to be sure!

### Christmas Classroom Parties

We obviously can't have the normal year group parties in the hall or bring party clothes to change into as we normally do each year ... but that doesn't mean we can't party!

Children this year, will have a party in their classroom in their own class bubble. School will provide some quarantined party food, we'll clear the classroom to make some space, children will play some good old traditional games, play Christmas music very loudly and have some party fun!

### Christmas Performances

One thing you won't have to do this year is take time off work to sit in a crowded hall, peering through heads to catch a glimpse of your little one and watch one of our Christmas Performances (well I suppose there has to be one little positive of this whole pandemic!)

However, you aren't getting away that easily!

We are actually very proud of the performances our children put on for their parents and they mark milestones in a child's life at Park Road. Everyone knows that Year 2 and year 6 get to do the speaking parts! So we have decided to keep up with our performing traditions.

Over the next few weeks, children will be learning songs and lines and we will be making 3 videos for you. They are going to take a similar format to what we do at Easter.

- 1) A junior concert (All of KS2)
- 2) An infant concert (EYFS & KS1)
- 3) A musician's concert.

We will try to get everyone on camera at some point. These videos will be uploaded onto the Mrs W's special page on ItsLearning, so will be as secure as they can be – but if you don't want your child appearing on the video please email us and let us know. If we do not hear from you we will take this as you are happy for your child to appear on the film.

And, if we do get the chance to spend some time with our loved ones over Christmas – please log in ItsLearning to share the festive glow that hopefully these videos will give you!



## Christmas Extravaganza – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

The FOPR wanted to make sure that they could do something for the children this year, seeing as though we aren't able to hold our traditional Christmas fair. Whilst this is a fundraiser – the main purpose for the FOPR doing this was for the children to enjoy some Christmas festivities which they probably won't get elsewhere this year.

After much discussion (and a risk assessment) we have come up with a format which will allow the children to do some of the things they love about the Christmas Fair but which will also mitigate any risks as much as possible.

Children will be able to play some of the fair games, speak (socially distanced) with Father Christmas and visit our 'Elfridges' shop to buy surprise gifts for mum and dad. There will be no charge for the games or for the big guy – but Elfridges presents will have a price of £2.00 each (and children can buy 2)

So that you are all aware of extra measures we will be taking for this event:

- Each bubble will visit the hall separately, in their own designated time slot. There will be a thorough clean down in between slots. There will be no cross contamination of bubbles.
- Equipment for the games, used by the children will be for their own bubble (a bit like how the children have their own playtime equipment)
- Father Christmas will be either outside or just inside the hall by the double doors at the back. (Weather dependent). Children visiting FC will sit on a chair at least 2 metres away from him, and the seat will be cleaned for each child (we'll have a bank of chairs ready that get cleaned – the way supermarkets do with their trolleys)
- We understand that normally you would be there when your child speaks to FC so that 'you can work out if your children are on the naughty or nice list'.... ;) so we will make a note of anything that is said – if you need to know.... please just ask us!
- We will have a very small number of volunteers to run this. We have been very lucky that one of our parents, who is a pharmacist, has been able to get us rapid testing kits. Any volunteers and Father Christmas, will have to test negative before they are allowed into the school. They will only go into the hall and nowhere else. (This is like the cake sale – but with the added extra measure of the covid rapid tests.)
- All hygiene measures (like ventilation, hand washing, wearing PPE and staying socially distanced will be followed)
- Please be assured I am constantly assessing the risks in our school community and so if I think that the local intelligence deems necessary – we won't allow volunteers and just manage the day ourselves as much as we can.
- Children will only have a limited time in the hall with their bubble – it's a short visit to the hall not an all day thing!
- We appreciate that some parents may not wish for their child to visit the extravaganza- which is totally fine! We will make provision in school for them so they don't go to the hall – just let us know.

Hopefully all the above information will make you feel reassured about these endeavours for this event for the children.