

December News

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December Update

Almost the end of the first Term of Nursery School!

It's hard to believe that the first term of Nursery School is almost over! In January applications will be open for parents to apply for their children's place at Primary School. Every year we send children to around 10 different local primary schools. We work closely with their Principals and P1 teachers to make sure this move to "big school" is as seamless and worry-free as possible. We have a very busy few weeks before the end of term first though, with lots of exciting treats planned for the children. These treats are funded by the school and the snack/enrichment fund so while we won't ask for separate payments please make sure you stay up to date with the snack fund payments to allow this special activities to happen.

1

ABSENCES

If your child is off school please contact the office and let us know the reason.

2

ILLNESS

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. This helps us keep everyone healthy

3

LATENESS

If you're running late either to come to school or at pick up please let us know.



Children in Need

We raised £85 for Children in Need this year!

Jump Jiggle and Jive

We will continue to have Jump Jiggle and Jive sessions every Wednesday

Carmen House Visit

14th Dec 10am - for a small group of children and parents who want to go!

Christmas Singing

Each Class will sing some Christmas songs and families are invited in to watch please see page 4 for information for each class!

School Photos

Sale/Return £20 to be paid by 15th

Intergenerational Partnership

Carmen House Residential Home on Carmen Lane (opposite Hillmount) have been in touch to invite a small group of the children to go and sing some Christmas songs with their residents. The home is a small setting for 15 older people, many of whom don't have family they see often.

Miss Algie has agreed that a small group of children, across all three classes, will be able to go and sing with the residents. If you and your child would like to come along to this please speak to Miss Algie, we have space for around 15 children to go with Parents. We will meet at Carmen House on Thurs 14th at 10am and stay for around 45 minutes. This is a new partnership for the school and hopefully will be one that will bring a little Christmas Joy to everyone!

Cold and Flu Season

If your child is unwell and needs to have Calpol or other similar medicine before coming to school, please let them stay at home. Children who are unwell are much better off at home where they can rest and recuperate instead of sitting in a busy classroom when they feel unwell. We ask that any unwell children stay at home until they are better and are fully able to participate in all the areas of Nursery School again.

Some children may have seasonal asthma - if your child has an inhaler please complete the medical form so we can give this in school if needed.

Getting Ready to Learn

We hope your child is enjoying their Book Bag each Tuesday! We have a selection of these bags and they rotate between all three classes. - so you should get 9 different book bags through the project.

After Christmas we will be sending home bags that are not just Book Bags. There are a variety of bags - book bags with three different types of book to read and explore with your child, activity bags that might help develop maths skills or thinking skills in a fun and playful way, Fine motor skill bags to help your child's muscles in their fingers and hands develop (important for life but also for learning to write) Rhyme bags to help develop a sense of steady beat and rhyme (important pre-reading skills).

Please note that the value of each bag is around £30. Please take care of the book bag and its contents, we know that accidents happen from time to time but encourage your child to take care of the resources they are being lent and do not allow them to use them unsupervised. In the rare event of any deliberate destruction a replacement fee will be charged.

Tips for using the Book/Activity bags

- Open them at home in a tidy area (many bags contain lots of bits, this means they won't get lost!)
- Talk about the contents of the bag with your child
- Set some quiet, uninterrupted time aside to play/read/sing/complete the activities with your child. It doesn't have to be long but it should be quality time set aside to invest in their learning.
- Don't ask lots of fact based questions - its not a test for your child but should be an enjoyable experience.
- Check the bag's contents before you return it to school. Each bag will have a list of contents. If you lose anything please inform the class teacher.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sometimes children want to send cards to their friends. The easiest way to do this is for them to leave the 'To' part blank and bring in a set of 25 cards signed with their name (or their own version of their name!).

All envelopes can be blank so the children can "post" them into their friends boxes independently.

SONGS

We are practising our special Christmas songs in school. These will be recorded and sent home on Seesaw. We don't want to spoil the children's performance but these are some of the trickier Christmas songs you could practice at home

Away in a Manger

We wish you a Merry Christmas

When Santa got stuck up the chimney

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer



There are lots of Christmas songs on the school advent calendar shared on Seesaw that your child will enjoy singing at home too!

Thank you to Parents

As a small standalone school we would not be able to function as well without the support of the parents. Thank you for keeping up to date with your contributions to snack/enrichment fund that allow us to provide extra things for the children that would not be possible within the school budget alone. As a few examples visits from the Ark Open Farm cost us around £660 every year and visits from the theatre/drama groups range from £250 to £500. These things are wonderful enrichment opportunities for the children. The costs are subsidised by the school so in an average month the value of trips/visitors/activities alongside the cost for the healthy snack exceeds the £20 per month donation that we ask for from parents.

We are unable to pay for these visitors and enrichment activities without the support of parents but we hope that you agree the children benefit so much from having different people in to school!

If at any time your financial circumstances change and the Snack/Enrichment Activity fund causes extra pressure please speak to Miss Algie

Christmas Closing Dates and Times

The last day of term is Thursday 21st December for all classes.

In the last week of term the class timings are a little bit different - we will be having class parties and non uniform days so please keep this information on hand for the last few days before the Christmas break.

Hedgehog - Full Day Class

Monday 18th December - Thursday 21st December - 12noon finish
No lunches served this week - please make sure all paid accounts are settled by Tuesday 19th December.

Monday 18th December - Home after Singing
Thursday 21st December - 11am finish (non-uniform)

Squirrel - Morning Class

Tuesday 19th December - Home after singing
Thursday 21st December - 11am finish (non-uniform)

Badger - Afternoon Class

Tuesday 19th December - Home after singing
Thursday 21st December - 2pm finish (non-uniform)

Upcoming Dates for your Diary...

MON 11th - FESTIVE FAMILY EVENING 6pm with Makaton Sing and Sign

TUES 12th Children visiting Bangor Central Integrated PS for their Nativity

THURS 14th - Christmas singing at Carmen House 10am - 11am - a small number of children and parents are allowed to visit - See Miss Algie for more information.

FRI 15th - Children visiting Bangor Central Integrated PS for their Christmas Grotto

Our Christmas Singing

Families are invited in to hear our Christmas Singing - we can have two adults per child (due to limited space) Children will go home with their adults after the singing

MON 18th- Christmas Singing for the **HEDGEHOG CLASS** - 11.30 AM

TUES 19th - Christmas Singing for the **SQUIRREL CLASS** - 10.30 AM
Christmas Singing for the **RABBIT CLASS** - 1.30 PM

WED 20th - CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES (Non - Uniform Day)

Last Day of Dinners (Hedgehog Class) - 15th December - the Full Day Class will finish at 12noon from 18th - 21st with no dinners served.

School Contact Details

Please note that the school text messaging service and seesaw comments are not always monitored so should not be used to contact the teachers.

Telephone: 02891469241

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