

Christmas 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find below our Christmas schedule for December. Due to the current restrictions these will be a little different than previous years but we are determined that many of our usual events will still go ahead as planned.

EYFS and Key Stage One Christmas Performances



This year our Christmas Nativity performances will need to take place without a live audience. However, our Early Years and Key Stage One classes will be recording these special events so that parents will have the opportunity to watch them at home. A link to watch the performances online will be sent home before the end of term.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

The teaching staff would like the opportunity to send a card/small gift home with your child towards the end of term, these will be quarantined carefully before they are given out. Some parents have expressed a wish to send in a small gift or note to their child's teacher, whilst not expected, these are always gratefully received and will be quarantined in the classrooms.



Due to the logistics of sorting out the Christmas Post boxes in school however, we are requesting that the children **do not** bring any Christmas cards into school this year. Instead, we are asking that families create their own contribution to our Christmas message wall – please send in a creation on one side of paper, no bigger than A4 (21 x 29.7 cm), incorporating a message for our school community from your child / family. They can be any shape or orientation - glitter, sequins and other additions most welcome!

We will be sharing images of every contribution on our website so that we can all share in the festive spirit!

Christmas Lunch



Christmas lunch will be held on the 17th December for all year groups. Further menu details to follow separately – **please note all lunches must be pre-ordered by Thursday 10th December to avoid disappointment – a sticker will be provided in your child's homework diary by Tuesday 1st December for this purpose.** (if you normally pay for meals, they must be *paid for via ParentPay 'School Meals' by 17th*).

EYFS – Video Call

All pupils in EYFS have a special video call arranged with the big bearded man himself on Wednesday 16th December...let's hope we are all still on the 'nice' list by then!



Christingle Service

As we are unable to attend in person this year we would like to signpost some online services and activities which you can access as a family from home.

- St James the Great in Shirley are continuing to offer a 'remote' version of Messy Church – details can be found here <https://www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk/messy-church-at-home> - there is a special Christmas event on Saturday 19th December.
- Year 1 will be engaging in the virtual 'Journey to the Stable' event later this term.
- St James the Great will be offering a Crib Service either on YouTube or zoom or a combination of both either on Tuesday 23rd December or Christmas Eve. Exact details aren't available yet but will be out on the website www.shirleyparishb90.co.uk and on Facebook @AdventureinFaithB90 and Twitter @ParishB90.

We would also like to congratulate Reverend Paul Day on his recent appointment as Vicar, Reverend Peter Law Jones having moved away early in the Spring term.

Pantomime

This year we will be enjoying our annual pantomime and ice cream virtually from within school (oh no we aren't!) rather than visiting the theatre in person. Pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will be joining in the slapstick silliness via a special festive screening of Jack and the Beanstalk from their own classrooms.

Party Day - Friday 18th December

Friday 18th December is party day for **all children**. The children are invited to come to school in their party clothes (there will be no PE!). Please send your child to school with their own individual party food snacks in one small bag/container. Unfortunately, children will not be allowed to share food this year and any left overs will be sent home at the end of the day, though drinks will be provided.



Christmas Showcase

On Thursday 17th December the children and staff in school will be gathering together (via Teams) to share songs, stories, poems and performances and generally have a jolly old time! Sadly our strangled tones will not be shared for external viewing.

Friday - 18 December

Children break up for Christmas on **Friday 18 December** and return to school on **Tuesday 5 January 2021**.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families well over this festive season, stay safe, stay well and thank you for your continued support.

