

INTERIM HEADTEACHER

We know that you will have been pleased to receive the letter from Colin Thompson, Chair of Governors, earlier this week, telling you about the appointment of Miss Abigail Hodge as Interim Headteacher. We feel sure that she will do a great job for the school after Christmas. We are sure that she will be visible at the beginning and end of the day and we know that everyone will make her welcome.

Thank you all for your fantastic support for Children in Need day, which raised the great sum of £626.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Huge thanks to Sarah Way from the PTFA for organising this year's delivery of Christmas cards and other items



designed by your children. They look fabulous and we are sure that your families and friends will enjoy receiving them. We are also pleased to share that the sale of the cards and the mugs raised £428!

CLOSURE OF YEAR GROUPS

We were sad to have to send Year 4 home this week, but grateful for the understanding of parents about this. Please remember that at all times we follow the guidance of the local authority, the DFE and Public Health South West. We know that these measures are inconvenient, but please try not to shoot the messenger! We hope that the Year 4 children are getting on well with the work set on Google Classroom. Please email the Year 4 teachers if you are having any problems. We have had some great examples of learning sent to teachers already!

WATERMORE PTFA CHRISTMAS TRAIL

Team Winter have been working hard over the last few months to make sure that we will be able to mark Christmas in some way, even without having our amazing annual Winter Fayre. Below is the first update from Sarah Way, the Chair of Team Winter:

The PTFA are organising a Christmas trail around the village as a fundraiser for the school. There will be a separate trail for the little legs of the infants and something more challenging for the juniors. The entrance fee will be £2 per family, with no limit on the number of entries per family and there will be a prize per year group. The trail will run from 1st to 14th December. More details of how to register will follow in due course.

PARENTS CONSULTATIONS

I hope that most of you managed to get a conversation with your child's teacher recently. We are expecting Mr Mathias back to school next week, and we will let you know the dates of Swift parent consultations early next week. Ms Oughton has returned, and the dates for the Robin meetings were sent out earlier this week. We are afraid that Mr Jones is still unwell, so not able to call you. If you would like to speak to another member of staff about a child in Nightingale Class, don't hesitate to get in touch.

CAKES AND SWEETS IN SCHOOL

We would like to remind everyone of the notes in the most recent Risk Assessment; for the time being, we will not be able to share out things that the children bring in to celebrate birthdays. We still want to make sure these happy occasions are marked in class, so please encourage the children to remind teachers of upcoming special days!

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD DURING THE SECOND LOCKDOWN?

As we are now well into this second lockdown, we wanted to share some ideas, of things you could do to support your child.

Talk with them about what's going on, keeping communication as open as you can. Let them know that it's okay to feel however they feel – whether that's scared, worried, angry, sad or something else. While you don't need to know all the answers, talking things through can help them feel calmer.

Encourage your child to do the things that help them when they're finding things difficult. This will be different for everyone – it could include things like doing exercise or going for a walk, watching a favourite film, reading a favourite book, cooking or baking, talking to friends, or drawing or writing.

Reassure them this will pass, you're there for them, and you will get through this together. Having returned to some of their normal activities over the summer, going back into lockdown might feel frustrating for your child. They may even be worried that things will never get better. Recognise how difficult this is, while also letting them know that the pandemic, and the lockdown, will not last for ever.

HELP OUT LOCAL PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS

Thanks to all the parents who have so generously donated to the Food Bank for Christmas already. Please try to send these items rather than others, as this is what the Food Bank have specially asked for:

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit

Large tinned ham

Boxes of stuffing

UHT Fruit Juice

Savoury snacks / nibbles / crisps etc

Boxes / tubs chocolates or sweets

Tinned Potatoes

Tin / Sachet / Carton of Custard

Tinned salmon

Mince pies (dated January if possible, but certainly not November)

Boxes / tins of biscuits

Sponge puddings (not Christmas puddings)

Selection boxes

They are unable to send out anything containing alcohol, so please don't send Christmas puddings, liquer chocolates, luxury mince pies containing brandy etc.

The deadline for donations is Thursday 26th November. You can send in items any time before then, and you and your child can drop them off at the front door on arrival in the morning, or there is a box we will place in the hall for Breakfast Club.

Remember that the school is a partner of the Yate Food Bank, which means that we can issue a food voucher which you can take to the Food Bank to exchange for food for your family, if you are in financial difficulties. Please ask!

Coronavirus Incubation timeline

It can take up to 14 days to develop symptoms after exposure - this is known as the incubation period.



DAY 0

Hannah was exposed to coronavirus.

DAY 5

Hannah got tested and was negative.

DAY 7

Thinking she didn't have coronavirus, Hannah attended school, and was in close contact with 17 people.

DAY 9

Hannah developed symptoms and tested positive. She was contagious for 48 hours before her symptoms started, and exposed 17 people to coronavirus. These 17 people now all need to self-isolate for 14 days.



This is why it's so important to self-isolate for the allocated time and to only book a test if you develop symptoms.