

TURNFURLONG TIMES

Friday 11th December 2020

Christmas Message

What a term it has been! In what has been a tricky start to the school year I thank the pupils, parents and staff for working so well together to make things as normal as possible which has allowed us to continue to provide the outstanding level of education we are always so proud to deliver.

Thank you for the amazing support and flexibility you have shown our school and for your ongoing continued support, it is very much appreciated.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope you all manage to enjoy your break and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Divers



Food Bank Donations

Our Community Champions felt it was very important to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves so they have organised a collection for the local food banks for Christmas.

We will be collecting food items—a trolley will be available at the main gate from next week or you can donate through the Schoolgateway app—the Community Champions will then purchase food items. A letter has been sent home today with further information.

Suggestions

Cereal, Soup, Rice, Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, Lentils, beans and pulses, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee, Tinned fruit, Biscuits, UHT milk, Fruit juice. Also deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes, laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid, sanitary towels/tampons, nappies, baby wipes and baby food, Face masks and hand sanitiser.



Letter from the Chair of Governors

I am making contact to thank you for the tremendous support you have provided to the school this term. The children have continued their learning under very unusual circumstances, and all the signs are that they are enjoying school. If they are to learn then enjoyment is an important starting point.

Your governors met online in October to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on the school and the arrangements that Mrs Divers and her team have put in place to keep them and the children safe. This is complex and you will be familiar with the new arrangements and terms like 'bubbles'.

Although there is good news about the vaccines I suspect that the programme of vaccinations for most of us will extend into the late spring or summer. Therefore, it is really important that everyone follows the rules about wearing face masks, not meeting in small spaces, and keeping at a distance. This is particularly important at the beginning and end of the school day when the pavement outside school can become busy.

Most governor activity is invisible to parents. However why not take a look at the changes to the school website [about our role as governors](#). Earlier this term we had discussions with the school about the budget and monitored the Safeguarding and health and safety arrangements. Before the end of term each governor will meet with a head of year to discuss the progress made this term by the children. We are especially interested to know if children have caught up with any lost learning, and what action is in place if they have not made expected progress. Working with you is really important and good teaching is what makes the school successful.

Governors are proud of our teachers and support teams. One thing that they, and the children miss, are the additional activities. Music for all, assemblies, visits and visitors. They form the cement that makes learning fun and bind the subjects together. So, I was delighted to hear that the Santa Dash was a tremendous success and enjoyed by everyone, despite the cold weather. Well done everyone.

If your children are unable to attend school we need to make sure that their learning continues and, if necessary, to support you. We also need to be sure that the needs of the staff are being met and they feel safe. We have every confidence that everything is in place and we will bring it all together at our January meeting and review progress against the school improvement plan.

Thank you for your valuable support. Your children are on the final lap before the holiday and the fun the Christmas break provides. We governors wish each of you a well deserved break and please stay safe and well.

Martin Baxter
Chair of Governors

Santa Dash

Please ensure you pass over your sponsorship forms, so we can claim gift aid too! So far we have raised over **£700!!**

A massive thank you to Mr Macklin-Day for leading and organising the Santa Dash!

Last Week of Term

An important letter was set home yesterday regarding attendance next week at school. Please do take the time to read it and please complete the online form (the link is on the letter) which will assist us with our planning next week. Thank you to everyone who had already completed it.

The panto link will be emailed to those families choosing to stay home next week (or self isolating). If those families have ordered cones, they can be collected from the school office before 10am on the day of the child's performance. If you are self isolating yourself, please send someone else to collect the sweet cone.

Fire Drill

There was an unplanned fire drill this week at the end of the school day. The children all knew what to do and were great!

If visitors or parents hear the fire alarm in the future, can we request that you move off the school premises calmly and in a safe manner so that we can clearly see our children and put our fire procedure into place—this allows us to keep all children, staff and visitors safe.



Masks At School

Can we ask all parents to avoid congregating around the entry/exit gates. Parents who do not wear masks for medical reasons, please be extra vigilant as it can make some pupils feel uncomfortable when they walk through a 'crowd' of people.

Please stand 2 meters apart at all times.



Cross Country

Cross country has been very successful! So we will continue with Cross Country in the Spring Term—the days and times will remain the same, and details will be on Schoolgateway from next week!

Cashless School

We take this opportunity to remind you that we are now a cashless school. This means that we do not take ANY cash at school anymore. We are grateful for the donations for Save the Children today however we have asked children to take their money back home. Donations are accepted through the Gateway.



Dates for your Diary

15/12/2020	Year 3 Panto
16/12/2020	Year 4 Panto
17/12/2020	Year 5 & 6 Panto
18/12/2020	Last day of term
04/01/2020	INSET DAY
05/01/2020	Children Return to school
15/01/2020	Junior Transfer Applications Portal Closes
29/01/2020	Rainbow mufti—Florence Nightingale Trust (rescheduled)
01/03/2021	Secondary School Offers