



NEIGHT HILL
HIMBLETON
DROITWICH
WORCS
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs C A Gent

21st November 2014

Dear Parents

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is fast approaching and as one of the busiest times of the year for everyone I hope the following information will help things run as smoothly as possible making it an enjoyable time for all.

Monies raised by the 'Friends' and donated to the school fund all Christmas events and activities and we are once again very grateful for this.

Please complete the attached consent form for your child to take part in all the following Christmas activities taking place off the school site.

"A Christmas Tale"

Our Christmas Nativity will take place in St Mary Magdalene Church, Himbleton on:

- **Tuesday 2nd December at 2.00 pm ~ Everyone welcome, including pre-school children**
- **Wednesday 3rd December at 2.00pm ~ Everyone welcome**
- **Thursday 4th December at 6.30 pm ~ Ticket only**

Tuesday 2nd December is our first nativity and younger siblings and pre-school children should only attend on this day.

Pupils from Somerville Primary School, Birmingham, will also be joining us on Tuesday. This will be our first opportunity to come together as we begin establishing a partnership. Our aim is to work together to expand experiences and benefit children at both our schools.

Attendance – Please only attend once. Seats are not allocated. It is first come first served so in fairness to everyone please do not reserve seats. Please ensure all family members are aware of these requests so any disappointment can be avoided.

Costumes - Each year we continue to add to our supply of nativity costumes using money donated by the 'Friends' and with the help of some very able dressmakers. This year almost all costumes have been provided.

Rehearsals – In addition, the children will be walking to and back from the church for rehearsals on **Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December**. Please note Reception children will not take part in the first rehearsal in the church.

Arrival/Collection Arrangements:

For the afternoons of **Tuesday 2nd December and Wednesday 3rd December** the arrangements are:

- children will walk down to the church with staff
- children will be ready for collection from the church at 3.00 pm approximately

For the evening of **Thursday 4th December** the following arrangements apply:

- children may wear 'own clothes' – this will make changing easier
- children who need to be face painted should arrive at church between 5.45pm and 6.00pm
- all other children need to be at the church no later than 6.15pm
- children will be ready for collection from the church at 7.30pm approximately.

Cameras/videos – In consideration for the enjoyment of everyone, both children and parents, I would ask you not to use cameras or videos before or during the play. There will be a “photo opportunity” at the end of each performance.

This year, for the first time, we do not have blanket agreement from all parents and everyone must abide by school guidance. Please ensure you inform all those attending of these arrangements.

School nativities are a wonderful time for everyone and as a school we are determined to continue the taking of photographs. However the world we now live in is rapidly changing to the point that even Himbleton School now needs a Social Networking Policy, please find your copy attached, it is really important that you take the time to read it. If you would like to discuss this further then please contact me at school.

I would like to reiterate the following point from the Social Networking Policy:

- Parents must **not** post photographs on social networking sites taken at school events if they show any other child apart from their own.

This year Pershore High School has kindly agreed to film the play for us and I need to bring the following points to your attention:

- The purpose of the filming is to provide a record of the Christmas Play to be viewed by those affiliated to the school only ie. Himbleton governors, staff, children and their families.
- The video will only be made available to governors, staff and parents of children in the school for their own personal use (one per family). Please note the video will not be made publicly available in any format.
- All children will be filmed unless I am notified in writing by 9am on Monday 1st December.

Parking - Facilities are very limited and you will need to allow plenty of time to find somewhere to park and walk to the church. **Please remember to park with consideration to residents.** Also it is very dark so you might like to bring a torch.

Christmas Cards

It is a tradition in school for children to send each other Christmas cards. The School “Post” will begin on **Monday 1st December**. To ensure your child’s card reaches its intended destination (and to make sorting and delivering easier) please put christian and surnames on envelopes, and if possible, year group!

Christingle Service

Everyone is invited to attend the Christingle Service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Himbleton on **Sunday 7th December** at 11.00 am. Once again the Christingle collection will be supporting 'The Children's Society'. Christingle collections will be received at this Service. As children will be attending with their families they do not need to wear school uniform.

A group of adult volunteers, with the children will be making the Christingles in school on the previous Friday, ready to be presented during the service. If you are unable to attend the service but would like to support the collection then please send donations into school by Friday 5th December.

Children's Christmas Dinner

On **Tuesday 9th December** the 'Friends' will be serving a traditional Christmas Dinner to all the children and staff in the Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help in anyway. Please remember, no packed lunches will be needed and school will provide a mid-morning snack.

Family Carol Service

The Christmas family carol service plays a very important role in the life of our school. I am sure you agree that whilst Christmas is wonderful especially for our children it is important that they understand that it is more than Father Christmas & presents. This is a very special time when as a Church School we can come together and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

This year we will be joining the Family Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Himbleton at **11am on Sunday 14th December**. We will be participating in the service as a school and it is expected that everyone attends.

Children need to wear school uniform. All families are warmly invited to attend, however if necessary children can be left in the care of staff for the service, ready for collection at 12 o'clock.

Christmas Party

On the last day of term, **Friday 19th December** a traditional Christmas party will be held in the Village Hall. Children can wear their own clothes to school on this day. Party clothes need to be practical. Please can all children be collected from the Village Hall at **3pm**.

Children just need to bring themselves to school on this day – no book bags, lunch boxes, snacks etc!

After School Multi Skills and 'Stay & Play'

There will be NO Multi Skills nor 'Stay & Play' on Wednesday 3rd December, due to the Nativity. There will be After School Multi Skills and 'Stay & Play' sessions on the 10th and 17th December.

The first session of the Spring Term will be on Wednesday 14th January 2015.

Swimming & 'Forest School'

The last sessions of the year will be on Thursday 27th November 2014.
The first session of the new term will be on Thursday January 15th 2015.

New term begins on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs C A Gent
Head Teacher

Himbleton Church of England First School
CONSENT FOR CHRISTMAS 2014 ACTIVITIES

I give permission for (child's name) to participate in all the Christmas activities taking place off the School site.

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

My child (name) will attend the Family Carol Service on Sunday 14th December at 11am.

Additional family members will be: adults children

Signed Date

*Please note a return slip is required for all children
~ see Mrs Gent if you are unable to attend*

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