



# Merry Christmas And Happy New Year

## Newsletter - December 2020

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Forest and Sandridge!

### Christmas! Christmas! Christmas!

#### Nativities

What a busy term we have all had in school. We have enjoyed some lovely nativities from both KS1 and EYFS and Seedlings. Though this had to be done virtually this year, they were just as impressive as ever. Thank you so much for supporting your child by providing costumes as well as learning lines and songs at home. Also, a massive thank you to all of the staff who made it happen!

#### Santa Visit

We had a visit from Santa from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December! He whizzed around the school playground and gave everyone a big wave. The children were all very excited to see him! He even left all of the children a very special treat! A big 'Thank You' to the Melksham Lions!

#### Selection Boxes

A big thank you to BSB Flooring who have kindly donated a selection box to all of our children. We know the children will have really appreciated this kind token during this Christmas period.

#### Christmas Dinner Day

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December we had our annual Christmas Dinner Day. The children sat together to enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and a cracker. Everyone had a really lovely time together!

#### Forest Friends

A really big thank you to Forest Friends for organising lots of our Christmas festivities this year! The online Christmas Fayre was fantastic and allowed us to support many local businesses! Thank you for all your support with this. All the money raised will allow Forest Friends to continue supporting all of the children, ensuring they are given lots of exciting opportunities throughout the year!

#### Local Community

Our local community are in our thoughts at this time of year. Some of our children have been busy making Christmas wreaths as well as writing letters and drawing pictures to let them know we are thinking of them. I am sure the residents of both Brookside Care Home and Blenheim Care Home really appreciated this.

#### Elf Day

We raised an amazing £327.50 which will be going to support the Alzheimer's society. If you have not yet donated and would like to, this can be done through Parent Pay. Thank you everyone for your kind generosity.

### TD DAY- Monday 4th January

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is TD Day in school. We look forward to welcoming all of our children back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### Our worship theme for next term is Humility.

Next term we will be exploring our core value of Humility. **Humility** is the quality of being **humble** and means putting the needs of another person before your own, and thinking of others before yourself. It also means not drawing attention to yourself, and it can mean acknowledging that you are not always right.

Be completely **humble & gentle**;  
be **patient**,  
bearing with  
one another  
in **love**.

- Ephesians 4:2



#### Christmas Candlelit Carol Service

It was lovely to be able to join in worship with everyone on the last day of term. Though this had to be done virtually, it was lovely to come together to remember the real reason for Christmas. We hope you were able to join in with us and share in this special time together. The children did a fantastic job of singing Christmas carols and songs. Well done everyone!

### New PSA

We have a new Pupil Services Assistant starting in January. We are looking forward to welcoming Leanne Richards to our team.

### A new addition!

We are very excited to be able to announce that our Forest Family has grown! At the end of November, Ms Tape gave birth to a new baby Girl. Her name is Ada and she is doing very well. We are sure you will join us in congratulating Ms Tape and her family on their new addition.



### Communication

At Forest and Sandridge we strive to ensure we communicate with parents effectively and we review our communications regularly. We politely ask that you ensure you are reading all letters, emails, texts as well as the newsletter thoroughly to ensure no messages are missed. We have noticed recently Class Dojo is being used to ask questions about things that have been addressed through other means of communication.

## Attendance

97.44%

- Children should be in school every day and arrive on time.
- Please ensure that you communicate reasons for absence to school by 8:45 a.m. on the morning of each day of absence.
- Please communicate any reasons for absence fully and clearly with school staff.
- Please try to make medical appointments (where possible) outside of the school day.

## COVID Updates

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 and symptoms developed within 48 hours of last being in school or if your child was not symptomatic but tested positive within 48 hours of last being in school, you must inform the school of your child's test result. You should do this by emailing us on [office@forestsandridge.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@forestsandridge.wilts.sch.uk) or by texting the school text messaging service on 07786208446. This email address and text message inbox will be regularly monitored for six days up to 24<sup>th</sup> December.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 having developed symptoms, more than 48 hours since last being in school you do not need to contact us. Instead, you will need to follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. If your child is positive, self-isolating or symptomatic prior to the start of term 3 please contact the school on Monday 4 January and make sure your child self-isolates for the required number of days.

We politely ask that parents wear a mask whilst dropping children off and collecting them from school. Please ensure you are following all social distancing guidelines and are not congregating in groups outside of school.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

16 Dec 17 Dec 18 Dec

DAY	Last day of school	Last day of school	Last day of school
16 Dec	Last day of school 16 Dec		
17 Dec		Last day of school 17 Dec	
18 Dec			Last day of school 18 Dec
19 Dec			
20 Dec			
21 Dec	If your child tests positive for Covid AND had symptoms OR was tested during the dates shown by the green boxes above you must email the school. Select your child's last date at school to find the green box that applies to you		
22 Dec	If your child gets symptoms and tests positive after these dates you do not need to tell the school		
23 Dec			
24 Dec			
25 Dec			
26 Dec			
27 Dec			
28 Dec			
29 Dec	If a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19 the whole household must self-isolate		
30 Dec			
31 Dec			
01 Jan			
02 Jan			
03 Jan			
04 Jan			

At the start of term in January if you child is positive, self-isolating or showing Covid symptoms you must tell the school

People may be able to pass on COVID-19 without any symptoms

#WiltshireTogether

## News from across the school...

### Seedlings

Apple, Cherry and Seedlings have had a wonderful term learning all about the real meaning of Christmas, preparing and acting out the Nativity for you all to see. They did a super job remembering speaking parts and songs. The children are enjoying lots of Christmas activities. We hope you all enjoy watching our virtual 'A Very Special Baby' Nativity and wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas time with your families.

### EYFS

In Apple and Cherry Class, we have been learning all about Space in our topic for this term 'To Infinity and Beyond!' We were very shocked and excited to see that an alien spaceship had crash landed in our outside area – we had lots of fun looking for clues and trying to work out what had happened!

### Lower School

In Lower School we have been getting into the Christmas spirit in lots of ways! We have some very cheeky Elves in each class who have been getting up to lots of mischief! In Willow Class a helpful Elf gives ideas each day for how to be kind and helpful! The children love coming in and seeing what the elves have been up to each day!

We also have enjoyed rehearsing for our virtual Nativity, which we hope you all enjoy! ☺

### Middle School

Middle school were really excited to re-join Times Table Rock Stars and are already working hard to improve their rock speed! It has been a very busy term but we have enjoyed all of our festive learning. The naughty elves have been getting up to all sorts of tricks too. One of them was even wrapped in a Taco for Taco Tuesday!

### Upper School

After what has been an exceptionally challenging year for all, it has been lovely to welcome Christmas early. All of the classrooms look fabulous, the elves are up to their usual mischief and the craft activities have been flowing. We have all been studying a Christmas Carol in our English lessons and we now know where the term 'Bah Humbug' comes from - we're definitely not Scrooges in Upper School though ☺! From us all in Years Five and Six, we wish you the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years. We're exceptionally proud of the children and what they have achieved, they now deserve a good break. See you in the New Year!

## Visits to the Woods

We are very lucky here at Forest and Sandridge to be surrounded by the beautiful Wiltshire countryside. With the help of Mrs Bacon, we have ensured all of our children have had a visit to the woods since we started back in September. The children have enjoyed going to the woods and engaging in a whole range of outdoor learning sessions as well as having some hot chocolate! We want to give a big thank you to Mrs Bacon for organising and facilitating this.

## Parent View

We have begun to receive lots of positive feedback on our Ofsted Parent Questionnaire. If you have not already, please follow the link below to share your views.

[www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)

Thank you for your support with this.