

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of November and it is lovely to see the sun still shining. Our school field is a picture in its autumn colours and the children have been having a lovely time chasing leaves.

At this time, I would normally be insisting on long trousers or skirts with tights, but it has been very mild and I understand that children may still wish to wear shorts. In these days of climate change, a strict summer and winter uniform no longer seems sensible. Please be aware, however, that the children spend a great deal of time outdoors and dressing appropriately for the weather is a life lesson.

Christmas is fast approaching and we will be marking this special time of the year in a number of ways:

Firstly, we will be recording the children singing some festive songs and we will put this together as a Christmas message for you all. Our **Reindeer run is on the 3rd December** and your child should have brought a sponsor form home to start collecting for the Phyllis Tuckwell hospice; a cause very close to our heart.

The following **Friday, 10th December**, the children can wear **Christmas jumpers** to school in place of their brown jumpers and cardigans for a donation of £2 to the PTA. As we are collecting for the hospice and the PTA, we didn't support Children in Need.

In the last week of term (**commencing 13th December**), the children will have a **party** in their year group. **Year 6** will be on Monday, **Year 5** will be on Tuesday, **Year 3** will be on Wednesday and **Year 4** will be on Thursday.

On **Monday 13th December**, we will be taking a small group of children to sing Christmas Carols and songs in Main Square and, finally, we have booked to go to St Pauls for our **traditional carol service on Thursday 16th November**. Further details of all of these events will be sent nearer to the time.

Term finishes on **Friday 17th December at 2pm**.

I have had one volunteer to put up the Christmas tree next Wednesday morning but if there was anyone else who felt able to help, that would be wonderful. It is a big tree. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

We are aware that Covid, rising costs and so much more are putting a huge strain on families at the moment. I have attached a poster that gives details of a helpline that our young people can use and below is a link to a new resource for parents called Parent Smart. It is run by Place 2 Be which is a highly respected organisation dedicated to improving our mental health. The link will take you to useful videos and materials on subjects such as helping children with anxiety or separation issues, developing good eating habits, reading with your child and so much more. I would urge you to have a look.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>

Kind regards

Sue Knight

