

# Ridgeway Newsletter – DECEMBER 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers

### What's Covered:

- INSET Days
- Christmas Cards
- Staffing Update
- Christmas Gifts
- School Meals
- Burntwood Be a Friend
- Social Distancing
- Christmas Events

### Staffing Update

Miss Miles will be getting married over the Christmas Holidays. From January 2021 she will be known as Mrs Jones. I am sure you will join me in sending congratulations and best wishes for her special day!

### Pre Ordering School Meals

A reminder that all school meals must be pre ordered at least 24 hours before. Children accessing the universal free school meal who have not pre booked will receive the hot meal of the day.

### Social Distancing

Can parents please refrain from gathering in groups on the pavement outside the main gate on Grange Road at the start and end of the day. It makes it very difficult for other parents to pass in a safe way and to maintain social distancing.

### INSET Days

A reminder that Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> & Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 are INSET days. School will close for Christmas on WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We will return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Christmas Cards

Children may bring Christmas cards into school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and they will be distributed on the following Monday. We would be grateful if cards are not sent into school on any other day.

### Christmas Gifts

We have had several queries on the school's position on gifts for school staff. **Clearly, the decision to buy gifts for school staff remains parents' personal choice.** However, if you are intending to bring gifts into school at the end of term, in line with the requirement to quarantine items which move between households we would appreciate if these could be brought into school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December in order for a few days to pass before staff take them home.

### Burntwood Be a Friend

We would like to express our thanks to 'Burntwood Be a Friend' for the donation of advent calendars for all children in school. In return we would like to support their 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. If you would like to donate any of the items listed, please send them in to school with your child on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020** ready for them to be collected and distributed to the local food bank. **We ask that you do not send in items before this date.**

## Christmas Events 2020

Unfortunately, our normal Christmas celebrations cannot take place in the usual way. We do however have some fun events planned:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Christmas Jumper Day – School will take part in National Christmas Jumper Day for the contribution of £1 for The Save the Children Fund.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Christmas Party Day – We will celebrate Christmas with Christmas Parties in our class bubbles. Children will need to bring a labelled plate of party food for themselves to eat, and may wear their party clothes to school on this day.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020: Christmas Dinner Day – The whole school community will have a Christmas lunch today. Lunchtime will be staggered to enable all classes to eat their Christmas Dinner in the school hall. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will eat their lunch with their class bubble. We would like children to wear their Christmas jumpers again on this day.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Throughout the last three days various Christmas activities will take place within class bubbles.

We have purchased an online pantomime of 'Robin Hood and his socially distanced men' for children from Nursery – Year 6 from 'The Take Away Theatre Company'

*Sherwood Forest is coming out of quarantine - even Ye Olde Tesco is open with a one-way-system and a plentiful supply of loo roll!!! Join our hero Robin of Lockdown Loxley as he attempts to outwit the evil (but obsessively well sanitised) Sheriff of Nottingham. As well as robbing from the rich to give to the poor can he romance the beautiful Maid Marion (from a suitable social distance of course) along the way.*

*It's clearly going to be a busy day in the forest! So, join Robin and his hilarious Merry Men, wash your hands, sharpen up your swords, and get ready to aim your arrows for a fun-filled musical Christmas treat!*

In addition, children will all take part in an EYFS, or whole school nativity, and a Christmas Songs Concert, which will be recorded for parents to watch, either on Microsoft Teams or Tapestry. These will also be shared within school during the last week.

This just leaves me to wish all of our staff, parents and pupils a safe and happy holiday and a restful new year!

Merry Christmas!