

Newsletter

29th November 2021

As we head into December, Christmas is beginning to make an appearance at school. This will inform you about the things we have planned for the last three weeks of the autumn term.

Covid Update

Thank you so much for being vigilant and responding quickly to requests for testing over this last couple of weeks. It has been two weeks since the start of our outbreak and children have begun returning to school. We are still getting the odd person testing positive, but it is definitely slowing down. We have heard of children sharing the virus with their parents – we do hope all of you are not suffering too much and will be back to full health soon.

One of the main issues was that many of the children have been asymptomatic. By all carrying out a PCR and regular Lateral Flow Tests it did seem that these positive cases were quickly picked up. So thank you so much for being vigilant and sensible with testing and sending your children to school.

Last week, the teachers delivered hybrid lessons and the children attended assemblies online too. It was good to see those children that could make it. Thank you for your support with helping this to happen.

We're hoping that we are over the worst of our outbreak. Let's hope that we can all remain well for the next few weeks and everyone can have a super and much needed and deserved Christmas.

Diary Dates

This is a list of dates – please see sections for further information about each event.

December	
Monday 6 th	- Robins field trip: Exploring the village
Monday 13 th	- Christingle making (am) - Ely Cathedral Virtual Christmas (pm)
Tuesday 14 th	- Christmas Jumper Day (and for the rest of the week) - Christmas Dinner - Visit from Mr FC and his 'reindeer' - Last collection day for the Christmas Post-boxes
Wed 15 th	- Wrens and Robins present: The Inn Keeper's Breakfast 10am & 2pm - Carols in the playground led by Hawks & Kingfishers 5.30pm
Thurs 16 th	- Christmas Themed 'Beetle Drive' 5 – 6.30pm
Friday 17 th	Last day of Autumn Term
January	
Tues 4 th	Professional Development Day
Wed 5 th	First Day of Spring Term
Thursday 6 th	KS2 Swimming starts
Monday 24 th	Young Voices at Birmingham Arena
Friday 11 th	Break up for February Half Term

The Inn Keeper's Breakfast

Wednesday 15th: 10am & 2pm

Wrens and Robins have begun learning their lines and practising for this year's nativity production.

We are holding two performances on Wednesday 15th December – at 10am and at 2pm.

The current plans are that it will be performed outside. There is no limit on people we can have watching, but we do ask you to request tickets (free) so we know how many people to expect to each performance. We will be restricting tickets to 6 people per family in the first instance. A letter will be sent home soon.

The children will be performing on the outside staging area. The audience is standing room only. The KS2 children will be watching a dress rehearsal on the Tuesday morning.



Carols on the Playground

Wednesday 15th: 5.30pm

Hawks and Kingfishers will be leading Christmas Carols and Christmas Celebrations on the school playground at 5.30pm.

We will sing carols by torchlight and have readings and poems performed by the children.

Please come along with your torches, warm clothes and finest singing voice to join in the Christmas Celebrations.

Christmas Jumper Day Tuesday 14th December

Starting on Tuesday 14th Decemeber until the end of term we would like the children to wear their Christmas jumpers to school.

This is a lovely way to get in the Christmas spirit and to get good use out of your Christmas jumpers.

We will start on Tuesday 14th December – our Christmas Day at school. This is the day that we will have Christmas dinner and hopefully Father Christmas will visit. I have been in touch and he has been having a look through his list (and checking it twice). I am told that it looks like all the children at Offord Primary are on his 'nice' list. Let's hope it stays this way! Father Christmas and his reindeer will be coming to school in the afternoon and sharing a story and chatting to all the children.



Christmas Dinner Tuesday 14th December

Please can you ensure that you have signed up your children for Christmas dinner by this Friday (3rd Dec) so that Helen in the kitchen has enough time to get our order in.

Signing up is easy through the School Grid system. Even if your child normally has a packed lunch, please use this system to book and pay for any school meals that you would like.

We will be making our Christmas dinner as special meal, with carols, Christmas hats and delicious food.

Christmas Cards Now until Tuesday 14th

The Christmas Post Boxes will be available from Wednesday 1st December.

If your child would like to give out Christmas cards at school we would like to ask them to use the school delivery service. The letters can be posted anytime up to last collection day which is Tuesday 14th December. The cards will then get sorted and given out before the end of term.



This will ensure the cards have been in 'quarantine' before being sorted and delivered. Post boxes are in the corridors, one outside Hawks class and the other by Robins/Wrens class.

Christmas Beetle Drive Thursday 16th December: 5pm – 6.30pm

We are holding a fun activity for the children before we break up for term.

We would like to invite them to come along and join in the games at a Christmas themed Beetle Drive.

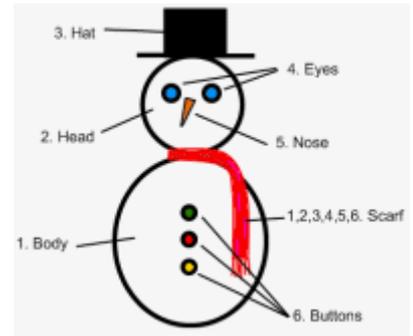
This is a game where children throw a dice and have to draw their snowman and reindeer based on their dice throws. It should be a great evening. £2 entry to the event which will include snacks, prizes and lots of fun.

Tickets can be purchased in two ways:

BACS to Offord PTA, sort code: 20-05-73, account number: 20176346. Please use reference of Beetle and child's name.

Or send £2 in to the school office (via your child's class teacher).

Last day for buying tickets is Tuesday 14th December.



Children In Need

Thank you for your support for Children in Need this year. £63 was raised for this great cause. The children enjoyed their non-school uniform day.



Swimming

Beginning Thursday 6th January

Swimming is part of the PE curriculum. We have not managed to go the last couple of years due to school closures when we had the pool booked. We are hopeful that we will be able to go this academic year.

The swimming pool has been booked at Huntingdon Recreation Centre. We will be attending every Thursday for 6 weeks starting on Thursday 6th January (the second day back after the Christmas holidays).

Hawks and Kingfishers will be travelling by coach and each class will have a half hour lesson. This will be taught by both class teachers and a swimming teacher.

A letter providing more information will be sent out shortly. We will be asking for a voluntary contribution towards the transport costs for these lessons.



Ely Cathedral Virtual Christingle

Monday 13th December

On the Monday morning we will be making Christingles with all children in the school and discussing all the symbolism behind them.

In the afternoon we will then be joining in with the school's virtual Christingle service from Ely Cathedral. All the children will be able to get involved, we'll light some of the Christingles and I am sure we will be joining in with carols. It will be a lovely start to the Christmas week at school.

Playground Equipment

The playground equipment was installed in the week beginning 8th November. The children enjoyed watching it being built but even more enjoyed playing on it.

The children have been playing on it in rotation of classes at the moment due to us keeping the classes separate. It is wonderful to watch them playing and enjoying this new equipment with their friends. Playtimes continue to be busy, as we have such things as hoops, balls and balancing equipment out too - the children enjoy this time with their friends as a break between their in-class learning and ensures they have the opportunity to strengthen their social skills.

