

Christmas Events

As we quickly move towards December, our newsletter today is full of information about our planned Christmas events that we will be enjoying over the last three weeks of half term. There is also information about how to book some of these so you can join us for the festivities!

Christmas Concerts

As you will see, our Christmas concerts are planned for Tuesday 7th December at 2 pm and again at 6pm. (Children should come to school for 5:30pm please) We will hold our final performance on Thursday 9th December at 2pm. This year we will be performing the play, 'Christmas Around the World', with all year groups sharing the traditions of different countries at Christmas. You should have received a letter from your child's class teacher to explain the costume your child will require which will give away the country they are thinking about!

To minimise chances of Covid transmission during the Christmas concerts we are taking some measures to mitigate the risk

- Ventilation in the school hall where the performances will take place
- Limited numbers of audience places for each performance to aid social distancing (60)
- Maintaining a 2m distance between the children and audience
- Recommending Lateral Flow Test taken by anyone attending the performances
- Masks are optional for any of the audience

Each family will be allocated 2 tickets to attend. You can request tickets via the following link until Thursday 2nd December: <https://forms.office.com/r/ssgvpeWeUJ>

If you are able to attend the daytime showings, please do so that those who are only able to attend the 6pm performance can do so. If numbers exceed 60 for any performance, we will have to hold a draw for the tickets. In this event, we will contact you. Thank you for your continued understanding. We are trying to ensure we can go ahead but have to ensure safety.

Newsletter

Friday 25th November

Website: <https://www.summerseatmethodistprimary.co.uk/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Summerseat_mps



Dates for your Diary—for dates further ahead, please visit the calendar on the school website.

Weds 1st Dec	Tree decorating Service—Children & staff only
Thurs 2nd Dec	Concert Dress Rehearsal
3rd-5th Dec	Robinwood—Class 4
Mon 6th Dec	Dodgeball Competition (UKS2) - Details to follow for those involved (3:30pm—5:00)
Tues 7th Dec	Christmas Concert—2pm & 6pm
Tues 7th Dec	Friends—Christmas Shop
Weds 8th Dec	Pantomime—all classes (Leaving at 12, returning 3:30pm)
Thurs 9th Dec	Christmas Concert—2pm
Fri 10th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day for 'Save the Children' - £1 donation (Full non-uniform)
Fri 10th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Mon 13th Dec	Friends—Craft for Christmas
Tues 14th Dec	Parent Meetings—Telephone Appointments
Weds 15th Dec	Parent Meetings—Telephone Appointments
Weds 15th Dec	Christmas Party (In school hours)
Fri 17th Dec	School closes for holidays— 2:30pm Carols at 2pm outside school — weather dependent (Christmas Jumpers)
Thurs 6th Jan	School Re-opens for new year

Award Winners

Who has been shining this week at Summerseat?

Class One	Value Award— Teddy
Class Two	Value Award — Seb
Class Three	Shine Award — Brodie Values Award— Faye
Class Four	Shine Award — Georgia Values Award— Jess

Friends Events

There are several Friends events coming up in the next few weeks: Friends Christmas shop and Crafts for Christmas. Further details of these and how to book can be found on the following link:

<https://www.thevillagetreasurebox.co.uk/SMPS-Events-c92445412>

Contingency Plan

Please be aware that whilst we are planning to go ahead with our Christmas events programme (albeit with some alterations), there is a chance of disruption if we do have any Covid outbreaks in school. We do hope this will not happen but if it did, we have the following contingencies:

- Move to a video recording of the Christmas Performance
 - Hold a virtual pantomime
 - Parties / Christmas dinners in bubbles
- We will keep you informed and as I said hopefully, we will not have to move to these options.

Pantomime

We are very excited to be attending a live pantomime this year at the Victoria Halls in Bolton. The panto is, 'Sleeping Beauty'. We will be leaving school at 12 after an early lunch and are expecting to be back at school for a 3:30pm collection (traffic allowing).

Children should come to school in usual school uniform to make them easily recognisable. They will all have a snack so won't need to bring anything with them. The pantomime tickets are very kindly being paid for by Friends as a treat for all the children in the school. I am sure they will love it! We are asking for contributions to the cost of the coach which can be made via: <https://www.thevillagetreasurebox.co.uk/SMPS-Events-c92445412>

A consent slip will be coming home in book bags tonight so please look out for these and return to school as soon as possible but no later than Friday 3rd December.

Many thanks to Friends and you for all your support

Medical Appointments

In line with our entry and exit procedures which are on the policy section of the website, please can I remind parents that if pupils have medical appointments during the school day parents/carers **must provide a copy of their appointment letter so that their absence can be authorised.** We do have to keep copies of these appointments. If no evidence is supplied, then the appropriate unauthorised code will be used. Also, if an unfamiliar adult is collecting a pupil, then the parents / carers must let the office know via email or telephone. A password should then be chosen by the parent/carer and shared with the class teacher or office staff. The unfamiliar adult must then give the password. Failure to give the chosen password will result in the pupil not being able to leave and the parent/carer will be contacted.

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Extreme Weather Plan

It is that time of year again where bad weather is beginning to be forecast...

Please assume school is open every day unless informed otherwise. Please refrain from telephoning the office to check if school is open. We will absolutely try our best to ensure that this is the case. However, in cases of extreme bad weather, it may result in it being unsafe for your children to attend school (for example, due to unsafe access in and around school or due to low staff ratios if staff are unable to get in to school).

In these circumstances, a decision will be made by 7am whether to open the school as usual, open at a later time of 10am (to provide staff time to get to school and ensure the grounds are safe) or to close school for the day.

A text from school will be sent to all parents and carers to inform you of a school closure or a planned later start to the day. We will also Tweet the same information and place it on our website.

In the event of any closures, we will move to our remote learning offer.

Online Safety

The online safety guide from National Online Safety this week is, '10 ways to share kindness online'. This is in keeping with our value of the half term: care. If you ever have any concerns about aspects of safeguarding, please contact myself, Mrs Julie Whittaker, as designated safeguarding lead or Miss Lucy McQuaid who is the deputy designated safeguarding lead.

End of Term (Carol Service)

The autumn term will end on **Friday 17th December at 2:30pm.** There will be **no out of Hours Club on the afternoon of Friday 17th December** but it will run as usual that morning.

Typically, we would hold a carol concert in Rowlands Church at 1:30pm on the last day. However, as this is always a very popular event and we can only offer this as a one off performance, with the rising cases of Covid and potential risk of an outbreak so close to Christmas, we do not feel it is safe to proceed with this event in the usual manner. We would not want to jeopardise Christmas day for our children, families and community.

What we do plan to do, **weather depending,** is invite you to join us on the playground at 1:45pm for some outdoor carol singing. The children will be learning a few traditional Christmas songs and we will be giving out song sheets so we can have a festive sing-a-long. There will also be some refreshments. Please can all children come to school in Christmas jumpers that day (full non-uniform) and if you have a Christmas jumper, feel free to wear it too—I know the staff will! Families will be invited to join us outside in class groups to launch the start of the Christmas holidays.

