



AUTUMN 2 2020

NEWSLETTER 2

Headteacher: Mrs H Malbon
Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Huddart (KS1 Leader)
Assistant Headteachers: Mr C Richards (KS2 Leader)
Mrs R Rowbotham (EYs Leader)

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel”

Christmas preparations are in full flow in school and I'm sure in many of our homes the trees, lights and decorations have appeared – maybe earlier than usual due to the difficult year we have all faced. This scripture, written by a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus tells us His name is Immanuel which means 'God with Us'. Even in these tricky times as we get ready for a very different type of Christmas, we can hold close to a God who has been, and still is, with us.

18th December

You will no doubt be aware that the Government has offered schools the chance to move one of their PD days to the 18th December meaning that children would finish term on Thursday 17th. This decision is meant to support school leaders with being able to have a break from test and trace responsibilities by the 23rd December.

We have considered this option carefully in school and feel that to close the school now at this late stage would potentially cause greater issues for our parents in terms of childcare arrangements and your own work commitments. We also have staff training planned for the summer term which we would have to forgo in place of this day.

Therefore, I can confirm that school will remain open to all children until the end of 18th December as planned.

PD Days

Our remaining PD Days this year are:
Monday 12th April, Monday 19th July and Tuesday 20th July 2021.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Thank you for your continued patience and support during these months where we have not offered before and after school care. When I last

wrote to you concerning this, the infection and transmission rates in our area were very high and the risk of increasing cases in school through bubbles mixing outside of lesson time was a particular concern. Locally and nationally, we are seeing a decrease in cases and the arrival of the vaccine is a great source of hope! It is our intention to be able to offer some provision by the end of January as long as the rates do not spike again following the Christmas relaxation in rules. I will write to you in the new year with further information.

School Meals

I wrote to you last week with information about registering for free school meals and the pupil premium. If you require any further information about this, please do contact the office and a member of staff will be very happy to help. I am still waiting on further information from the local authority regarding a trolley to provide meals to Reception and Key Stage 1 children. I hope we can resolve this in the new year.

Parking

Please can I remind all parents to be considerate when parking or waiting to drop off and collect children from school. In particular, please can we ask that drivers do not block the driveways of residents' houses; we have received a recent complaint regarding this.

Home Learning

It has been great to receive some really positive feedback from parents and children about SeeSaw, our platform for home learning if a child is absent for COVID related reasons. It is easy to use and allows the teacher to interact directly with your child and respond to the work they have completed. With the arrival of a vaccine, I am sure we all hoping that we may regain some more normality in the spring and summer. However, it is likely that self-isolation will continue for some time and therefore home learning and SeeSaw will

Minds to learn; hearts to care!



AUTUMN 2 2020

NEWSLETTER 2

Headteacher: Mrs H Malbon
Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Huddart (KS1 Leader)
Assistant Headteachers: Mr C Richards (KS2 Leader)
Mrs R Rowbotham (EYs Leader)

continue to be an important part of what we do. If you are unsure about how to access the platform, please contact the school office and a member of staff will help you.

Pre-School

Mrs Rowbotham would like to remind parents who use our pre-school setting either for 2-year-old provision or as additional 15-hour childcare to ensure you have renewed or applied for your child's unique code by end of December 2020. You will have received an email regarding this and you will need a new code in order to continue using the provision in January. Thank you

Christmas

Classes have been preparing a Christmas song and message to share with you which we are hoping to upload onto SeeSaw next week. It is such a shame we can't have the usual performances and events in school this term but I hope you enjoy a little snippet of singing from the children.

Next Thursday all classes will be taking part in a Virtual Christingle Service which Reverend Radley has kindly put together for us and both this week and next, classes will enjoy a Christmas party with games, snacks and lots of fun.

Monday 14th December is our Christmas Jumper day. You will have received a letter from your children explaining which charity they are supporting and inviting donations. Thank you in advance for your support.

Please also look out on our Facebook pages next week for a fabulous nativity message from KS1 and KS2.

SPA, Fundraising & Thank You!

Due to all the COVID restrictions it has not been possible to run the usual summer or autumn fundraising events organised by the very committed Staff & Parent Association. However, I do want to let you know that the children in school have still benefited this term from the funds that have been raised previously due to your generous giving. As we were unable to take children off site

for visits, SPA very generously funded virtual workshops for Y3 to Y6 delivered by Durham University. Workshops were based around the children's current topics and involved many exciting activities including artefact identification, actions games and some role play. The sessions were very informative and the children thoroughly enjoyed them. I am also very grateful that SPA have funded the children's Christmas parties and financed resources for the virtual art club that Miss Rigg will be running in the spring term. Thank you to everyone who works on these events and particularly to the parents who lead the work, manage the finances and come up with the great ideas that provide these extras in school!

First Term Thank You

It is just over a year since I was interviewed for the post of Headteacher at Prior's Mill and I could never for one second have imagined that my first term here would have been during a global pandemic! The term has gone so fast and there has been lots of new things for me to find out and many people to get to know. Thank you for making me welcome, for your 'hellos' on the gate and for your support and understanding as we have navigated home learning, bubble closures and Covid risk assessment craziness!

I am very much looking forward to a slow return to more typical school life in the coming months and being able to have more interaction with you through school events. You have wonderful children and I feel very privileged to be the Headteacher here. I hope you all have a very restful and happy Christmas and that everyone remains safe and well.

Key Dates

10th December	Parties: Y1 & Y3
11th December	Parties: Y2 & Y4
14th December	Christmas Jumper Day
15th December	Party: Y5
16th December	Parties: Y6 & Early Years
17th December	Christingle service
18th December	End of term
4th January	School re-opens

Minds to learn; hearts to care!