



GREAT HOLLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Christmas Festivities 2020

Dear Parents and Carers



As we head towards December and the start of Advent, we have been busy organising our activities and celebrations for the Christmas period. We will be having lots of fun and celebrations this December as this is just what the children would want, however there are some changes to the usual arrangements for obvious reasons. As always, our aim is to do the best we can whilst keeping our school community safe.

Festive Jumper Day for Daisy's Dream

Our annual Christmas jumper day to raise money for Daisy's Dream will be on Friday 11 December. Daisy's Dream is a fantastic local charity that supports children and families affected by life threatening illness or bereavement. Children will be able to come into school wearing a festive jumper in place of their school one for a donation of £1. A festive jumper could be a Christmas one or equally it can be a normal jumper with seasonal decorations (so don't panic if you haven't been able to get a special jumper yet!) We would be grateful if donations can be made online via your ParentPay account.

The link is on the front page of our website and it will be available to pay from next week.



Christmas Cards

This year children will be able to send Christmas cards to their friends in their class (not to other classes please!) Each class will have a 'post box' at the front for children to post their cards in and then they will be distributed out to the class periodically.

If you do not wish your child to receive cards in this way, please let your child's class teacher know.

Staff Gifts

We have had a few questions from parents about sending in gifts for staff this year. I am very aware that families across our community have been affected in so many ways by this pandemic, therefore, I would like to clarify that staff do not expect to receive gifts from parents. However, after the incredibly worrying year the staff team have had, I would not wish to stop them receiving any potential thank you gifts, as such they will be able to receive these in class as normal should you wish to do so.

Christmas Performances

We are unable to invite parents and carers into school to watch our festive performances, and our risk assessment means we cannot gather together to rehearse and perform. This year we are planning to record a short Christmas video from each class in KS1 and also a Christmas Nativity from the Early Years team too.

Please bear in mind that these performances will only be possible if we have sufficient staffing levels and will have to be on a smaller scale than in previous years, in line with our risk assessment. Further details will follow as soon as we have them.

Carol Service

Our annual visit to St Michael's Church for the Carol Service will not be going ahead this year in line with current restrictions and our risk assessment.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch has become an important part of our festive celebrations and we have been trying very hard to formulate a way for us to provide it this year. Unfortunately, this has proven to be impossible. The measures that we are taking to keep the children in their pods and ensure distancing means that we cannot provide it in a way that satisfies our risk assessment and protocols. Whilst I am disappointed, I keep the safety of our pupils and staff at the centre of every decision I make.

We will instead be focusing on festive activities that the children can enjoy within their classroom pod, meaning that we can enjoy the Christmas spirit, while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Christmas Parties

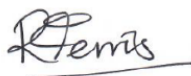
Each year the children have a Christmas party or Christmas activity afternoon, and this year we will be able to continue with this, with some adjustments. Individual updates from each class will come out later outlining their plans, however, so you can plan ahead, this year we will not be asking for any food contributions or asking the children to bring in a change of clothes.

Non-Uniform Day

Finally, don't forget its non-uniform day on Friday 27th. FRoGS are raising money to support the school to fund much needed repairs to the outdoor play equipment and trim trails. You will have noticed some areas have had to be closed off for repairs and we want to get these completed before the spring, so the children can enjoy using them in the Spring term. Sadly, schools are not funded to well enough to do this on their own – so your donations and contributions to FRoGS really do help here. Donations can be made to the FRoGS via their PayPal account – frogspta@gmail.com. If you do not have PayPal, do drop the FRoGS a message on Facebook or an [email](#) and they can help with other payment options.

This year, more so than any year previously, we could all do with some much-needed cheer and celebration. Although we must make some adjustments to keep us Covid-safe, I am sure the children will still enjoy the celebrations in school.

Best wishes,



Richard Ferris
Headteacher