



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week marks the start of our Christmas celebrations in school. Children will be able to use our seasonal internal Christmas post to send cards to children and staff. Please help our Christmas elves (who are very busy!) by making sure each envelope is labeled with full first and second names as well as the **class name**.

We will continue to collect items for Lola's Homeless under our school tree until the 12th December. We would also welcome several wrapped shoe boxes to pack the gift items for the homeless into.

Here are the details of some of the other special Christmas events that we have planned.

Sunday 3rd December – Singing at the Village Hall at 5pm

All children are welcome to join us at the Village Hall to sing around the Christmas tree.

Thursday 7th December – Friends of West Horndon Winter Extravaganza

Doors open 3.30pm. Shopping and Crafts from 4pm. Over 15 Festive Stalls, Refreshments and a Kids Zone supervised by school staff (until 6pm).

Monday 11th December – Christmas Nativity

Year R children will be presenting a nativity performance. Parents are invited to join us in the school hall from **10.00am for a 10.30am start**. All children will be singing as part of the performance and all parents are welcome to attend. We will be reserving seats for parents of children in year R as we appreciate how special your child's first 'school play' is. Two seats will be reserved per child. Younger siblings are welcome to attend this family event but we are unable to reserve them a seat. There will also be a special performance for **senior citizens only** in the afternoon at **1.45pm for a 2pm start**. This will be followed by a chance to share afternoon tea and festive chat with Oak class (for senior citizens only). Please pass the details on to anyone you think maybe interested. We will be having a collection on this day to help fund our Nativity Animal visit on the 15th!

Tuesday 12th December

Year R Trip to Barleylands to visit Santa and take part in festive fun!

Thursday 14th December – Oak Class Singing

Children in years 5 and 6 will be ON TOUR, Carol Singing at West Horndon Train Station at 7.30am followed by Lakeside and Thurrock Garden Centre (letter will follow). Children will need a packed lunch on this day.





Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day & The Big Wrap

Children are welcome to come to school wearing their favourite Christmas Jumper. We are asking for a Voluntary Donation of £1, which will go to the **Save The Children** charity. On this day we will be welcoming a travelling farm. The children will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of farmyard animals.

The Big Wrap has been organised by our Friends Of West Horndon. Children will choose their pre ordered Christmas presents. Please contact FOWHPS for details.

Monday 18th December – Christmas Dinner

We will be serving a Christmas dinner to all pupils today. It will be included in the normal £2.50 charge for children in years 4-6 and free for years R-2. Please inform the school office of any allergies or if your child is a vegetarian or vegan.

Children may wear their Christmas Jumper again on this day (all day).

Tuesday 19th December – Pantomime Visit

We will be visiting the Cliffs Pavilion for our Pantomime Performance of **Jack and The Beanstalk**. The trip will be staffed and managed by school staff. Children should wear school uniform and may take sweets and non-fizzy drinks with them. Please provide these in a carrier bag clearly labeled with your child's name. We will leave school at **1.00pm** and will leave the theatre at **4.45pm** and so anticipate returning to school for about 5.45pm. Parents will be required to collect pupils from the school hall on our return so we can ensure everyone's safety. We will be travelling by coach, no booster seats etc are required. Pupils not taking part in the visit will need to be in school as usual and collected in the normal way. We will attempt to text parents with updates of times.

Wednesday 20th December – Party Day

On the last day of term staff and pupils will be visiting the church during the morning for a traditional service. Then in the afternoon **it's party time**. We will have a special party menu lunch of Special Chicken Nuggets (vegetarian nuggets available). There will also be Macaroni Cheese as a blue option, which will all be served *with chips and beans followed by chocolate sponge and custard or mango smoothie, no party food required!*

We will then all have a party with the *Skittleman* in the hall during the afternoon from 1pm – 3pm.

Children may wear their Christmas Jumper again on this day! (all day) We are hoping that we may get a visit from Santa too.

Matt O'Grady, Headteacher

