



# St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

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To: All Parents / Carers

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,



## Christmas Activities 2020



We are excited to tell you of all the educational and enriching activities we have planned for the children during the last week of the Michaelmas Term. Above all, we look to celebrate the birth of Jesus and recount the story of Mary and Joseph and their travels to Bethlehem.

We realise that there is a lot of information in this letter so please do read it carefully and note that not all activities are for all the children. The school office staff are happy to help if clarification is needed.

### Pupil Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – All pupils

This is now available to book via ParentPay and we ask that families make the menu selection for their child(ren) by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at the very latest to ensure we can effectively plan and ensure food waste is kept to a minimum. We also do not want the children to be disappointed and Lisa, our chef, will be working very hard to ensure the children enjoy a tasty freshly cooked meal. The school will provide traditional Christmas crackers for the children at this meal.

### Christmas Cards – All Pupils

Families from Year 1 upwards may recall that we have a French and English post box for the children to post Christmas cards to each other and members of staff. However, due to the Covid restrictions we will not be using these boxes this year but hopefully normal service will resume next year.

In order to accommodate children who may still wish to send Christmas Cards to their friends and teachers, we will be offering a Covid secure delivery service this year. If your child wishes to send cards please ensure they are brought to school by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December** and handed to their class teacher. The cards will then be held in quarantine for 72 hours and distributed to the children on the last day of term. Kindly note we will be unable to accept any late deliveries.



### **Pantomime – All Pupils**

Our wonderful PTFA has very kindly agreed to fund a Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime. This has been written and directed by Peter Duncan (ex Blue Peter presenter) and is an interactive socially distanced pantomime with ingenious sets, fabulous costumes, special effects and even a real beanstalk.

As this is viewed online, we are able to ensure consistent groups are maintained throughout whilst the children enjoy all the cheers, boos 'he's behind you' and classic panto antics. This will be viewed at some point during the week beginning **14<sup>th</sup> December** depending on each class's other activities.

Please do continue to support our PTFA events as it is through these fundraising efforts that we are able to provide these activities for your children.



### **Refuge Story – Years 2, 3, 4 only**

We are delighted to have been offered a grant from the Diocese of London which has enabled us to arrange for the Springs Dance Company to work with the children to deliver an interactive workshop based on the picture book 'Refuge' by Anne Booth. The workshop explores the Christmas story and links the journey of Mary and Joseph with the plight of refugees today and will encourage the children to be active and creative through dance and drama.

This dance company comes very highly recommended as they have worked with our partner school Holy Trinity in Northwood. These workshops will be very carefully timetabled to take place in the main hall from the **11<sup>th</sup> December** to ensure social distancing and keeping consistent bubbles secure.

The children will be required to wear their PE Kits for this workshop so we ask that you ensure it is in school.



### Key Stage One (KS1) Nativity – Years 1 and 2

Families in KS1 have already been asked to consent to their child taking part in this year's online Nativity. We hope to have the final recording ready to view from **14<sup>th</sup> December** via our Google platform for families with children in KS1.

It is our intention that children in other year groups will have the opportunity to see this very special production of the Nativity story as told by our very talented, multi-lingual key stage one children. This includes the children virtually globe-trotting around the world to other French speaking countries to watch the Nativity story unfold. We will be very excited to see this!

### EYFS Nativity – Reception Classes Only

Monet and Matisse classes are currently rehearsing their own Nativity to share with their families. All the costumes will be provided by the school and we cannot wait to show you their amazing talents. This will be available to view via our website and parents who have not consented to this will be contacted separately.



### Stable Visit – All Pupils

As Santa is unable to visit us this year our elves have been very hard at work converting his grotto into a stable to recreate the scene of Jesus' birth. The children will be working in their classrooms to make gifts to take to the stable and will visit in their consistent groups. This will also take place during the week beginning **14<sup>th</sup> December**.

### Gifts from the PTFA – All classes



The PTFA has expressed a desire to make a gift to the children to mark the festive season and what has been a very difficult year for us all. It has been decided that each class will receive a box of games to be used in the classroom throughout the year. Each box will contain games that can be shared such as Uno, Dominos, Hungry Hippos and will be age appropriate to each year group. On behalf of the whole school community we wish to say a massive thank you to each and every family who have supported and donated to our PTFA. Through your support the committee are able to make these generous donations to the school which benefits each and every child.

### Non-Uniform Day – All Pupils

On the last day of term, **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**, all pupils are invited to wear their own clothes. This can be Christmas themed or any other non-uniform item of clothing. All we ask is that clothing and footwear is suitable to wear in and around the school.

During this day children will take part in Christmas Crafts in their classrooms and parents are invited to make a charitable donation via ParentPay to support this. Monies raised will be split between the school and Crisis at Christmas.

### Family Carols to share – All Pupils



We will be producing a Family Service for families to enjoy together at home over the Christmas holidays. This will include some favourite carols and messages from key members of our community. We do hope you will find some time to relax and enjoy this with your children – it will be available to view on our website.

### Staff End of Term Gifts

Many families have asked if the school will be making provision for gifts to be passed to school staff. As in previous years we are content to leave the choice to do this to individual families or groups. Our staff do not expect to receive presents but if you decide to do so either individually or in a group, the school office staff will be happy to receive them on your behalf and distribute them safely to the staff. Please do not hand gifts or cards to staff at pick up or drop off. Kindly ensure any gifts are clearly labelled and avoid dropping off at the front office before 9am and between 3pm – 3.15pm to ensure social distancing can be fully observed.

**End of Term – All Pupils**

As previously notified the school term will end at the normal staggered times on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and there will be no After School Club.

Reception – 3pm

Year 1 – 3.10pm

Year 2 – 3.20pm

Year 3 – 3.30pm

Year 4 – 3.40pm

We hope that all our families have the opportunity to see their loved ones over the Christmas holidays and we very much look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021** for the Epiphany Term.

With every blessing,



Revd Daniel Norris  
Executive Headteacher