

Seghill First School Newsletter November 2020 edition 2

Arrangements for Christmas

There may be restrictions and protective measures in place that mean we cannot do everything that we would like to do this Christmas, however, we are absolutely determined to **make this Christmas as special as we can for our children.**

We are still offering many of our usual fun Christmas events and activities, even if some of them will have to be done a little bit differently to the norm. We have had to ensure that all of our events and activities are compliant with our protective measures and we feel confident that they are.

The arrangements may sound a bit prescriptive but we need to ask you to work with us to make sure we can offer these events and activities safely. Many schools have completely cancelled all of their usual Christmas events and activities; we feel very strongly that we can make things work if everyone follows the guidelines that we have set out. Please read on to find out more.

Arrangements for Christmas parties

We have organised parties for children in all year groups to take place in key stage groups. Please do not send in any food or drinks for your child's party. We will provide a treat for the children.

Monday 13 December Purple and Blue class party

Children in Purple and Blue class will have their party on the afternoon of **Monday 13 December**. Children should come to school in **school uniform** and bring party clothes in a named bag to change in to after lunch. Children will have their party in their classroom and the hall. Children will go home as normal at 3:15pm.

Wednesday 15 December Red and Green class party

Children in Red and Green class will have their party on the afternoon of **Wednesday 15 December**. Arrangements are exactly the same as the for the Purple and Blue class party.

Friday 17 December Orange and Yellow class party

Children in Orange and Yellow class will have their party on the morning of **Friday 17 December**. Children in Yellow class and Orange class should come to school in **party clothes**. Children will have a party together in the Early Years Unit and hall as they are working in one large class group. Children will go home as normal at either 11:45am or 3:15pm on Friday 17 December.

Christmas cards

Class teachers will provide a Christmas card box in each classroom which will be open from **Monday 13 December**. Please wait until this date before bringing your cards in.

Children should put their cards in their class Christmas card box. Each teacher will arrange for the cards to be given out, including cards that are for children in other classes and for staff.

Lists of **children's first names and surname initials** for your child's class will be sent home by Friday 10 December to use to address Christmas cards.

Movie night on Wednesday 15 December

Children in Red, Green, Purple and Blue class are invited to stay after school until 5:15pm for movie night on **Wednesday 15 December**. Each key stage will select a movie that they want to watch and they will watch it in their own classroom. Tickets cost **£3.00** and include a film, popcorn and a drink.

If your child would like to attend, we have set up a payment method on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the option for **Movie night December 2021**. Tick the box to give consent for your child to attend, click **add to basket** and pay £3.00 via School Gateway. There will be no after school club on Wednesday 15 December. This option will be open on School Gateway until **Friday 10 December**, which is the deadline for permission and payments.

Christmas performances

Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents and carers into school to watch our usual Christmas performances this year. We are going to offer something else instead which will not replace the performances, but will hopefully still bring a little joy to everyone.

We don't want to share the details of our plans at the minute, as we would like to keep them as a surprise for you all until nearer Christmas. We will be filming some activities and posting them on the **school website and the school's Facebook page**.

If you indicated on the photograph permission form at the beginning of term that you do not give permission for your child's photo or image to be used on Facebook or the school website your child will not be included in the filming.

Santa's reading challenge

Santa's reading challenge will start on **Monday 29 November**. Our literacy lead, Mrs Watson, will be sending out more information about the reading challenge next week. It is important that children continue to read in the run up to Christmas as part of their normal routine, as this maintains fluency and interest in books. We know it can be difficult to fit everything in at this time of year, but hopefully, the "little and often" approach is more manageable than reading lots of pages once a week.



Christmas lunch

We are delighted to be able to offer a traditional Christmas lunch to children this year on **Thursday 16 December**.

Our Christmas lunch is always extremely popular as Mrs Rogage does such an amazing job. Christmas lunches need to be ordered in advance. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch, please give consent on the **Christmas lunch 2021** option in the payments section of **School Gateway**. This must be done by **Friday 03 December**, as this is the date that Mrs Rogage must submit her foods orders to meet the deadlines set by her suppliers.

Please note that we are not serving jacket potatoes on this day. Please provide a packed lunch if you do not want a Christmas lunch for your child.

Parents of children in Yellow, Red and Green class do not have to pay for this meal as it is provided free due to the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative. Parents of children in Orange, Purple and Blue class who are entitled to Free School Meals do not have to pay for this meal.

Parents of children in Orange, Purple and Blue class who pay for their child's meals should pay in the normal way via School Gateway.

Christmas fayre

We cannot have an indoor Christmas fayre this year due to guidance about large groups being indoors. We are going to hold an **outdoor Christmas fayre** like we did last year. This will take place **after school during the last week of term**. We will decide on the date when we know the weather forecast for the week. There is absolutely no point trying to hold a Christmas fayre if it is pouring down. We will have our tombolas set out on the yard and tickets arranged into packs of 5 in advance, which worked very well the last time.

Christmas raffle and non-uniform days

Raffle tickets will be sent home next Friday (**Friday 26 November**).

Please return the **right-hand side strips to school with £2.00** in the envelope provided by **Friday 10 December**. The raffle will be drawn the following week.

We are asking children to come to school in **non-uniform** on two more Fridays and to bring in a donation for the raffle each time.

Friday 26 November- Non-uniform donations for the bottle tombola.

Friday 03 December- Non-uniform donations for the general tombola or raffle.

The more donations we receive the more prizes there will be to be won and the greater your chance of winning.

Christmas treats

Even though there will not be an indoor Christmas fayre this year we are still offering our special Christmas treats.

Thanks to our fundraisers, we are able to offer a pre-ordering service for our Christmas treats. This includes **reindeer dust, snowman poo, reindeer poo, hot chocolate reindeers, Grinch pills and sweet cones**.

These items cost **50p each**. If you order all six of these items, we will put them together in a special **Christmas Eve pack** for **£2.50**.

We have set up a special email address for you to use to place your orders. The email address is **Christmastreatorders2021@gmail.com**

Please specify which items you would like to order in your email. We have set up a payment link on **School Gateway** called **Christmas treats 2021** in the payments section so you can pay the total amount for your orders. Orders must be placed via email and paid for on School Gateway by **Friday 10 December** so they can be processed, made up and sent home during the last week of term.

Staffing update

We have three updates to share with you regarding staffing.

First of all, **Mrs Kembrey** and her husband are delighted to announce they are expecting a baby. This will be a sibling for Delilah.

Also, **Mrs Thomas** and her husband are equally delighted to announce that they are expecting a baby too. This will be a brother or sister for Macie.

Congratulations to you all. Their maternity leaves will not begin until next year, and we will write to you in the new year to let you know about staffing in Early Years.

Mrs Jones will be leaving us at the end of this term. We will write to you again in the next few weeks to let you know about who will be replacing Mrs Jones and working alongside Mrs Watson.



Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Mrs Lyons | Olly; |
| • Mrs Jones and Mrs Watson | Dylan; |
| • Mrs Bell | Esme; |
| • Miss Neal | Noah; |
| • Mrs Kembrey | Brodie; |
| • Mrs Thomas | Elena; |
| • Support staff | Rowan; |
| • Miss Chappell | Olivia W. |



IMPORTANT DATES- PLEASE KEEP	
Friday 26 November	Raffle tickets sent home
	Non-uniform day donations for the bottle tombola
Monday 29 November	Start of Santa's reading challenge
Friday 03 December	Deadline for consent to order a Christmas lunch
	Non-uniform day donations for the general tombola or raffle
Friday 10 December	Deadline for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • payments for movie night; • orders and payments for Christmas treats; • returning raffle tickets and payments.
Monday 13 December	Christmas post boxes open for each class
w/b Monday 13 December	Being sent home during this week- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prizes after the raffle has been drawn; • Christmas cards; • completed orders of Christmas treats.
	Christmas fayre after school- date to be confirmed
Monday 13 December	Purple and Blue class Christmas party from 1pm
Wednesday 15 December	Red and Green class Christmas party from 1pm
	Red, Green, Purple and Blue class movie night from 3:15pm- no after school club
Thursday 16 December	Christmas lunch
Friday 17 December	Orange and Yellow class Christmas party (morning session)

BBC Children In Need annual appeal

Thank you to everyone who helped us to support the BBC's annual **Children In Need** appeal in school today. Children and staff came to school in non-uniform. We raised **£80** for Children In Need. Well done everyone.

Staff contact details

A reminder of how teaching staff can be contacted-

anna.bell1@school360.co.uk

amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk

carly.jones@school360.co.uk

melissa.thomas@school360.co.uk

sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk

sarah.watson1@school360.co.uk

tamara.neal@school360.co.uk

I can be contacted by the following methods-

- telephone on 0191 2370419 (please leave a message if the answer machine is on);
- email admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk

We cannot respond to messages sent via Facebook. If the answer machine is switched on, please leave a message. We may not be able to answer the phone when you ring, but messages are picked up.