CUMBERLAND INFANT SCHOOL

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 Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Herbert BEd

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been marvellous to have all the children back at school after Year R and Year 1 were self-isolating and it has certainly been a lot noisier! The children are adjusting back to life at school and Year 2 are adjusting to the school being full again. Last week a highlight was Year R staying after school on Friday for some star gazing with their telescopes they had made, drinking hot chocolate and eating their star biscuits they had made themselves.

It hasn’t taken very long for Christmas to start appearing in the classrooms. Since Monday all year groups were creating a Christmas tree to decorate the hall. Last Christmas at Cumberland I stood in the hall on dress rehearsal day watching each year group perform their nativity performance to the school with Mrs Naylor and it made me want to apply to be the Head teacher. Unfortunately this year Christmas at Cumberland will not quite be the same but we will endeavour to still make it as magical and special in our class bubbles as we can.

**Christmas Cards**

Due to COVID-19 and in guidance with Portsmouth City Council, we are still allowing children to give Christmas cards to children throughout the school. Each classroom will have a post box outside their classroom from today like we usually do. The post box will close and be removed at the end of a Friday and the cards will be in quarantine for 72 hours. The post box will be returned to outside the classroom on a Tuesday and your child will be given all their cards on a Tuesday to bring home.

**Streaming Kings Theatre Pantomime**

As the new Head teacher of Cumberland Infant school, one of the exciting events I wanted to introduce at Christmas was a whole school visit to the Kings Theatre to watch the Pantomime. Unfortunately this will not be possible this year but to support our local theatre which has been hit hard by the lock downs and restrictions, we will stream ‘Dick Whittington’ from The Kings Theatre in Southsea starring Mrs Willis’ husband as ‘Dame Dolly’! The children will be watching the Pantomime in their class bubble during the week commencing 14th December 2020. We will be charging £3 per children which will include some sweets.

**Christmas School Lunch**

As I previously mentioned in my last letter the children will be having their school Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th December. If your child prefers to have a packed lunch please still endeavour to provide a Christmas themed packed lunch. We would like all children to wear a Christmas hat or headwear on that day.

**Whole School Nativity**

This year due to being in class bubbles and parents not being permitted into the school building the children will not have the usual year group Nativity performance. Instead we are organising a whole school Nativity in our school grounds starring each class performing a scene! This will be recorded and cleverly edited by Mr Cronen and parents will have an opportunity to purchase the recording on CD.

**Making and giving a gift**

One of my favourite days of the year at Cumberland Infant School is ‘Christmas Shopping’ day which is where the children have the opportunity to buy gifts for their family. They then wrap them in school and take their gift home and place under their tree. Again as this is a whole school event this will not be possible this year so instead each class will make a gift to bring home for their family so they can still experience the joy of giving.

**Class Christmas party**

On Friday 18th December which is the last day of term, the children can wear Christmas party clothes to school. The children will have party food at lunchtime as a class. During the afternoon they will be playing lots of traditional games. My favourite over the years with my class was always musical chairs. At the end of the day the children will be taking part in a virtual Christmas disco with Crazy M!

 **Breakfast and After School Club**

We are doing our upmost to continue to provide our Cumberland families with Breakfast and After School Club. We have made the decision to continue providing After School Club to 5pm for the foreseeable future. Please pick your child up at 5pm and not before as tea is served between 4.30 and 5pm.

**Community**

As we are a school in walking distance to Eastney Swimming Pool and Bansbury Park, I have been asked to share this survey with you so you can express your view on creating a new leisure centre on Bansbury Park. The survey is open till Sunday 13th December 2020.Please click link below:

https://www.research.net/r/SportsLeisureFacilities

**Easyfundraising and Clothes Bank**

Please don’t forget that Cumberland Infant School is registered with [easyfundraising](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/welcome+to+easyfundraising/FMfcgxwKjTMNlGgbFhzshfrFNtsvMJvf). So, although we’re unable to get together and hold fundraising events in person, we can continue to raise free funds, at no extra cost to you.

When you shop via the [easyfundraising](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/welcome+to+easyfundraising/FMfcgxwKjTMNlGgbFhzshfrFNtsvMJvf) website or app, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Amazon and many more, you will raise FREE donations for the school.

If you’re not already registered, please visit our [easyfundraising](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/welcome+to+easyfundraising/FMfcgxwKjTMNlGgbFhzshfrFNtsvMJvf) page here:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cumberlandinfantschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e3>

This will really make a difference to our school! Thank you for your support.

As an additional measure to attract funds to school we have introduced a Portsmouth based textile recycling company on a mission to divert used textiles away from land fill and raise money for schools and community services in the process.

The textiles collected are sent to poorer communities across Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia or recycled into industrial cleaning wipes and insulation materials, so nothing goes to landfill.

Our big green recycling bin can be found in the playground adjacent to Methuen Road. Children, parents and staff can donate unwanted shoes, clothes, sheets etc and we will receive £100 per ton for what we collect.   The textile bank could raise £400 for the school across the year so when clearing out over the New Year, remember to make use of our onsite recycling facility!

**COVID-19**

We are working tirelessly at school to keep your children safe and reduce the risk of infection. On Wednesday 25th November we had a Health and Safety Covid Assurance Inspection and two inspectors visited our school. I am very pleased to announce that they were very impressed with everything we have continually put into place to reduce the risk of infection and keep the Cumberland community safe and we have no actions to do! Our updated risk assessment is on our website.

Please keep a two metre distance when queuing to drop and pick up your children. I have also been made aware that the park close to school can be very busy and the bubbles are being burst lots! Please can you try and keep your distance and keep contact between school bubbles to the minimum.

After the success of remote learning while children in Year R and Year 1 were self–isolating can I please ask you to return the whiteboards and pens to the quarantine boxes which will be by the green door on Reginald Road and the pencil gates in Methuen Road.

I hope you all looking forward to coming out of the lockdown today and remember hands, face and space. Let’s work together to keep Portsmouth from entering Tier 3! Thank you for your continued support and we are all looking forward to a rather different build up to Christmas at Cumberland Infant School this year.

Best Wishes

Becky Herbert