



23 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we rapidly approach the end of November and the term is racing on, it seems appropriate to send a 'Countdown to Christmas' newsletter. Although things will be different this year, there is still a lot happening.

### **Christmas Cards**

At this time of year we would normally have two post boxes in school for the children to be able to send cards to their friends and have them delivered to their classes. In the current unusual situation, we are endeavouring to keep things as normal as possible so we will be organising this in a slightly different way.

There will be a post box in every year group bubble and this will be available from Monday 30 November 2020.

This box will be removed on Friday 4 December and the cards isolated until Monday 7 December when they will then be sorted and isolated again until they can be delivered to the children on Wednesday 9 December.

The post boxes will be put out again on Monday 7 December and the same procedures will be in place. The last day for cards to be posted in the boxes will be Friday 11 December and the last delivery to the children will be on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

Please could we ask that the name of the child (receiving the card) is on the front of the envelope along with their class name in order to speed up the sorting process.

### **Christmas Party Day – Tuesday 15 December 2020**

This is going to be very special! The year group bubbles will be planning lots of exciting things for this day and the children can come in their own clothes. This is a mufti day in aid of FOCCS so it would be great for children to make a suggested donation of £1.

### **Christmas lunch – Tuesday 15 December 2020**

As part of our Christmas Party Day celebrations we will be having Christmas lunch. This is the menu for the day:



If your child will have the vegetarian option for Christmas lunch or they are planning to have packed lunch please email [admin@christchurch.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@christchurch.wilts.sch.uk) to inform us of this choice by Monday 30 November 2020. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that your child will be having the main Christmas dinner and numbers will be ordered accordingly.

If your child is in Year 3 – 6 and not entitled to Free School Meals there is a charge of £2.20 for the dinner so please don't forget to log on to [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and pay the £2.20!

Please be assured that all the children in their bubble will eat together regardless of whether they have a dinner or packed lunch on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey and her team for all of their hard work throughout the year but especially in their efforts to provide all children with a Christmas lunch. As you can imagine a Turkey (or Quorn) dinner for over 400 is no easy feat!

### **Christmas Charity**

This year, members of the School Council have decided to support the charity HVDV (Helping Victims of Domestic Violence <https://www.hvdv.org.uk/>) so we can donate to local children (and their grown-ups) who perhaps won't have anything at Christmas including basic toiletries.

*'We are an organisation based in Wiltshire providing practical support to families, individuals (male and female), young people and children who have experienced domestic violence and their associated issue.*

*'Our organisation aims to reduce their suffering and promote their health and wellbeing by helping them sustain independence and take back control of their lives.'*

The charity hopes that people will donate filled gift bags and shoeboxes for members of the family who have been affected and ask for donations in line with:

- Pre School 2-4 years Boy/Girl
- Primary Ks1 5-8 years Boy/ Girl
- Primary Ks2 9-11 years Boy/Girl
- Secondary 12-16 years Male/Female
- Women's (Mums)
- Men's (Dads)

However, rather than ask our families to make up shoeboxes or gift bags, we are asking for families to donate single items in the hope that this spreads the load and doesn't become too expensive for individuals.

The charity has suggested the following items:

Dolls, teddies, toy trucks and cars, skipping rope, small puzzles and games, dressing up, role play items etc.

Art and craft sets, painting sets, Pens, pencils, coloured pencils, felt pens or crayon, stamping set with ink pads, notebooks & paper, calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

Tooth brushes, Toothpaste, Soaps, Bubble bath, Shower gels, Shampoo and Conditioner, Bath fizzer, Flannels, Brushes, Combs and hair accessories etc.

Hats, gloves, scarf, socks, Jewellery, nail polishes, cosmetics, cups, book, candles and wrapped sweets and chocolate, manicure sets Etc...

Items they are unable to take due to allergies are sweets that contain nuts, balloons and loom bands. They also want to make sure that all toys are age appropriate for the age group which you are gifting to and that toys and games are with CE label. All items must be new and not second hand.

We are asking that the donations are made during the week of Monday 30 November to Friday 4 December. The donations should be taken to the classrooms and they will then be isolated before we deliver them to the collection point.

Year 2 and Year 4 teams will be in touch with their year groups to let parents know what they are doing in the countdown to Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Rutt

Interim Deputy Head