



Cranford Park

C of E Primary School

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Newsletter – November 2021

Dear Parents,

I was told today that it is only 33 days until Christmas! With only 4 weeks of the Autumn term left, we still have lots to pack in, so I will try to keep you updated with what is going on as we start getting into the festive spirit.

Christmas Events

All of the children have started learning some Christmas songs, and we are looking forward to holding "nearly normal" performances and services this year if we possibly can.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will be performing "Prickly Hay" which tells the story of the Nativity from the perspective of a stable boy/girl and a shrew.

Children in Key Stage 2 will be sharing the real meaning of Christmas in their services at St Peter's Church.



Community Christingle

We have been invited to take part in the Community Christingle Service led by St Peter's Church on Sunday 5th December at 10 am. The service will be held at Yateley Manor School in the Fyson Blume Hall.

This is a lovely service, attended by members of St Peter's Church and many other families from the local community, and everyone attending is given a Christingle to light. All families are welcome at the service, but we would also like to ask if there are any children who would like to come along and sing as part of the service.

Children from years R, 1 and 2 will be singing one of their Christmas songs, and those from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be singing one that they have been practising at school. To give St Peter's an idea of how many people to expect, and to enable us to know how many children will be singing, **please complete the Google form using the link below.**

<https://forms.gle/2whS6rSicvdXixs99>

Please note, that the children do not have to sing if they would prefer just to come along with the family, and if *you* cannot attend the service, but would like your child to come along and sing, that is also absolutely fine – especially for children in KS2. You are able to drop them off at 9.45am and pick them up at 11 am.

Staff changes

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to some members of staff over the next few weeks.

Firstly, Mrs Debbie Coles will be leaving Cranford Park at the end of November. Mrs Coles has been our senior lunchtime supervisor since we first formed in 2010, and prior to that was a lunchtime supervisor

at St Peter's Junior School, so has supported many children over the years. I know that the children are going to miss the care and nurture that she always gives them; she is always ready with a listening ear.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs O'Connor at the end of term. Mrs O'Connor has worked at Cranford Park since 2011, doing a fantastic job of teaching Year 6 full-time for a number of years, before going part-time in recent years. Any children who have been taught by Mrs O'Connor will attest to what a lovely teacher she is; always going the extra mile to make learning fun and engaging, and she will be very much missed.

Finally, we are also sad to say that Mrs Taylor will be moving on to pastures new after Christmas. Mrs Taylor has had a number of roles within the school, firstly as a lunchtime supervisor, then in the kitchen, then working in the office before becoming a learning support assistant. She has brought such energy and fun to every role she has undertaken, and we are going to miss her enormously. Cranford Park will be very quiet without her.

We wish all three staff members the very best for their new ventures, and hope that they will keep in touch and pop back to see us.

PTA events

Our PTA have been really busy organising events and fundraising to support the school, and are well on the way to being able to purchase the first new interactive whiteboard which is brilliant.

The book sales have been a huge success so far, (so much so that year 2's had to be delayed so that more books could be sorted out!) and the children are loving having the opportunity to choose books to take home.

Their next event is the Yateley Christmas Market on Saturday 27th November, where Mrs Grimes (and helpers) will be manning a stall selling fidget toys for the children, and running a "water or wine" game for the adults. Donations of bottles of wine would be very much appreciated. If you have one that you can spare, please bring it to the school office by the end of the school day on Friday 26th.

I'm sure that Mrs Grimes would welcome any offers of help, and would love it if you can go along to support the stall between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm on the day.

The PTA are also running their Secret Santa shopping again this year, re-branded "Elfridges", which is a lovely opportunity for the children to choose gifts for family members, which will then be sent home already wrapped and labelled so that they can surprise you. Details of costs and timings have been shared already, and orders need to be sent in by Friday 3rd December.

Thank you to all those involved for their hard work, and to you all for supporting the events.

Pantomime

The PTA have, again, very kindly agreed to fund a pantomime for the children, which this year is **Goldilocks – Adventures of a Porridge Thief!** This will, hopefully, be performed in the school hall on Thursday 16th December, but we will keep reviewing the Covid19 situation to ensure it is managed safely, and decide nearer the time how many classes will go into the hall. Some may instead view it via webinar if we feel this is the safest route.

Covid 19 Update

We have continued to adopt a cautious approach on opening things up, and are still limiting numbers of children in the hall for lunch, assemblies etc, and keeping distance between children from different bubbles wherever possible.

Staff are continuing to wear masks when in shared areas or if they are in meetings with parents or other visitors.

We really appreciate the support that you have shown us in also being cautious; keeping children at home if they are ill, and seeking PCR tests if they have any symptoms of Covid19 or if your child has been identified as a close contact.

Please see this link for more information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

And this link for information on asymptomatic testing

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Cold Weather & Snow Closure Procedure

At this time of year, I always share with you the procedure the school would follow in the event of significant snow fall over the winter period. We always try to stay open, and the decision to close the school is always based on conditions at the school and also the health and safety of staff and pupils on their way to and from school, as well as once they are here on site. Please bear in mind that many members of staff are not local and may not be able to get to school and therefore we may not be able to guarantee the health and safety of all the students.

If the school has to close then:

- the school website will be updated with a message on the home page
<https://www.cranfordparkprimary.co.uk/>
- messages will be put on Class Dojo and Tapestry
- A message will be broadcast on Heart Thames Valley and Eagle Radio Stations.
- All schools in Hampshire that are closed are also recorded on this website
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/>.
- Parents who have registered for ParentmailPMX and given us their contact mobile numbers and email addresses, will receive a text/email.

It is really important that our contact details for you are up-to-date in order for us to be able to contact you. Please let us know if anything has changed since you returned your child/ children's data check sheets.

If the school does close due to snow, some learning activities will be provided on Tapestry and ClassDojo, but part of this will definitely be to get out and enjoy the snow!

Children in Need

Thank you so much for supporting our fundraising for Children in Need – we had such a fantastic response and raised over £500 for the charity.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that school is closed to pupils on Tuesday 4th January 2022 as we have an INSET day. The first day back for the children in Wednesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely



Georgina Edwards
Headteacher

| Dates for your diary | |
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| Friday 26th November | Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Museum |
| Friday 26th November - 2.30 pm | PTA Book Sale for Years 3 and 4 |
| Friday 26th November | Deadline for wine donations for PTA stall |
| Saturday 27th November - 3.30pm-6.30pm | PTA running stall at Yateley Christmas market |
| Friday 3rd December | PTA mufti – rainbow raffle |
| Friday 3rd December – 2.30pm | PTA Book Sale for Years 5 and 6 |
| Sunday 5th December – 10am | Community Christingle at Yateley Manor School |
| Monday 6th December – 2pm | EY and KS1 Christmas performance – for Year R parents |
| Tuesday 7th December – 9.15 am | EY and KS1 Christmas performance – for Year 1 parents |
| Wednesday 8th December – 9.15 am | EY and KS1 Christmas performance – for Year 2 parents |
| Friday 10th December – 2pm | KS1 Christmas Service at St Peter’s Church – for Years 3 and 4 parents |
| Monday 13th December – 2pm | KS1 Christmas Service at St Peter’s Church – for Years 5 and 6 parents |
| Wednesday 15th December | Christmas Lunch for children – details to follow |
| Thursday 16th December -pm | Pantomime – in school |
| Friday 17th December | End of term – school finishes at 1.15 pm |
| Tuesday 4th January 2022 | INSET Day – school closed to pupils |
| Wednesday 5th January 2022 | Spring term starts for pupils |