



AWLISCOMBE PRIMARY NEWS

Newsletter 11
04/12/2020

01404 42031 Website: www.fort.devon.sch.uk

The next few days

Monday 7 th December	-
Tuesday 8 th December	-
Wednesday 9 th December	- Full Governors
Thursday 10 th December	- Piano
Friday 11 th December	- Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Dash

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

Only two weeks left of a very strange autumn term. I have been so impressed with the children and their amazingly positive attitudes. Every time I walk into the classroom there is a buzz of learning and the rooms are full of energy. Children are so enthusiastic to share what they have been learning. That seems an odd thing to say right now as we are all feeling super tired and I know by the time the children come home they are flagging but I think it's because they are still putting in so much effort in school.

I would also like to celebrate our outstanding attendance this term. Everyone from the DfE to local government are keeping a close eye on schools' attendance at the moment and we are making daily attendance reports to the DfE directly. In comparison with National data released weekly we are doing fantastically well. Currently our attendance is 99%; the best it has ever been. We don't include COVID associated absence so it suggests we are keeping pretty well at the moment. Nationally primary attendance is averaging 90%.

Thank you for your patience and support while trialling the new parents evening App. On the whole it was a success. The last night of interviews experienced a few problems but we are working to ensure it doesn't happen the next time. Initial feedback was very positive. It was interesting to see we had a larger uptake of families attending parents evening and definitely got to speak to more parents across the three nights.

Our Christmas traditions have been hampered by our current risk assessment and tier 2 requirements but we are working to make these last few weeks as special and exciting as they normally are. We are definitely all missing the singing. School corridors and classes at this time of year are normally just full of carols.

Yesterday the Department for Education made a number of announcements regarding the children's end of year assessments.

For 2021, DfE have removed:

- all key stage 1 (KS1) tests
- the key stage 2 (KS2) English grammar, punctuation and spelling test
- the requirement to make and report teacher assessment judgements for science at KS1 and KS2

To further support schools, the DfE:

- have delayed the statutory introduction of the multiplication tables check - school may choose to take part on an optional basis
- have extended the timetable variation periods for phonics and KS2, to allow schools greater flexibility if pupils cannot take the tests on the scheduled dates because of coronavirus disruption

This means that the following statutory assessments will continue in 2021:

- the phonics screening check for year 1 pupils (and year 2 pupils who have not met the expected standard previously)
- KS2 English reading and mathematics tests
- KS1 and KS2 teacher assessment (excluding science)

Ofsted have also announced the delay in reinstating the inspection regime. So, there will definitely not be any inspections of schools till Easter at the earliest.

Please can I remind parents to continue to call the COVID telephone line if anyone in the family develops symptoms and requires a test. I really need to keep a record to ensure I can work through a plan if we have a confirmed case. The number to call is 07498 645336. Many thanks for help with this.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Hammett

Mrs Hammett

Star of the Week - Well Done To.....

<u>Cygnets</u>	Oscar	
<u>Swans</u>	James	
<u>Robins</u>	Cayden	Jimmie
<u>Woodpeckers</u>	Bella	Emma
<u>Kingfishers</u>	Dorothy	Aston

Notices to Parents

Letters sent

Christmas arrangements

Christmas lunch letter

Robins Nativity

Non-Uniform - Christmas hamper PTFA - email

Book track survey - email

Robins Nativity - costumes

Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)

You will be aware that children born between the dates above are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2021. The application facility opens on 15th November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2021. It is important that parents apply before the closing date.

We are hoping to put something together for all prospective Reception parents but are not sure of the format at the moment due to current Covid restrictions and unfortunately, we are unable to offer guided tours during the day. Please email the office if you have any questions or require further information closer to the time. We are currently anticipating a few available spaces in both reception classes in September so if you know of families looking for a reception class please September let them know.

Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Dash

As well as being Christmas Jumper day, we will also be doing a 'Santa Dash' school run on this day which is linked to the School Games activities.

Children are encouraged to bring a Santa Hat and may also wish to have red clothes/ be dressed like Santa.

During their PE lesson on Friday 11th they will go to the field (weather permitting) so will need their wellies (just like Santa!) and take part in a fun 'Santa Dash'.

There is no additional charity contribution required (just the £1 for Christmas Jumper Day) - this is just for fun!

The School Games movement is encouraging schools nation-wide to take part and we think it is a lovely festive way of keeping active 😊



School Library

We have been sorting out the school library and we are looking to update the selection of fiction books, particularly those accessed by the Woodpeckers and Kingfisher classes (KS2). Obviously, there is a significant cost involved in this so, before we start looking for funds, we were wondering if anyone had fiction books, in good condition, that are no longer being enjoyed at home and that you would be happy to donate to the school library.

We are looking for books that have recently been published (in the last 5-10 years) as well as some of the classics.

The link below has excellent lists of must-read books for KS2, divided in to year groups.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/>

[Books for KS2 children aged 7-11 | School Reading List](#)

The School Reading List compiles this list of recommended books monthly. This book of the month list highlights new releases and editions of fiction and non-fiction books suitable for children and young adults aged 5-16.

schoolreadinglist.co.uk

We have also been asking the children what they would like to see in their library, as it's important for us to maintain a love of books in our current bookworms and to capture the attention of our reluctant readers! Through our chats, the following authors were suggested:

JK Rowling, Cressida Cowell, Philip Pullman, Liz Pichon, Dermot O'Leary, Jaqueline Wilson, Darcy Bussell, Rick Riordan, Tom Fletcher, Helen Moss, Andy Griffiths, Louis Sachar, Peter Bunzl, Pamela Butchard, Jeff Kinney, Daisy Meadows and more!

Children can bring books into school and there will be a box in the library where they can leave them to be quarantined and sorted.

Thank you

Mrs Rainbow and Mrs Wilkinson

PTFA

Thank you everyone for bringing in all your Christmas Hamper goodies. Don't forget to bring your money in next week to buy raffle tickets, to win the lovely class hamper. Abby

2020/21 Academic Year

11th Christmas Jumper Day & Santa Run

15th December - School christmas lunch

21st - 31st December - Christmas Holidays

4th January - Non Pupil Day

13th & 14th January - Bikeability

15th - 19th February - Half term

26th March - Chance to Shine

5th -16th April - Easter Holidays

31st - 4th June - Half term

7th June - Non Pupil Day

23rd July - Last day of term