



Weekly Bulletin

Term 1 Week 13 : Friday 3rd December 2021

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Developing lively, inquiring and creative minds

Welcome, as always, to our weekly newsletter. December has arrived and there has been a wonderful sense of excitement in the pupils about this magical and special time of year.

On a Christmas note, on Tuesday our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils had a brilliant time as they attended the [Kings' Church Selby Christmas Experience](#). Mary and all of the Kings Church team did a wonderful job as ever, with children experiencing Christmas crafts on top of the main event – a visit back in time to the birth of Jesus Christ, via a live dramatized experience. Thanks for a great day Kings Church! The children (and staff) enjoyed it greatly.



On a similar theme, on Wednesday we were [delighted to welcome Reverend Becky](#) into school for assemblies with both Reception & Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children, talking about Advent and 'spreading the light' at Christmas time. We had the grand 'turning on of our lights' on our beautiful tree as part of the assembly too. We enjoyed a good singsong as well.

[Thank you to Carlton Towers](#) for kindly providing our school with the tree this year – it looks stunning in the school hall! Special Christmas elves (aka the staff team) have helped make the hall, office and classrooms look really festive this week.

Other news:

- Phonics and assessments: Well done to all of our Year 2 pupils who all participated in their phonics screening check this week. Mrs Burton was delighted with the focus, effort and performance of all of the children in Andes class – they even got a whole class special mention! As usual, across school children have undertaken end of term assessments in reading and maths over the past few weeks.
- Staff training: this week 15 of the school team completed their practical element of their first aid training update, following their recent online course.

Covid issues

Thank you for your support this week in returning to mask wearing. We felt this a necessary precaution and followed advice from the Department of Education on Sunday.

Please do continue to support this measure by wearing your mask on site (unless exempt) and please all remember to use our one way system to avoid congestion too.

Many local schools have been severely affected with significant Covid related staff absence and pupils absence alike. Fortunately, whilst we have some staff and children affected, we have no known positive cases in school at present. We continue to take this matter seriously, trying to balance a sense of normality and the importance of general wellbeing with managing risk and keeping people safe.

Covid and events:

After much deliberation and consideration we have decided that our nativity/Christmas performance by Alps(Reception) and Atlas (Y1) will not go ahead in front of a live audience. However, Mrs Smith and Miss Jackson and team will be ensuring that we will still be able to share this with you remotely. More details to follow.

I apologise for any disappointment this may cause but we simply feel we can't invite so many adults into school. As you know we have limited adult visitors into school since the start of term in September, and do not feel it is appropriate to change this, especially in light of updated guidance and local case numbers. Ultimately, we have not taken this decision lightly and think the risk of having so many adults in school is one we cannot take at this time.

However, we are still planning to attend the Pantomime in Doncaster on Tuesday 14th December 2021. This again has been a hard decision to reach, as we want the children to have this brilliant experience but want to ensure we have balanced potential risks. After reflection and consideration we feel that this event should go ahead. For this trip the following measures will be in place:

- all adults wearing masks throughout the trip
- all adults will take lateral flow tests before the trip

- Children staying in their class/year group both on the coaches/travel and within the theatre no mixing with anyone other than our school team (pupils and staff)
- No adults from any other setting will be mixing with our staff and children
- Anyone with a symptom of Covid 19 will not be allowed to attend

Other important factors:

- This is one off event which is permitted under the guidance
- Our school have the majority of the downstairs of the theatre – with all of our school being together

We will of course listen to any concerns about this and respond to any changing dynamics. If anyone is particularly concerned there will be an option to not attend the trip and to stay in school instead. We hope that our trip can go ahead successfully and safely.

Other Christmas events in school:

- Wednesday 15th December - Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas party (Alps, Atlas and Andes)
- Thursday 16th December - Key Stage 2 Christmas party (Himalayas, Pyrenees and Rocky)
- Friday 17th - Last day of term:
 - Christmas Jumper day
 - Carol Service (TBC) 10.00
 - Christmas Lunch

Thanks as ever for your continued support of our school. Have a great weekend everyone. Here's to a safe and happy final two weeks of term.

Regards and best wishes

Jon Watson

Head teacher

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