



Woodhouse Primary Academy

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Wednesday 2nd December 2020

RE: Christmas at Woodhouse in 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

I am writing to share with you our plans for the remainder of our Autumn term in the run up to Christmas. You will understand that given the current circumstances our usual annual Christmas plans will need some alteration and adaptation if we are to keep all of the children safe. In consultation with the University of Wolverhampton Multi Academy Trust and continuing to follow the Department for Education guidance we have come up with the best options we can, and we will do everything possible to ensure children have a great end to what has been a **very** challenging term for children, families and adults in school.

On **Friday 11th December**, we will be holding our annual Christmas Jumper day. This is an optional day, where children can wear a festive jumper instead of their school jumper if they wish to. Children are more than welcome to wear their usual uniform if this is not possible. Children should not bring in any form of financial donation this year. If you feel able to, please can you bring in an item (or items) for us to make a donation to the local foodbank. These will be collected safely at the entrance to school on the morning of Friday 11th December. We will then take these donations to local foodbanks to support the community during this difficult time. Items should not be fresh, but be tins/packets with a decent shelf life which can be used by families in need at Christmas and beyond. Thank you in advance for your support of this.

To keep our children and staff safe, we have completed a risk assessment for the festive period, which will work alongside the risk assessment in place in school. Some key aspects to note please:

- Christmas Dinner will not happen as it has in previous years, as we are unable to mix in the dining hall. Our current meal provision will continue in classrooms, although I know that the kitchen team are planning to make this as exciting as possible for the children.
- Decorations have been carefully put in and around school. Where children have been involved in preparing these for the communal areas (the cinder path and outside the front entrance), this has been done in bubbles safely. We will do everything we can to make school (including classrooms) as festive as we can for the children.
- Presents and Cards – due to the risk of cross contamination, children **should not** bring presents and cards into school for their teachers and their friends. Children will make a Christmas card in school, which they will bring home at the end of term. We will not have deliveries of Christmas cards in school this year.
- I know that some families will want to thank staff for their contribution and hard work – and we are always so appreciative of kindness and thoughtfulness of cards and gifts in normal times. This won't be possible this year, and sadly, staff will not be able to accept these. So that you can still pass on your best wishes at this



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time, I have set up an “Autumn Term Woodhouse Heroes” form which children and parents can complete. This will show the adults in school your appreciation, and I will share the positive words and thanks with the staff you nominate. I would encourage you to go to the following link to share your message: <https://forms.gle/u8HR2TCjaziQZ8tx6> I know that this will be gratefully received by any adult in school. Thank you for your support.

- Children will not be able to bring in anything from home for class parties as we might do in a normal year. If we do engage in games, we will avoid the traditional Christmas party games that involve unnecessary contact e.g. passing parcels and presents to each other.
- We will not be able to welcome unnecessary visitors into school, even during the run up to Christmas. We are unable to hold our usual Christmas fayre - and this means we are unable to have our traditional Christmas Grotto with Father Christmas. However, we are expecting some contact from Father Christmas for each class, but as has been the case for our assemblies this year, this will be done safely and virtual keeping the children and Santa safe!
- Due to being unable to mix our bubbles or welcome an audience, we will not be having our usual nativity this year. However, we will be sharing some festive cheer with families by video – keep your eyes peeled for further details.

I appreciate this reads as a list of things we are not able to do this year, and may well come across as “Bah, Humbug!” We have all worked so hard to make the restrictions and challenges work in our school and I do not want to see all that hard work be undone with unnecessary risks. I hope you can see the ways which we are trying to work around these restrictions and trust that we will do all we can to ensure the children have a happy, festive and most of all safe end of term. We will do all we can to make this festive time of year as special as we can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your ongoing support and encouragement, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Wilson
Head Teacher
Woodhouse Primary Academy

