

New Mills Primary School
Newsletter No. 5
Friday 3 December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the build-up to Christmas right now and there's plenty of excitement in school. We are running traditional Christmas events and have considered ways to do them safely. The children are learning lines and songs and really enjoying themselves. The Polar Express in year 2, yesterday was absolutely magical. The children looked fantastic, and I hope they had a wonderful day. Miss Chappell and Mrs Coen worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to make sure the children had a great day.

I hope you all enjoy the Christmas activities - the children are going to love showcasing what they've been learning!!

Carol Taylor - Head teacher

Santa Dash - Tuesday 21 December

Sue Fisher has organised this year's Santa Dash and has sent the following message by email:

After the success of last year's Santa Dash, we have decided to run the event this year as a sponsored event for the PTA. All children will be asked to take part whether they have sponsorship or not and the emphasis will be on having fun and dressing up. The children can challenge themselves at a level which they choose between 10 and 20 laps of the top playground. As most donations will be on our Just Giving page, we have not produced a sponsor form for this event. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Christmas Activities

Listed below are the activities that we plan to do leading up to Christmas. We still intend to invite parents into school to see the nativity. To keep everyone safe, we will follow this format: two tickets will be given to each family, chairs will be spread out in pairs in the hall, all visitors will be asked to wear a mask, and the hall will be ventilated (warm clothing may be necessary). Please do not attend if you have any COVID symptoms. When the play is over, children will return to classes and visitors will leave the hall - there will not be any photo opportunities at this point. Following the 2pm performances, parents can wait outside and collect their children from the usual exits. Please adhere to all social distancing requirements before and after the performances to keep everyone safe.

Class Dojo

In January, we will be using Class Dojo as the main communication platform. This term, we have explored different communication options. Some appeared to offer everything we needed but didn't allow parents to communicate directly with staff. We ask that parents contact staff during normal working hours and staff will not be expected to reply to messages outside of these times. This platform has been used very successfully in other schools, and I hope it's as successful here. More information will be sent out shortly.

PTA Donation

Would you like to make a donation to our PTA as an Xmas gift? The information has been emailed out regarding how to do this. If you do donate, please call to the school office to pick up a gift card.

COVID Update

Please continue to be extra vigilant with COVID symptoms and take any necessary precautions, including testing. We have had a noteworthy rise in cases over the last few weeks. Thankfully, this number has reduced significantly this week. It is with regret that we had to cancel the discos, but this was the right decision at the time. Other planned events should all be able to take place. Please help us to limit cases by following all the government guidelines.

Uniform Survey

We've had an influx of responses regarding the Every Day Active Uniform. Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts. If you haven't already done so, you have **until Friday 10th Dec** to complete the short survey (only 7 questions). We will be asking the children for their opinions in the next couple of weeks.

Children in Need 2021

Thank you to everyone who supported this cause, the total raised was £164.00 😊

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 10 December

We will all be wearing our Christmas jumpers raising money for Save the Children, £1 donation through Parent Pay where possible please.

Christmas Cards

Children are invited to bring Christmas cards into school from next Monday. They will be asked to pop them in the post box as usual. They will be distributed to classes where the teacher will keep them on one side for 72 hours before giving them out. The last day for posting cards is Friday December 17th. Reception children will be shown where the post box lives. Please make sure your child writes the child's name and class on the front of the envelope!!

Christmas Carols

There's some beautiful singing echoing off the classroom walls. It's truly joyful to listen to! Everyone is practising hard! The KS2 children would like to showcase their talents and we've added these to the calendar. The singing will take place outside. Year 3 and 4 parents can join us on the playground from 2:30- 3pm on Monday 13th December. Year 5 and 6 parents can hear those gorgeous voices at 2:30 on Wednesday 15th December. The children who have been learning musical instruments will also showcase their talents. We expect to finish about 3:15pm. Please bring an umbrella for light rain but if it's heavy rain we will come up with a contingency plan.

Dates for your Diary 2021 (Term 2)

December 2021

Saturday 4 th	Christmas lights switch on in New Mills 6.30 pm.
Monday 6 th	Last swimming session for Y5. Next one is Mon 17 th Jan 2022
Tuesday 7 th	Reception class trip to Chatsworth
Friday 10 th	Save the Children Christmas jumper day
Tuesday 14 th	2pm KS1 Nativity for reception parents
Monday 13 th	Christmas carols singing for Y3 & Y4 parents at 2.30 pm, hall door
Monday 13 th	Y2 special swimming day
Wednesday 15 th	Christmas carols singing for Y5 & Y6 parents at 2.30 pm, hall door
Wednesday 15 th	Christmas dinner day
Wednesday 15 th	Table tennis festival
Thursday 16 th	9.30 am KS1 Nativity for Y1 parents
Thursday 16 th	2pm KS1 Nativity for Y2 parents
Monday 20 th	KS2 Christmas party PM
Tuesday 21 st	KS1 Christmas party PM
Tuesday 21 st	Santa Dash all classes
Wednesday 22 nd	Y6 trip to Lowry theatre (late return)

