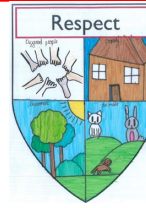
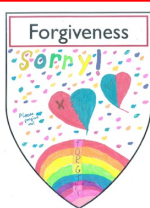


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 26th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Only 3 weeks to go before we break up for the Christmas holiday... and what a lot we have to squeeze in before we do! Breakfast with Santa, Christmas Dinner, Parties.... We know your children will have a brilliant time even though we are still not back to our normal Christmas activities.

Don't forget to try and sell the raffle tickets that came home this week - the proceeds give school vital funds to help fund forest school. Thank you to the PTA for organising this - we are really grateful.

Currently the cases of Covid across school are really low and our aim is to keep this way for as long as possible. All our safety measures remain in place and we've had our CO2 monitors delivered so we are also able to monitor the ventilation in our classrooms too.

Have a lovely weekend - I'm putting my tree up!

Ellie Game

Breakfast with Santa reminders...

- Please come to the upper school hall from 8.25/8.30am and please try not to arrive early.
- Unfortunately, parents will not be able to accompany children into the hall but should encourage them to sanitise their hands then go in on their own.
- Children will enter via the 2 fire doors.
- Only the Field Lane gate will be open early.
- Children should bring their bags and coats in to the hall with them and we will make sure they get to either their lockers or coat pegs.
- Children in KS2 do not need to be accompanied by an adult if they usually walk into school on their own and they are happy and responsible enough to do so.

We will get children in to the hall as quickly as possible but if you do need to wait while we get children in safely, please adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Children who have not booked onto this event should enter school in the usual way and go straight to their classroom where a member of staff from their bubble will meet them.

We can't wait!

Value of the half term...

Justice

This week we have listened to the story of Jonah which was read to us by a member of the 'Open the Book' team. Jonah didn't think it was fair that he had to go to Nineveh - we talked about thine when we might say this and if we were right to do so.

Public Health Update

On the next page of this newsletter is a letter from Karen Wright who is the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing. It shares the authorities view of festive activities across Dudley.

24th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank you for all that you have done to help prevent the spread of COVID 19 over the past few months. It has been a very difficult time again for our childcare and education settings and for those families who work or have children attending.

School leaders in Dudley are still working hard to manage COVID 19 cases within their school community in liaison with Dudley Council Public Health. A number of schools are still seeing a high number of cases amongst pupils and staff. With this in mind, we wanted to be clear on the local authority's advice around events as we enter the festive season.

Guidance has been given to schools around festive events and this makes it clear that there is no expectation that schools will be able to host the usual events in the usual way. Some events may need to be reviewed and schools will need to manage these in a COVID 19 secure way. This will largely depend on current COVID 19 rates in the school and local community and the situation could change at short notice in the event of an outbreak.

In light of this guidance, schools will be encouraged to review their risk assessment and decide how they are able to host festive celebrations for their individual school communities. We recognise that every school is unique and risk assessments, based on many factors, will differ from setting to setting. What may be possible in one school might not be feasible in another. The priority remains the safety of the school community.

Decisions will have to be made on a school-by-school basis and may involve a variety of measures. Some events may be held outdoors or held virtually. Where a school can safely host visitors, they will be asked to follow the protective measures in place for that school. Evidence of negative lateral flow tests may be required; schools may ask that visitors voluntarily wear face coverings and there is a possibility that numbers allowed to attend events may be limited.

We know that this may cause some disappointment if you are unable to attend events in the usual way, however, we want to keep you, your family and staff as safe as possible as we head into the holiday period. Your child's school will inform you of the arrangements they have put into place to ensure that this year's festive events can continue in a safe way.

Yours sincerely



Karen Wright
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing