



Headteacher's Newsletter Vol 4

17th December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I have to start this e-mail by saying a massive thank you to you all for your support and kindness over the last term. I know that when we began the year in September, I was feeling very positive, following the vaccination programme, that we would be able to enjoy a more "normal" term than Autumn 2020. As you all know, that hasn't been the case and in fact, it has been harder than before in terms of covering staff absence whilst still keeping the school open. Two groups of children have been involved in a "circuit breaker" situation where they have had to go home to undertake PCR testing with Year 1/2 having to repeat this again over Thursday and Friday this week. Throughout this time, you have been understanding of the challenges we have faced, wearing masks on the playground, keeping siblings at home when there has been COVID in your household and understanding when our processes haven't been as slick as they may usually be. Radstock Primary is a community and we really couldn't do it without you, so thank you very much.



I also have to thank the awesome Radstock staff team for all they have done -I am very proud to be a Headteacher to just a super group of people! LSAs have been constantly moved from year group to year group to cover staff absence, there have been many cases of COVID within the staff team, as well as other winter viruses and in some classes, learning has had to flip from face-to-face to online over the course of an evening. However, the staff team have kept smiling, continued to be positive and have done all they can to ensure that the children haven't been unsettled or affected by the changes. I am sure you will join me in thanking them for all they have done over the last 4 months. I have to say that this term has been the hardest in my years in education and like the rest of the staff, am looking forward to a rest over the holiday period.

Christmas Nativity



F2/Reception parents

Well done to our F2/Reception children who took part in a virtual Christmas nativity performance of A bundle of Joy last week. The children were fantastic, with singing, dancing and brilliant acting. Thank you to our F2/Reception team for their hard work in organising the performance, helping children to learn lines and putting together costumes. Thank you also to the F2/Reception parents for joining us live on the day of the performance or watching the recorded version on Google Classroom. The performance will remain available via the F2 Google Classroom over the festive period to share with families, before being taken down in the new year. Thank you for bearing with the lack of sound and image control - unfortunately we don't have the technical capabilities required to record a professional performance and I very much look forward to being able to invite you in to watch it live next year!

Christmas Nativity



Year 1 and 2 parents

Well done to Years 1 and 2 who took part in their Christmas Nativity, "Lights, Camel, Action" last week. Once again, the children were great at singing, dancing and acting and the performance was streamed to parents and uploaded onto Google Classroom. Thank you to our Year 1 and 2 staff for their hard work in organising the performance, helping children to learn lines and putting together costumes. Thank you also to Year 1 and 2 parents for joining us live on the day of the performance or watching the recorded version on Google Classroom. The performance will remain available via the Year 1/2 Google Classroom over the festive period to share with families, before being taken down in the new year. Thank you for bearing with the lack of sound and image control - unfortunately we don't have the technical capabilities required to record a professional performance and I very much look forward to being able to invite you in to watch it live next year!

Christmas Nativity



Year 5 parents

On Friday and Monday, Year 5 performed their Christmas Nativity as part of our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert. It was performed on Friday so it could be recorded and shared with parents. On Monday, it was shared with the other children at Radstock and allowed the whole school to sing along. This performance was different from those in previous years as it was written by the children themselves, giving their perspective as to what it would have been like to be some of the key individuals in the Christmas story.

Thank you to our Year 5 team for their hard work in organising the performance, helping children to understand the true story of Christmas and put that into words as well as acquiring costumes. Thank you also to the Year 5 parents for watching the recorded version on Google Classroom. The performance will remain available via the Year 5 Google Classroom over the festive period to share with families, before being taken down in the new year. Thank you for bearing with the lack of sound and image control - unfortunately we don't have the technical capabilities required to record a professional performance and I very much look forward to being able to invite you in to watch it live next year!

Staffing changes

Year 1 and 2 parents

Unfortunately Mr Bird has decided to leave us at the end of this term. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his hard work over this term and wish him all the best for the future. Mr Bird's class will be taught by Mrs Prowse and Mrs Giles going forward, with Mrs Palmer and Mrs Salter teaching the current 1/2PP. This information was sent out to Year 1 and 2 parents early this week.

Top Dojo Winners



All parents

The pupil in each class with the highest positive Dojo points this term was awarded in assembly with a certificate for their excellent behaviour. Those pupils will be able to wear **non-uniform** on **Friday 7th January** as a reward and have taken home a letter today to help their parents remember. Well done to: **Riley, Alana, Nikita, Damon, Joel, Arianne, Gilad, Jude, Rouz, Humzah, Finley, Daniel, Max, Mudra** and **Mannat**.

Values award winners



All parents

We also celebrated the Radstock Values Award this year to congratulate the pupil in each class who has demonstrated the Radstock Values of Respect, Ambition, Determination, Self-Belief, Team-work, Ownership, Courage and Kindness over the term and were chosen by their teacher. They will also be able to wear non-uniform on **Friday 7th January** as a reward and have taken home a letter today to help their parents remember. Well done to: **Robert, Amelia, Cassie, Rishi, Leana, Laila, Harrison, Safa, Summer, Evie, Riona, Adhya, Max** and **Phoebe**.

House Cup winners



All parents

Well done to all pupils for their efforts which have led to them receiving House points over this term. The final results for this term are as follows:

1st place: Farah - 742 points

2nd place: Simmonds - 725 points

3rd place: Ennis - 672 points

4th place: Weir - 670 points

Children in Farah will be able to celebrate their achievement with a non-uniform day on Monday 10th January 2022.

Achievement Book



All parents

I have been delighted that we have still been able to celebrate children's achievements outside of school this term with the Achievement Book, which is kept outside of my office. This term, pupils have told me about their talents in, amongst others, Brownies, running, football, gymnastics, dance and Rugby. I continue to be amazed at some of the skills that Radstock pupils can demonstrate, with some children celebrating their amazing talents outside of school. Congratulations to: **Yahya, Ethan L, Yousef, Bella, Mannat, Kavin, Aadvik, Henry B, Mudra, Isobelle, Ellie, Josh, Sebby, Aisha, Thomas, Viola, Faye, Henry J, Arav, Sriram, Alfie, Aria, Eve, Ted, Gilad, Ruby, Nicole, Saad, Eugenie, Aradhya, Josh G, Ethan P, Jude, Sophia, Amelia, Finley, Atharv, Nate, Khaled, Isaac, Ruby, Vanessa, Florence, Megan, Safa, Sankalp, Krish, Will, Taybah, Abdullah, Chloe, Siya, Yousef, Joshua J, Rayaana, Beatrice, Theo, Daniel, Shikar, Molly, Dhruvakrishna, Divisha, Honour, Clover, Jack, Ionia, Mason, Kavin, Charlie, Harley, Harrison, Eden, Zuhair, Twisha, Phoebe, Sharvil, Benji, Olivia and Max.**

Christmas Plate winners



All parents

Well done and thank you to everyone who produced a Christmas plate for our FOR Christmas fundraiser! We raised over **£how much** to go towards our tablets for each classroom. The designs were fantastic and I had a very difficult job of deciding the winning design in each year group! The winners were: **Nikita, Thomas, Ali, Daniel, Imaya, Anaaya, Rishik, Alexander, Sriram, James, Safa, Anaya, Aria, Karya, Louis, Summer, Noman, Aadya, Owen, Mannat, Drea, Grace and Amelie.**

They each received 10 House points and a certificate! A big thank you to Mrs Prowse and Mrs Palmer, our Art Curriculum Leaders, for organising.

COVID-19 reminders



All parents

Should your child suffer with 1 or more COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell) and receive a POSITIVE COVID-19 test result from today onwards, please contact covid@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk. This will be checked regularly during the Christmas period.

If cases occur initially after term ends, close contacts within a class or year group will be asked to lateral flow test daily for the first 7 days and will be informed by email. This is a change to previous practice because of the change to government guidance. All individuals who have not tested positive for COVID-

19 within the last 90 days and are over 5 years old are asked by Public Health to test to protect the rest of your family as well as the NHS, given the current situation with community transmission. Please see advice [here](#) for more information.

Please inform us of the following information: **your child's name and class; the first date of their symptoms; the date of their POSITIVE test result and their last date in school**. We do not need to know about family members who test positive during this time.

We are required to inform Wokingham Borough Council of all positive cases in our pupils, so please continue to inform us via our COVID inbox should they test positive, even later in the holiday.

Thank you for your support.

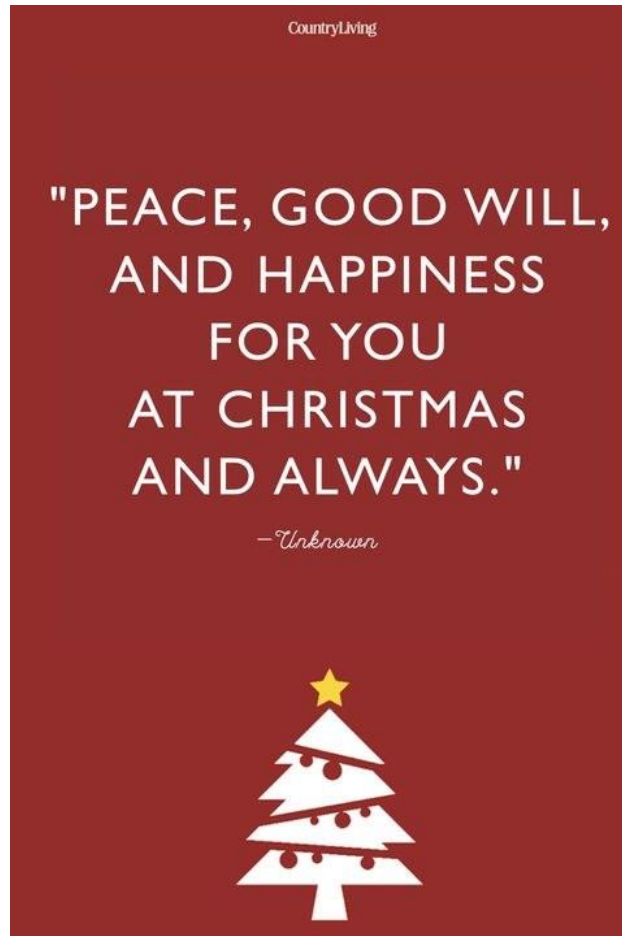
Please can I remind you that after Christmas when we return, **all parents on the playground at drop off and collection should be wearing a mask unless medically exempt**. With the Omicron variant, this is now more important than ever.

Please also make sure you are socially distant from each other when entering and exiting the site - there have been groups of people chatting as they leave which prevents others from being safe. Please move well away from the school site before gathering to talk and always remain at least 2 metres apart from each other.

I have been asked to send out COVID guidance from the local authority and it accompanies this message.

As far as I am aware, school will be returning as planned after Christmas. As always, we will be in touch should the situation change!

And finally...



All parents

This has yet again been a difficult term for all in the Radstock community, so on behalf of all the school staff team, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. At the time of writing, it isn't clear what is in store for us as we move into 2022, but as always, we will continue to work with you all, come what may! Take care of yourself and each other,

Best wishes,

Mrs Slocombe

Diary Dates

Please find below the Diary Dates for the Spring term. As I am sure you understand, these dates are provisional and dependant on government guidance and the number of COVID-19 cases in school and the local community. Some events may be virtual and some may be cancelled and postponed. We will update you with further information as we move through the term.

Tuesday 4th January: INSET DAY

Wednesday 5th January: Children return



Monday 7th February: Virtual Parents' Evening

Tuesday 8th February: Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 9th February: Virtual Parents' Evening

Friday 18th February: House Multi-Skills

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February: HALF TERM



Thursday 3rd March: World Book Day

Monday 7th March: Parent Drop-in

Friday 11th March: Sports Relief - children to wear an item of red

Monday 21st March: World Poetry Day

Wednesday 30th March: LKS2 Performance - may be virtual and only Year 4

Thursday 31st March: LKS2 Performance - may be virtual and only Year 4



Friday 8th April: End of term - children finish between 1.10pm and 1.20pm



Please contact us via the following methods:



Telephone 0118 986 9050

E-mail admin@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk