

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of November, this newsletter is predominantly about Christmas!

We know Christmas is a magical and joyful time for young children and some of this is represented by what they do in school. However, as I’m sure you can imagine, the restrictions under which we are operating, make creating these experiences for the children challenging, if not impossible. We have spent a few weeks now considering and developing ideas for giving Littletown children the best Christmas at school we possibly can. I am pleased to be able to share with you today our plans. Please read them carefully as they are quite complicated in places! We have given it all a lot of thought, but please do ask us any questions or let us know any errors or things we have missed.

Firstly, I’m excited to tell you about our plans to bring a flavour of Christmas learning and singing from your children before the end of term. We will be producing a Littletown Christmas Padlet featuring videos from each class, dancing and maybe even a dodgy cracker joke or two! For your child to be included in the filming you must make sure you fill in the relevant google form from the link in the table below in this newsletter. More explanation of this can be found below. We are looking forward to preparing and sharing our Christmas learning with you, but of course, have never done anything like this before so we will have to see how it goes!

We will still be having our Christmas lunch provided by Fresha. Children will eat as a class in their classrooms listening to music. This will be on Thursday 17th December. Children can wear Christmas jumpers and accessories on this day. Christmas Lunch is now available to book on ParentPay. If you have already booked meals for this day, you will need to rebook. Class Christmas parties will take place on this day, but we won't have children bringing any food or drink in from home.

Children can also wear Christmas jumpers on the official Christmas jumper day on Friday 11th December and bring 50p donations for Save the Children as part of our focus on thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. More information can be found here: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day> Please remember, you do not have to purchase a Christmas jumper for your child if they don’t have one as they can come in non-uniform on both of these occasions.

We have shared the plan for Christmas cards for a few weeks now. This can still be found below in the newsletter. Due to GDPR and data protection we are not able to give out class lists.

Parents have already started to ask me about cards and gifts for staff. As I always say, staff never expect to receive anything from families - especially this year when there has been added financial strain on so many families. However, if you do wish to bring things in for staff there will be class trays or boxes in the space between the front blue doors and internal white doors during the week of Monday 7th December. These will then be given out or collected by staff on Monday 14th December. Please make sure anything you put in a tray or box is extremely well labelled so it gets to the right person.

Lastly, Father Christmas has looked at our risk assessment and all being well, he will be able to visit the doorways of the classrooms to deliver presents to each class. Teachers will be discussing with their classes what would be a good present for the class to ask for. My thanks to the PTFA for assisting Santa in this process!

Honiton library are looking to update their ‘book track’ and would like input from Littletown children and parents. Please see a message from them below with a link to a short survey.

Finally, please see below news from the PTFA which features details of an exciting socially distanced treasure hunt event for families over next weekend!

Yours faithfully,

David Perkins 

Principal

**Tier 2 impact on schools**

As you will know, we come out of lockdown next week and into Tier2 restrictions. The DfE have given schools guidance on amended practice depending on which tier we are in. At time of writing, there won’t be any changes to our risk assessment or operating procedures. We are now allowed to offer after school sports clubs again, but Mr Conybeare will restart his clubs at the start of the Spring Term and letters from him will come in due course. As our tier changes I will continue to keep you informed of any changes at school. Remember Version 4 of our school Covid-19 risk assessment is on our website here: <https://www.littletown.devon.sch.uk/website/school_reopening_risk_assessment_sept_20/504310> If you have any questions about why we are or why we aren’t doing certain things then please do get in touch.

**Layers of clothing**

With the weather getting colder we aren’t keeping classroom doors and windows open for ventilation throughout the day. However, we are still opening doors and windows when we can in order to keep ventilation where people are mixing (class bubbles). This may mean that classrooms may not be as warm as they might normally be. We recommend considering children wearing additional layers under their uniform if they are saying they are feeling cold in the classrooms.

**Christmas Padlet videos**

As mentioned above, we can’t welcome parents into school this year for Christmas performances and celebrations. However, we will be making some class videos for our Christmas Padlet. This will hopefully share some of our Littletown Christmas spirit with you whilst remaining in our class bubbles. Unfortunately, this does mean we need yet another dreaded google consent form from you! Please see below a table containing a google form link for each class. It will ask for consent to film your child as part of the Christmas videos and also ask you to confirm your agreement in not sharing any of the content on social media. Any children for whom consent is not given will still be able to participate fully and just won’t be in camera shot during the filming. Any questions please get in touch.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Form link** | **Class** | **Form link** |
| Nursery | <https://forms.gle/YfEoBXefCwB2zT7aA>  |  |  |
| RNC | <https://forms.gle/5EsP2LA5xA5qkDMHA>  | RNK/MH | <https://forms.gle/h2oEpjKpQ93Y9xA3A>  |
| 1CL/LM | <https://forms.gle/mKoGAzjBwMcveVKw6>  | 1CV | <https://forms.gle/RPPMY8yzXodJdHGx9>  |
| 2DB/VR | <https://forms.gle/5j4BUgp9TqyM5M5K8>  | 2AL | <https://forms.gle/p9JzVpTBs1sjdmy66>  |
| 3JS/SD | <https://forms.gle/EVZuN1HvxYj72Lo66>  | 3RB/GH | <https://forms.gle/Mfj3J8YWDUSmgtW46>  |
| 4SD | <https://forms.gle/HJPdqLDhr8y171QT7>  | 4GA/GW | <https://forms.gle/3s62NRbVTVgkJnYn7>  |
| 5ZU | <https://forms.gle/139zcGuJR4CptEAq8>  | 5CB | <https://forms.gle/d6yZwLUNrxoWNatJ8>  |
| 6CP | <https://forms.gle/6TSWK5NxJxQnQ35q6>  | 6JF | <https://forms.gle/rhay4uBgBg4UZx5z9>  |

**End of term reports**

Usually at Christmas, teachers send a progress and attainment report home to parents. This year, we have been working with children on finding gaps from the disruption to their education last year and planning to fill them accordingly. This is an ongoing process. Because of this, it would not be an accurate or worthwhile exercise to send reports to parents about progress and attainment against year group expectations at this time. However, teachers will always be willing to speak to parents about progress as necessary. Parent Consultations are scheduled again in February, where detail about progress and attainment over half the academic year can be discussed more accurately and fully. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Message from Honiton library**

Book Track is the reading challenge for primary-aged children run by Libraries Unlimited through your local public library. Lots of children enjoy taking part, earning badges and stickers as a reward for reading lots of books and talking about them. Now Libraries Unlimited has received some funding, from Tesco Bags of Help, to create a brand new reading challenge to replace Book Track. This is where you can help. Before making any changes or creating something new, Libraries Unlimited would like to find out what you think. They are interested in the views of all parents and children that are interested in books and reading.

Please follow [this link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGD1yfxm7UWwtVqMjA7o_APT1Cxq865JkRioO73jreBUMlpMOTg0NU1IOVRIRFpXOEgwOFo0RzI3UC4u) to a short survey that is designed for children aged 5+ and a parent/carer to complete together. It won't take long to complete, and you could win a fantastic prize. The survey is open until Friday 11th December 2020 and all entries submitted before then will be entered into a prize draw to win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet! (T&Cs apply)

**Nursery and Reception 2021 Virtual Tour**

If you or a friend has a child due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2021 please see and share the poster attached with details on our virtual tour and open day. Please encourage them to call us at school.

**Christmas cards**

From 1st December we welcome all children to write Christmas cards to their friends **within their own class**, these cards will be quarantined within the class and handed out the following week. Therefore all cards must be brought in by Friday 11th December in order to be given out before the end of Term.

**Governors AGM**

**Honiton Littletown Primary Academy Trust**

**COMPANY NUMBER: 07851471**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (the “Meeting”) of Honiton Littletown Primary Trust will be held virtually on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 5.30pm to transact the following business:**

**1. To receive the Chairman’s report;**

**2. To receive and adopt the company's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 August 2020 together with the directors' report and auditor's report on those accounts;**

**3. To appoint the Company's auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting to the end of the next period for appointing auditors under section 485(2) of the Companies Act 2006, at a remuneration to be determined by the directors;**

**4. To appoint new Members to the Board and accept any resignations from the Board by current Members.**

**By order of the Board**

**Tina Sillitoe**

**Chair**

**Honiton Littletown Academy Trust**

**If you would like to attend please contact Jenny Rawlins (littletownclerk@littletown.devon.sch.uk)**

**PTFA News**

AGM

The PTFA held their AGM last Monday. The minutes of the meeting will be available on the school website very soon.

We discussed the way that we are able to work during the current restrictions as obviously our normal events are unable to take place. We decided that at this time our role is to continue to support the school as best we can, to try to keep some sense of community through fun online activities, and to plan for events that we can hopefully put on later in the year.

The first of these is a treasure hunt which is detailed below. This will be available in the first weekend of December. We realise that many people are finding things more difficult at the moment so we will not have a charge as such for this, but would welcome any donations to the PTFA if you would like to. You can donate to Littletown PTFA (Account Code: 21450913, Sort Code: 40-24-28) with the reference “donation”.

Can you solve the clues to navigate your way around Honiton Bottom?

Scan a QR code to reveal a clue to the location of the next code. Socially distanced fun for the family from 15:30 on Friday 4th December till dark on Sunday 6th December. Covering a 1 mile route around Honiton Bottom starting at the school gates. An internet enabled device (e.g. smartphone) with a QR reader/scanner is required (free apps are available for iOs and Android). If you enjoy the treasure hunt, please donate as generously as you can to Littletown PTFA (Account Code: 21450913, Sort Code: 40-24-28). A pdf of clues can be provided to those who wish to join in but do not have an appropriate device. If you have any queries then please email ptfa@littletownacademy.org.

Also, remember that you can also help the PTFA by using Amazon Smile or easyfundraising when you are doing your Christmas shopping!