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**Autumn Term 2021 - Christmas Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the end of term approaching, things are quite busy in school, with plenty of festive fun in the lead up to Christmas. We try very hard to make the end of term and Christmas celebrations a special time at school, and this year we have been working especially hard to plan some exciting activities for your children, although we have had to adapt the ways in which some of them can go ahead.

**Community Christmas Carols**

We are really sad that, for the second year running, we are unable to hold our very special Christmas Carol Concert at Christ the Cornerstone Church. It is one of our favourite events of the year and one which we will miss. If you are a new family to our school we hope that this will return in 2022 and will be something that we can all look forward to together. However, we have added an alternative exciting event into our calendar which is our Community Christmas Carols event on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 5.30pm-7.15pm. This will take place in the playground and MK Brass have very kindly volunteered to play for us. Friends will be selling programmes nearer to the date (£1) and selling refreshments. There might also be a surprise visitor with a lucky dip and some other goodies, so please bring some extra cash to spend (card machine available)!! We hope that this will be an extremely special family evening.

**Foundation Stage 2 Nativities – this involves  
Zebras and Tigers classes**

The Foundation Stage’s Nativity plays of ‘Everyone Loves a Baby!’ take place next week. I would like to thank Ms Bancroft who has been visiting the children for socially distanced singing lessons over the past weeks. It is so lovely to see how quickly our Foundation



Stage children are gaining confidence. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to invite parents into school to watch the plays. We believe that children having the opportunity to perform in nativity plays is a really important part of the infant school experience. We have therefore decided to film the children performing the plays so that you will all be able to see your children shine.

### **Circus Day!**

We have a very exciting Circus Day planned for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December with all children taking part in learning some circus skills. This exciting and new event is being fully funded by 'Friends'.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

We will be having a '**Christmas Jumper Day**' on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, with any donations brought in going to Save the Children. Please do not go out and spend money buying a Christmas jumper. If your child does not already have one at home, they could wear an old jumper and they will have the opportunity in school to decorate it to make it look festive!



### **It's Party Time! – End of term activities**

We have a week filled with fun and treats in the last week of term:-

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, each class will get a visit from Santa Claus. He will be bringing a gift for every child in the school. Santa Claus will be accompanied by his furry friends!

There are class party games with refreshments, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> (Yr1), Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> (Yr2) and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> (Foundation Stage).

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>, all classes will be watching a virtual pantomime performance of Cinderella.

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> we welcome our regular visitor, Children's Entertainer Colonel Custard – magician, juggler, and comic.

### **Friends of Loughton Manor First School – THANK YOU!**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Loughton Manor First School who have worked extremely hard this term, to organise the Halloween Discos and cake sale. They have been busily wrapping hundreds of gifts, ready for the Christmas Shop this week – some of their homes have been looking like Santa's Grotto! They have also been organising the Christmas Craft Packs and Christmas Treats. They continue to support activities throughout school and have provided presents from Santa, party treats and prizes as well as providing us with our circus day and a very special secret visitor on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – sssh!

To those wonderful parent and staff volunteers who have made this all possible – thank you so much for all your time and effort. We couldn't provide these special treats without you!

### Colonel Custard

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of **£2.50** towards Colonel Custard's show. **We have really struggled with insufficient contributions for the last couple of years, but can't bear to cancel this special end of term treat, which the children love so much.** It really is excellent value for a truly hilarious and very professional show. Please do try to send a £2.50 contribution into school, if you can manage it – we do understand that it's an expensive time of year. You will receive a parentmail asking you for this contribution.

**All pupils can wear non-uniform or party clothes from Tuesday 14th onwards.**

We hope that you all manage to have a restful holiday and enjoy spending time with your families. We wish you joyful celebrations, and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and well at the start of next term on **Wednesday 5th January 2022.**

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniela Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

Daniela Thompson  
Headteacher