

William Shrewsbury Primary School

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Dear Parents,

I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and well. What a very busy term it has been! Despite high numbers of Covid-19 cases both in school and across the wider community on either side of half term, the staff have remained focused on the children's safety, their emotional wellbeing and on providing the highest quality learning activities possible in order to close any gaps in learning. Your children have been truly amazing; they are rebuilding their resilience to cope with the challenge and everyone who has visited the school or worked with the pupils online have been full of compliments about their work ethic and their considerate behaviour.

Because we have been so busy, Christmas seems to have crept up on us very quickly! We are now involving ourselves in lots of fun activities. As we are still unable to have you in for our Christmas concerts, the children are rehearsing and filming songs to share with you next week by video link. Other dates to note are:

- Friday 10th (tonight!) - AFWS Christmas Discos
- Tuesday 14th Christmas Dinner (see below for more details)
- Friday 17th Christmas Party Day - Children may wear their party clothes, but please ensure that they are warm and safe enough to run around the playground in at break times.

There is another exciting date that we are very much looking forward to. You may remember that in the summer holidays, we had a film crew in school with Hugh Dennis and a team of archaeologists to film 'The Great British Dig'. We have been told that this will be screened on Channel 4 on Wednesday 5th January. Tune in to learn about their exciting finds.

In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy the lead up to Christmas and have a peaceful, happy holiday when it arrives. We will then look forward to seeing the children back on Wednesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely,
Elaine Curtis



Christmas Dinner Day Tuesday 14th December

We are really looking forward to our Christmas Dinner next week when children can wear their Christmas jumpers (or red or green tops) over their normal school uniform. We will have lots of festive songs in the background to get us into the Christmas mood too! Please make sure you book your junior child's Christmas lunch on the google form that has been emailed to you and pay in advance (£2.40) on Parent Pay. Nursery children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day too.



AFWS News

Our Amazing AFWS team are all still busily working behind the scenes to raise money for the children this Christmas. All their events are currently online so joining the AFWS Facebook page is the best way for you to find out what they are doing, although they also communicate through email too where possible. The raffle is now live! It will be drawn on Sunday 19th December live on Facebook at 2pm and they have a great list of prizes donated from local businesses and parents. This fundraiser is even more important than ever with the loss of funds from the Christmas fayre, and they are hoping to support an exciting archaeological project after Christmas.

The Christmas quiz has been sent out by email. Please return your entries by Wednesday 15th December for a chance to win a £15 Amazon voucher. Thank you for supporting us by buying the amazing Christmas cards that the children have created. We have really enjoyed seeing all the festive designs. AFWS will still be providing selection boxes for every child and Santa is currently preparing an online video so he can still give the children a message while he is isolating! Watch this space!

If you are doing any of your Christmas shopping on Amazon, please do this using Amazon Smiles as we get 0.5% of all the money spent. We have earned over £100 this year by parents spending and linking to the AFWS charity, which is fantastic! Thank you and Merry Christmas from team AFWS.

Christmas Charities

Usually, we have exit collections for charity on the way out of our Christmas concerts. You have always been so very generous at Christmas when the school community tries to help those who are less fortunate than we are. As we cannot collect money in person this year, we will be making creating a place on Parent Pay for you to donate to charity instead. We understand that things are tight financially for many people this year and we will totally understand if you don't feel able to contribute. Any money collected will be split equally between the following charities:

- MacMillan Cancer Support
- The Salvation Army who supported many families through their foodbank scheme
- Bridge the Gap - Based in Derby and working with children who need help with their mental health



Thank you for your support for these very worthwhile projects.



Christmas Post

Instead of our Christmas post boxes, this year we are asking children to only bring in cards for the children in their own class during the last week.





Drop off and pick up

As things were so different during our lockdowns, with various entrances and times, we are understandably having a little trouble getting back to our usual routines (the road works have not helped this week!). After a term's grace, it is now vital that we get everything back to normal to meet Government regulations and to ensure everyone's safety. Here are a few reminders:

- Please remember that entry time is between 8.45am-8.55am. After this time, your child may receive a late mark. Teachers take electronic registers and then send them to the office. Teachers cannot add late children so this must be done by the office staff. This is time consuming and can slow them down in checking whether all of the children have arrived safely.
- We try to open the infant gates a little earlier to allow Reception parents to wait on the school grounds to prevent it becoming too crowded at the front. However, if you would still like to walk your Reception child round after this, please ensure that you are back out of the gate by 8.55am at the latest so that it can be locked promptly.
- Only a very few parents with permits are allowed onto the car park before or after school. However, there will also be contractors and visiting professionals driving in the car park at these times. Please do not walk in the car park and instead use the paths provided.
- Please do not use, or ask taxis to use the front entrance as a drop off spot or turning circle.
- If you are finding it difficult to get in through the traffic, or you have to go to work early, we still have places at Breakfast Club, which starts at 7.45am each morning. There are now no restrictions on the number of days on which children can attend. The cost is £3 per session and can be made via parent pay. Please contact our office to find out more.

Road Safety Message

It's winter and the clocks have gone back! This means the evenings are dark sooner and some days can be very dull, and of course it will start to get cold so its winter coat time and hoods up, but...

Can you be seen?

Make sure you wear something light coloured, reflective or fluorescent

Can you see properly before you cross the road?

Take your hood off your head to Stop, Look and Listen

It's difficult for vehicle drivers to see you when you're in dark clothing and when there's no street lights so please...

**THINK!
BE SAFE!
BE SEEN!
STAY SAFE!**



Junior Christmas Disco

10th December

It's time to dust off your party outfits and come to the disco tonight! £2 entry - don't forget some money for refreshments!

Please see the times below

Year 3	5.45 - 6.30 pm
Year 4	6.45 - 7.30 pm
Year 5	7.45 - 8.30 pm
Year 6	8.45 - 9.30 pm

