



# Lethbridge Primary School Newsletter

December 2020



## Welcome to our latest newsletter

I can't quite believe we have nearly reached the end of this year. Despite some changes to organisation in school, there is a very Christmassy atmosphere around here now. The annual children's cards, calendars and decorations are coming on well! Although we cannot invite you in to school to see our younger children perform in Christmas productions, or invite you to church for our Key Stage Two Christmas service, we will have some Christmas videos of the children to share with you in the final week of term. The children have been rehearsing for filming and really getting in the Christmas spirit. What a bunch of superstars they are. ☺

Well done to our children who recorded messages for the Old Town Virtual Christmas Lights event. It was lovely to see you during the show. As a school, we have also been taking part in a 'Spread The Happiness' event by writing Christmas messages for older people living in residential care. The children's messages really are heartwarming and their drawings will, I'm sure, bring a little bit of Christmas happiness to those who receive them.

Christmas lunch is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Children are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers on this day. This is one of our favourite events of the year. Please book sooner rather than later to help us get organised. There is another opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> as this is Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day. Donations through Parentmail please.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to hold our Christmas Bazaar this year, but Friends Of Lethbridge have still been busy selling tickets for our lovely hampers. Congratulations to our lucky winners!

We finish for the Christmas holidays at 1.25pm or 1.35pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and this is a normal uniform day apart from Years 5 and 6 who will be dressing up for their Antarctica topic day.

## School closure in event of snow

I don't believe we are expecting snow anytime soon but this is a good time for me to remind you about our procedures if we need to shut the school building in event of bad weather. As you might remember from last winter, we will always do our best to keep the school open if at all possible and use flexible starting and finishing times in order to do this safely. We will send out a text message as soon as we possibly can to let you know any decision, post on our Twitter account (@LethbridgePri) and website. Heart radio will also announce school closures.

## Covid update

I just want to remind you all again how important it is that you keep children off school if they, OR ANYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD BUBBLE, have symptoms of Covid 19 however mild they may seem. Please get the person with symptoms tested as soon as possible and keep your child off school until you know for sure that the family member does not have Covid 19. If the child is kept off school from the day of the first family member's symptoms we have a better chance of avoiding having to close school bubbles.

As you've probably realised, a positive Covid19 case within school in the last week of term could lead to your child being asked to self-isolate over Christmas.

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## **Covid update cont.**

Schools have been asked to continue to support the **Track and Trace** programme once we have broken up for the Christmas holidays. This is to ensure that any people who need to isolate during this time get the information they need in a timely fashion. While we would not want to have to tell a child to isolate at this time, it could be necessary.

If your child develops symptoms **within 48hrs of finishing school next Friday and subsequently has a positive test** (or has a non-symptomatic positive test within 48hrs) please contact the school in the normal way via the [admin@lethbridgeprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@lethbridgeprimary.co.uk) email.

This inbox will be monitored daily between 8am and 11am until 24th December. If you do need to contact us at this time please:

- Mark the subject line “Covid—URGENT”
- Give your child’s name and class
- The date the symptoms started, date of the test and result

This account will only be monitored for Covid related correspondence.

Obviously, if you suspect that your child, or a member of your family has Covid-19, the whole household should isolate until the test results are known as usual.

**If** we have notification that there has been a positive case in your child’s bubble, we will inform you of this through Parentmail, so please do keep checking this throughout the break.

## **Free school meals**

If your child is entitled to benefit –related free school meals you will receive a food shopping voucher of £30 value for the Christmas break for each child. You will receive a message about this soon with more details and asking you to choose which supermarket you would like your vouchers to be valid for.

If you think you might be entitled to benefits-related free school meals for your child please apply. I know that children in EYFS and Key Stage One receive a free meal at school because of their age but the benefits-related free school meals entitlement means you would also receive a food package provided by the school if your child has to self-isolate due to Covid 19 related reasons during term time and you receive other items such as the Christmas holiday supermarket voucher. The school also receives additional money for each child who is registered as entitled to benefits-related free school meals which we can spend on things like phonics and maths interventions, our ELSA service and other services to enhance the quality of education and mental health and wellbeing of the children.

Please read the information here:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools\\_and\\_education/408/free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools_and_education/408/free_school_meals)

Have a wonderful break and we will see you again on Tuesday January 5th.

Lisa Mayes