

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's Wednesday again – so here is the weekly update with just a few messages and reminders for the days and weeks ahead.

### **Dogs on the playground**

It is lovely to see families enjoying their pets and I know that many of you are keen to come and show them off, but please can we remind you that we do not allow dogs (or any other pets) on the school site. Some of our children have allergies and some children are also scared of dogs and we don't want to cause any increased anxiety to these children. There is also the Health and Safety implication around having animals on site which is important for us to consider at all times. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### **15<sup>th</sup> December Celebration Day**

As you know, we were planning to hold a Christmas sing-along in the playground and invite all of our parents and carers to join us. You will be aware I'm sure that we now remain in Tier 3 and as such, we are going to have to make this an event purely for children and staff. I know that so many of you will be really disappointed, but we hope you understand the difficulty in managing the practicalities. It will continue to be a fabulous day which I know the children will enjoy and we can't wait to join in festive celebrations together again in the future. Do remember that on this day, children are invited to wear festive clothes if they want to as we will be supporting Save the Children with our Christmas Jumper Day.

### **Staff Gifts**

Lots of parents have approached me to ask whether they can bring in gifts at the end of the term for teachers and other school staff. The answer is yes – we will simply advise staff to keep gifts in a box for 72 hours before touching if they want to. Please note though, that although gifts are always so appreciated, it is in no way necessary to buy any Christmas gifts for staff at any point in the year.

### **PTFA pop up Christmas Jumper Shop**

As we approach the end of term the PTFA will be setting up a Christmas Jumper and festive-wear pop up shop where you will be able to buy pre-loved items. Please bring in any donations you might have which maybe no longer fit your little ones and someone else will be able to make good use of them as we approach Christmas. More details to follow soon...

### **INSET Days**

Just a reminder that Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 are INSET days for us and the academy will be closed to children on these days. The last day of term for children will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the start of the Spring Term.

### **Website and Year Group Pages**

Do remember to keep a look out on the website year group pages for the weekly updates on what the children have

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been doing in class. We know that this is so important at the moment when touching base with teachers is so much harder. So many parents have told us how much they love these weekly updates, so I just wanted to draw your attention to these.

**Twas the night before Christmas**

I will be doing a Facebook Live event on Christmas Eve at 4pm where I will read this amazing poem to the children – it won't be very long – but will be lovely to have as many of you join us as possible for a bit of festive cheer! There is an event set up for this on the academy Facebook page.

Kindest regards,

Clare