

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parent / Carer

As we enter the final run up to the end of term we thought that it would be good to use a newsletter and share important information with you.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our families for working with us over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; I think it a real success that, so far, we have had no positive cases in our school and this is largely down to the sensible actions that the vast majority of families are taking, together with the measures that we have put in place in school and which our children adhere to.

I know that everyone is ready for a well-earned Christmas break and with the imminent roll out of vaccinations there is some light at the end of the tunnel for 2021. Notwithstanding, I would respectfully request that all of us in the community think carefully about any increased contacts that we might have over Christmas; it would be a great shame to get so far and then find that we have a third wave in January.

This will mean that Christmas will be different for all of us and in school it is very different too. Usually at this time I can hear children practicing for their nativity plays and the carol service; it is strange for the hall to be so quiet at this time of year. However, don't forget that on Christmas jumper day, (Friday 11th) we are filming a special, socially distanced, surprise for you. If you have not sent back your child's permission slip for this yet, please do so by Thursday.

I hope you like reading our new newsletter, we hope to make these more regular in the new year. If you have any feedback or would like different types of information included feel free to drop us an email.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and in hope that 2021 will bring the start of the end for this pandemic and normality for everyone in our community and across the world.

Mark Turner

Important Dates

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December

Christmas card last post – Tuesday 15th December

Bubble Christmas Parties – Thursday 17th December

Christmas Lunch – Friday 18th December

Break up for Christmas Holidays – Fri 18th December
1.15pm,

Return to School – Tuesday 5th January 2021

Reception Admission Applications close 15th January 2021

Thank You!

To our whole school community, Parents, carers, grandparents, staff in every capacity, Management Team , Board of Governors and most of all our children. Thank you for accepting all the challenges of this year and helping our school run smoothly.

Our children have adapted well to different ways of working, for example, coming into school one way and leaving another. Working and playing in bubbles, having lunch in their class rooms and home schooling, not to mention washing their hands so many times a day..... This has all been possible through your help and support.

Life has changed for us all in many ways, be that through shielding, self-isolating, unemployment, being furloughed, volunteering, attending food banks, having food parcels delivered, working from home, however you have all pulled together and supported our children through these most difficult times. Thank You!

As we move towards saying goodbye to 2020 we remember and hold in mind all those who have lost someone dear to them this year.....

May 2021 bring good health and peace to all.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and restful holiday.

Stay safe,

Lilyx

Lily Morris

Positive futures Advisor



Christmas Cards

Christmas cards can be posted Monday and Tuesday each week. They will be quarantined for 72 hours and handed out on Friday afternoons. Last day for posting is Tuesday 15th December.

Reception September 2021 Admission Application

For any parents considering a school place for your child here at Gilesgate Primary, please remember to complete your application form before the 15th January deadline. If anyone would like further information, please contact us. We are here to help!



We are feeling festive here at Gilesgate Primary thanks to our beautiful Christmas Tree. We hope you love it as much we do.



Free School Meals Eligibility

Just a reminder to all families that if your circumstances change due to the Coronavirus pandemic and you think your child (even those in Reception to Year 2) may be eligible for free school meals, please contact us. This is the criteria set out by Government for eligibility <https://gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> we can apply on your behalf if you email us the following details: Parent's full name and date of birth, National Insurance number, postcode, your child's full name to gilesgateprimary@durhamlearning.net We will let you know if you are eligible.

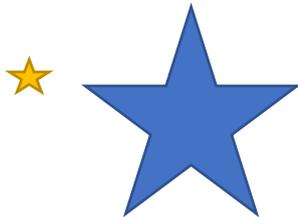
Covid Symptoms and updated information

County Durham has seen a spike in cases of coronavirus lately. As coronavirus cases are on the increase, we are asking parents to ensure that they are working with us to keep members of the community safe. Your child should not attend school if anyone in your household or support bubble is being tested or has a positive test. If your child is unwell in anyway with winterflu symptoms (cough, high temperature, lack of taste and smell) Please do not send them to school and arrange a test as soon as possible. The symptoms of coronavirus are increasing, so if we feel your child is unwell, we will ring parents / carers and ask you to come and collect them. Together we must ensure that staff, children and our community are kept safe.

Decembers Awards

Headteachers Award

- Macie - Year 4/5
- Jenna – Year 4/5
- Damien – Year 3/4
- Jay - Year 3/4
- Joudi - Year 3/4



Teachers Award

- Ellie – Year 6
- Eva – Ann - Year 4/5
- John – Year 3/4
- Tyler – Year 3/4
- Damien Year 3/4



School Tracksuit Bottoms

Due to lockdown, the PE Premium funding was unable to be spent on providing PE lessons for our children. Therefore, we have spare monies leftover from the PE Premium which we would like to spend on providing our children with tracksuit bottoms.

Due to Covid, our children are required to come to school in their kit on PE days and as a one off we would like to provide the children with one pair of school tracksuit bottoms free of charge, using the PE funding. Please choose your child's size carefully as there are no returns.

Additional pairs of tracksuit bottoms can be purchased from the School Trends' website. We are also adding school hoodies to our uniform ordering site. Hoodies are optional for PE and will cost from £13.50. They can be ordered direct from the School Trends website.

Foodbank donations

Every year, our staff are overwhelmed by the kindness of our families with their very generous gifts at Christmas time. This is something that is gratefully received but completely unnecessary as there is no obligation to buy staff presents as it is a joy to work with your children. This year, instead of gifts, we thought it would be a lovely idea to ask our parents to make non-perishable donations to the foodbank. Items can be sent in to school and the last day for donations is Wednesday 16th December. This is completely optional and there is no obligation. Thank you!

