

Hawkinge Primary School

Miss A Ward
Headteacher
Tel: 01303 892224
www.hawkingeprimaryschool.co.uk



Canterbury Road
Hawkinge
Folkestone
Kent
CT18 7BN

20th November 2020

Dear Parents,

It seems like a long time ago since Monday and having to close our Year 5 classes for two weeks. As usual I have been exceptionally proud of the Year 5 staff, pupils and parents who have adjusted to 'Remote Learning' so well. It has been a steep learning curve for us all this week, but I am proud to say the work the children are producing is of a high standard. I am enjoying watching the teachers videos each day too – it was lovely to see a special appearance from Misty (Mrs Groombridges dog) on Thursday! The Seesaw platform has become part of our daily diet this week for Y5 pupils – we seem to use the word 'Seesaw' in school in most conversations at the moment. Since closing the classrooms the areas Y5 pupils use have been disinfected with a 'fogging machine' and cleaned by the cleaners. We are ready and looking forward to their return in a weeks time. It is funny how we are living in such a different world since this time last year when words like 'seesaw' 'zoom' 'foggy' & 'teams' all meant different things!

Prior to Monday we had been talking about Christmas at Hawkinge primary School and I wanted to share our plans with you this week – I know it seems early (only 35 days until Christmas!).

We want the children to enjoy the run up to Christmas in school and have fun like never before....whilst at the same time keeping everyone as safe as we can. In the last two weeks of this term (from Monday 7th December) we will be stopping any interventions children participate in, we will be stopping setting in Years 3 to Year 6, we will stop setting for phonics in Years 1 and 2. All this means that the children will be mixing with 50% less children than they currently are, therefore cutting the risk of infection. We are doing that because we want to reduce the risk of families having to isolate over Christmas. We will continue to have high level cleaning throughout the day, high levels of ventilation and keep up the frequent handwashing. Now for the fun....!

This year there have to be many changes but we are hoping with a few adaptations we can keep hold of the traditions we love in school.

- **The Panto** – We cannot go to a panto, but we have booked a virtual one to come to us! (oh, yes we have!) Our panto afternoon will be on Thursday 10th December
- **Christmas Lunch** – We usually have lunch in the school hall with all the trimmings.... This year we will be moving lunch into the classrooms on Friday 11th December. The children will spend time in the morning making Christmas hats, decorating their tables and generally doing 'festive bits' to ensure they have the best Christmas lunch ever!
- **Christmas Parties** – We believe that the children can still have their parties – but in their classrooms. Usually we would ask you to provide food to share, but obviously we will not be asking you to do that this year instead we are already stockpiling goodies for our parties! I will send you a 'Microsoft Forms Questionnaire' home over the weekend (via text message) for you to confirm that your child can eat the food we are buying for the party. Any allergies we will also cater for. We plan to have a Christmas classroom party on Thursday 17th December.

- **Christmas Cards** – We think that sending and receiving Christmas Cards is an important, pleasurable thing for children to be able to do in school. But to keep everyone extra safe we are going to ask that children only send cards to other children in their class. There will be a classroom post-box in each classroom that will be ‘open’ for mail on Monday 7th December and will close on Friday 11th December. We will leave the cards to ‘isolate’ over the weekend and then give them to children to open on the Monday and then bring home in food bags so that you can leave them for 48 hours if you wish before getting them out at home. Please do not send cards into school outside of this time period.
- **Nativity / Landing Pad Assemblies** – obviously this year we will not be able to perform a Nativity play or Landing Pad Assemblies but what we propose to do will be equally as fun for the children. We have invested in a wide range of Christmas story books (and some Christmas props). Each class is going to take responsibility for retelling a ‘Christmas Story’ on Facebook over the Christmas holidays (with your permission – more about that in a moment) This will be filmed before the end of term and shared daily with you. On the same questionnaire we are going to send you to confirm food permissions, we will also ask your permission as to whether your child can be filmed for our Christmas stories. If you would rather they were not filmed we can give them a non-visual role.
- **Advent fun** – We are taking part in the Hawkinge Advent windows that have been advertised on Hawkinge Residents site. I believe it will be very much in the same style as the Scarecrow Hunt but 24 windows in Hawkinge that have a pictorial representation of a Christmas Carol for you to guess the title of. It sounds like great fun. More details to follow.
- **Santa** - I have also had a secret message from Santa asking to have a video call with children in the two reception classes and Year 1 classes. He has told me I must keep the date secret for now, but he is excited to meet children from Hawkinge Primary School. **Shhhhhh!** 😊

Whilst I hope you agree that we have lots of fun things planned this must not be at the expense of the health and safety of our school community which we continue to work hard to ensure. Things do have to be different this year but staff are confident we can up the ‘fun-factor’ whilst making changes to our current working practices to further cut the risks. Staff will also be wearing clear visors over the Christmas period in school as a further safety measure protecting both the children and themselves. No one wants any family from our community having to isolate over our Christmas break.

Term 3 – In January we will be having a staff training day on Monday 4th January. The school will be closed on this day. This leaves us with 2 further staff training days to plan in. One will be in term 6 and the other is to be decided. I am hanging on to it for now until we begin to know more about the Government plans for 2021.

If you have not returned your school Christmas dinner slip (Year 1,2 and R) please do so by next Friday so that the kitchen can order the correct amount of food. In error I forgot to leave a space for children in Reception, Y1 and 2 to add their name to the reply. If you did not write it on would you send me a quick e mail to enquiries@hawkinge.kent.sch.uk with your child’s name and class and I can update the records? Thank you. If you have a child in Years 3-6 please return the envelope with either £2:30 contained if you usually pay for lunches or just their name on the envelope without money included if you are eligible for Free School Meals. Again, please return these by Friday 27th. If you have a child in Year 5 and would like to book in a Christmas lunch please email us on enquiries@hawkinge.kent.sch.uk to let us know and we will sort payments out later – if you have a sibling of a child in Y5 they can bring the envelopes in on their behalf.

Phew! Sorry for such a long letter!
Hope you have a lovely weekend.