

Dear Parents / Carers

## Advent



As we approach the first Sunday of Advent, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December begin to discuss with your child how your family welcome visitors to your home. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse Tree. On the Missio or CAFOD websites you will find a religious Advent calendar you can share at home.

In school your child will be studying the theme of Advent and Christmas (Loving). Please see below the topics for each year group.

- YR – Birthday – Looking forward to Jesus' birthday.
- Y1 – Waiting – Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas.
- Y2 – Preparations – Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas.
- Y3 – Visitors – waiting for the coming of Jesus.
- Y4 – Gift – God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus.
- Y5 – Hope – Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the Promised one.
- Y6 – Expectations – Jesus born to show God the world.

## Free school meals

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

Please call us on 0300 300 8306 or look on the Central Bedfordshire website for further details. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- Dates of birth for your children
- If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

## Pupil Forum

All children took part in a pupil forum last month. This was an opportunity for all pupils to tell us what works well in the school and what improvements they would like to see. We have looked at their responses and will be meeting with the school council in January to discuss changes we will make in light of their suggestions.

## Assessments

As we come to the end of our first term I would like to take this opportunity for teachers to report on your child's attainment and progress. In the last week of term your child will

come home with a short report which will inform you of their current attainment band and also give you some areas where they have achieved and personalised targets set for next term in RE, English and Maths. I hope you find these reports useful and if you have any questions please make an appointment to speak to your child's Class Teacher.

### **Stay and Learn Reading Sessions**

Thank you to all parents who have joined their child in a reading lesson this term so far. The feedback has been really positive and the children have enjoyed sharing a lesson with you as well.

The session for Year 5 is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Year 6 will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Preparing for bad weather**

It is very likely that over the coming months it is likely to snow. In preparations for this, can you please ensure that your child is well prepared when coming into school if it has snowed. The children often enjoy sometime outside when it snows. It is therefore important that all children have a suitable winter coat, and a change of wellington boots/boots so they can go outside in the snow during a playtime, if it is safe for them to do so. I am sending this out now as I would not want to disappoint any children by keeping them inside when their peers are outside enjoying the snow.

### **School closure**

Now that winter is fast approaching we need to be prepared for unplanned closure of the school. In order to receive an e-mail alert via the Central Bedfordshire School's Open Status (SOS) system, you will need to register:

- Go to the following link and click on it:  
<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS>
- Click on 'register for updates' and fill in the text boxes
- Click on 'submit'



You will then receive an email which contains instructions on how to 'activate' your account which will include a 'one off' activation code:

- Click on the link: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>
- Go to 'Log in to edit your details' and type in your email address and the activation code.
- The next time you want to edit your details (e.g. change the names of schools for which you wish to receive alerts), type in your email address and password.

In addition to this please ensure that we have your correct mobile number so that should we need to send a text and update the school app you will receive the message. Furthermore please note that the school website will be updated to indicate school status. If neither of these options are available to us due to a power cut or internet failure the closure message will be broadcast on HEART FM and Four Counties Radio.

**Please do not call the school on the morning of a closure**



### **Christmas Activities**

Here is a reminder of the various Christmas activities planned for this term:

- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30pm – Nursery & Reception Christingle.
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 3pm - Choir singing at Morrisons.

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 3.30pm to 5pm – PTA Christmas Fair.
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2.45pm – KS1 Nativity.
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2.45pm – KS1 Nativity.
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper Day (donations of £1).
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Choir singing at Johnson Court.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 9.05am – YR-2 Celebration Assembly.
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 10.05am – Y3-6 Celebration Assembly.
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm – 2.00pm - Carol Service. **All children to be collected by 2.00pm**

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events this term.

Kind regards

Mrs K Armstrong  
Head Teacher

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019