

# Milton St. John's CE Primary School

## Newsletter

Wednesday 9 December

**Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.**

### NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

#### Christmas play/songs

We have been busy filming this week so that we are able to share what we have been doing across the school with you. As previously mentioned, this will not be any kind of blockbuster, but we hope it is something you will enjoy. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing some songs and Year 3 upwards are performing songs and small sketches. We have had to purchase a special 'bubble friendly' script and the performance licences because it is being filmed. Therefore, we politely request a contribution of £3 towards covering these costs (this will be payable through Schoolmoney). To keep costs down, we aim to share a link to the 'video' with those that wish to purchase it. Orders need to be made via Schoolmoney by Wednesday 16 December please.

**Please note - By purchasing the 'video' you will be agreeing to not copy or put it on any social media sites. It is imperative that all parents adhere to this please. We have worked hard to produce this is the safest and most cost effective way possible, so insist that parents adhere to this condition when paying on Schoolmoney.**

#### 'Conker' your challenge

It was lovely to see that some more pictures have come in of Mary-Jayne who spent half term 'conkering' the three highest peaks in the UK – Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scarfell Pike. What an amazing achievement for a 7-year-old to do! Well done Mary-Jayne.



#### Government announcement

Some of you may have seen in the news that schools are able to shut on the 17 December, rather than the 18 as planned. Due to the short notice and the pressure this would place on parents to find childcare, we have decided not to close early. Therefore, school will remain open on the 18 December. The children will then start back on the 5 January as planned following the inset day on the 4 January.

As we really don't want to be contacting parents to tell them that children have to isolate over the Christmas period, it is imperative that should your child be poorly, you must keep your child off and arrange a test. Please do not send your child if they have any Covid 19 symptoms.

## Milton St John's Foodbank

We are aware that for some people, approaching us for a foodbank parcel, can be very difficult. To make it a little easier parents/carers can email [admin@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk) to request one. No explanation would be needed, all that we require is that you indicate the number of people in the household that you would need a parcel for so that we can supply enough food. We would then get in touch with you, no questions asked, and organise a convenient time to pick up a parcel. We have a really well stocked foodbank now and would love to be able to distribute it, so please get in touch.

**If you would like to donate anything to the Foodbank we will be grateful and we are particularly in need of toilet rolls, pet foods, kitchen cleaning products, tinned meats, cordial, tea and coffee.**

## UPDATED NEWSLETTER ITEMS

### Snow during Covid restrictions

Given the recent national weather forecasts, we are very aware that snow is coming at some point – possibly before Christmas. Historically, we have not had to close the school very often, as we normally had several staff who were able to walk in and help support others in school. During such occasions classes are usually mixed together in the hall or in classrooms until sufficient staff are able to get in. **However, this year, with Covid and the restricted movement of children/staff around school and between bubbles (classes); this will not be possible and there is a greater possibility that school may have to shut and learning move online because of this.**

It is very important to try and keep the school open, whenever it is possible, and we would like to take this opportunity to explain what will happen if we have snow.

- The school regularly checks the local weather stations and liaises with the Local Authority to gauge whether there is likelihood that there will be a heavy snowfall. Unfortunately, the accuracy of the forecast is not always correct and there could be a heavier snowfall than predicted and this can sometimes catch people out.
- The school has quite a number of staff who live outside the Mossley area. If there is not enough qualified staff available for each of the bubbles (classes) to come into school to open and manage the school safely, **then it cannot open due to health & safety grounds.**
- School also has to consider if the roads are dangerous then we may not receive any food deliveries. The school does not hold a large food reserve; therefore, if the snow is likely to cause disruption over a number of days, the school will not be able to provide a hot meal at lunch time.
- If the school boilers fail to operate, we need to call out technical services and arrange for a qualified engineer to repair the fault. The school would close if we are not able to heat the building. If the heating goes off during the day a judgement would be made about school closure and contacting parents.

### How you will be kept informed

1. If necessary, a decision to close will be made no later than 8.00am on the morning of closure. We have to rely on the Site Manager and communication between staff about whether they are able to get in before a decision can be made. If we are able to inform you before this time, we will, but we always try our utmost to open and never take this decision lightly. **We will inform you of this decision by text.** Should our text messaging service fail (which can sometimes be the case when a number of schools are using the same system at the same time), the school website will be updated and teachers will inform you on class dojo as soon as they can (please be aware that staff may be trying to get into school at this point).
2. If there is a heavy fall of snow during the day, we will keep parents informed via text should the children need picked up early.

**Text messaging is a vital means in which we contact parents so please could you make sure that we have an up-to-date contact number. If you have recently renewed your mobile this is particularly important!**

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.

### **Drop off in a morning**

Please be reminded that school drop off times for Reception to Year 6 are between 8.40 – 9am. At 9am the doors are closed. Myself, Mrs Galvin or Mrs Phillips stay at each of the gates in the main school in a morning until the bell goes. If an adult is not around at the gates when your child arrives, this will signal that all of the doors have all been shut for health and safety reasons and that school has started. Obviously please avoid arriving late for school, but any children in the main school arriving after this time will need to be escorted to the main entrance by the adult dropping them off.

In Year 1 and Reception you will need to knock on the classroom doors and wait for an adult please.

### **Christmas Toy appeal**

We have been approached by a number of parents about whether we are accepting donations of new toys/gifts that can be distributed to the community. We understand that a number of radio stations are currently doing this also. Therefore, if anyone would like to donate new gifts/toys before 11 December please send them into school and we will distribute them. It would help if anything that was brought in was placed in a gift bag (not wrapped please), but this is not essential.

### **Staff gifts**

Every year the staff are overwhelmed and very grateful with the number of gifts that are given to staff at Christmas and throughout the year. However, the staff would like to give you the 'gift of not giving' them anything this Christmas! Please do not be offended by this and, of course, the staff will always accept anything, but staff wanted parents to know that it really is ok not to send gifts in this year. An alternative may be to send something in for our Foodbank or Toy appeal if you would like to, but please be assured that we are aware that so many families are affected this year and we do not want any additional burdens on families to get staff a present this Christmas.

### **Updated Christmas activities**

**Festive Fridays** – every Friday in December the children will take part in festive arts/crafts etc and will be able to wear a festive accessory on these days to make them a little more special. Eg, a hairband/badges/tinsel/festive socks.

**Friday 11 December** - the children can wear a festive jumper or non-school uniform for a donation of £1 for Save the Children Jumper Day! This will be payable on Schoolmoney on this day.

### **Oldham Coliseum Visitor/Virtual Pantomime**

Good news - In the last week of the half term we have arranged for a visitor from the Coliseum to bring some sparkle in a safe way into school over the festive period (unless restrictions or illness prevents this). We have also booked a virtual pantomime for the children to watch at some point during the week too.



### PTA Christmas fundraising and spreading cheer!

The PTA are selling lovely star Christmas decorations that the children can decorate at home for £1.50. These would make lovely gifts. They are also selling a lantern template, again for the children to decorate at home, that we then hope will be put in people's windows to spread a light of hope this Christmas. It would be lovely for the children to spot Milton's Lanterns of Hope in lots of windows over the festive period. A Lantern template is 50p. Unfortunately, as these items will be ordered in an ad hoc way we are unable to add this to our online money system, therefore money will have to be sent in an envelope clearly stating what items you would like and your child's name/ year group please.



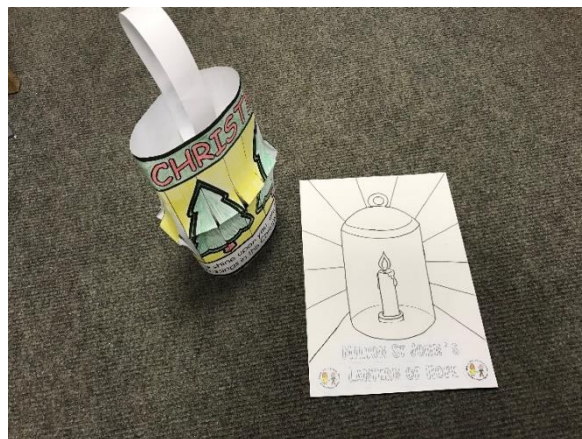
For information - The wooden stars come in two flat pieces so they are easy to decorate with paints, pens, sequins, glitter, ribbon, wrapping paper – it's all up to you!

Once you have decorated your stars you will need to carefully slide the pieces together, and they may need a touch of glue.

Add the golden string and they are ready to hang on the tree!

The PTA are also selling lantern templates for 50p. For 50p the children will get two templates which they can colour and decorate. We are hoping that families display the 2d 'lantern of hope' picture in their windows for all to see and hang their 3d lantern somewhere in your homes.

Share a photo on your Class Dojo portfolio to show your teacher your finished design.



### Easy Fund Raising

Since we are unable to have our Christmas Fair etc this year, we have registered with Easyfundraising.org website to enable parents/carers to help us raise funds at no extra cost to themselves. This is easy to do! When you shop online, with over 4100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, Argos etc, you can raise FREE donations to Milton St John's CE.

It only takes a few minutes to sign up and is then easy to use by finding the retailer you want to shop with on the Easyfundraising website or App, shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you!

Sign up for free at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/miltonstjohnsprimary/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=s-n3](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/miltonstjohnsprimary/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-n3)

### Dates for your Diary

Fri 11 December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper/Non uniform day
Wed 16 December	Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 25-Mon 28 June 2021	Year 6 Kingswood residential trip

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## Reception September 2021

Applications for Reception class for September 2021 is open from 1 November 2020 until 15 January 2021.



As we are now in Advent season and are counting down to Christmas, may we think about those who may find Christmas difficult this year.