

Newsletter



DIARY DATES

December 2020

Dec 14th – 15th

FoSG Christmas Shop

Dec 15th

COVID-19 Safe Open Morning

Dec 16th

Christmas Lunch Day

Christmas Virtual
Pantomime

Dec 18th

Visit from Father
Christmas

Last day of term –
13:30-13:40 early pick
up

Unfortunately we have had to postpone a number of planned events due to the recent lockdown. We will update the calendar as soon as we can confirm the new dates.

11th December 2020

What a week it has been! Thank you for your understanding on Tuesday when the water issue arose. All of the Nativities have been filmed and will be shared next week.

Last day of term

You may be aware of the DfE suggestion of making next Friday 18th of December an INSET day. Along with the majority of schools in Dacorum, we **will not** be doing this and school will be open next Friday with the early finish at 13:30-13:40 as normal. Our INSET days and training has already been booked and assigned for the year so to make changes at this late stage would create issues for staff as well as our families potentially having to find childcare with very little notice.

Christmas Dinner

Next Wednesday is our Christmas lunch. You will have already made your child's choice earlier this term and Shelley and Fay are busy preparing for the feast. If you opted for a home provided packed lunch, please ensure your child has one with them.

Attendance

Given the current Covid-19 restrictions and challenges it brings to us all, we wanted to say how impressed we have been with attendance this term. Every class has achieved over 94% attendance since September, excluding Covid-19 absences.

Parent Forum

Following on from the very positive Parents Forum meeting,

the minutes are now available to read on the [website](#). We were very pleased to hear so many positive comments.

Christmas Jumper Day

Everyone looked fantastic in their festive clothing today. You will find a gallery of the classes and some of the staff at the end of the newsletter!

FoSG Update

Christmas Shop

Next Monday and Tuesday the children are invited to go shopping for loved ones gifts at the annual Christmas Shop. The shop is being conducted in a Covid-safe manner and all the gifts have been wrapped and quarantined.

The deadline for ordering a ticket is tonight, Friday 11th of December at 9pm. Each child needs just one ticket for the amount of gifts they wish to buy, if you have two children at school you will need to buy a ticket for each of them. You can buy tickets [here](#).

Christmas Tree Farm Offer

A mini reminder if you're buying your Christmas tree this weekend from the Christmas Tree Place, don't forget to take your flier and help Swing Gate win one of their school prize.



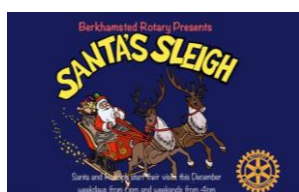


Pause for thought



Santa Sleigh

FoSG's elf helpers will be out with the Berkhamsted Rotary Santa's Sleigh in the Swing Gate Lane area tonight between 5.30 and 7.30pm. They are collecting money for FoSG and other local worthy causes. Thanks to all the volunteers helping with this event this evening.



HoSF Christmas Market

Last weekend, the Hospice of St Francis Christmas market was huge success raising an amazing £387 - huge thanks to all the volunteers who made decorations and ran the stall on such a chilly day.

Christmas Jumper Day

Everyone looked fantastic in their festive clothing today. You will find a gallery of the classes and some of the staff at the end of the newsletter!

Light up a Life recording

We thought you might like the [link](#) to see the final Light Up A Life video. If you start the video at 9 minutes 30 seconds and you'll see a special message and then the song will begin!

Appeal for second hand trainers

There is a local appeal for people to donate any old trainers they may no longer need. These will then be sent to families in Cape Verde, Africa. If you have any please see the leaflet for further information.

Alban Arena Pantomime Offer

In order not to disappoint audiences Alban Arena and the Maltings Theatre's resident company OVO are joining forces to bring the 'Peter Pan' pantomime to audiences this Christmas. From 11th December – 3rd January 2021, they will be running safe, socially distanced live performances, reconfigured to safely seat 40% of the normal capacity, while ensuring that the experience for audiences will be as entertaining and magical as ever. Tickets for 'Peter Pan' are on sale now from www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovo. If you enter the discount code **PETERER9DV2** at checkout when booking your tickets, Swing Gate will receive 5% cash back for our school, £1 per ticket will also go to GOSH.



Wellbeing

Simple Savoury Christmas Trees

Prep Time 10 minutes

Cook Time 15 minutes

Total Time 25 minutes

Servings 10 pastries

Ingredients

- 1 roll puff pastry
- ¼ cup cream cheese
- 12 thin slice of salami
- 10 green olives
- 10 cubes of hard cheese



Instructions

- Roll out puff pastry lightly roll to smooth out. Spread with cream cheese and top with salami slices, then slice into 9 or 10 strips lengthwise.
- Fold the strips of dough accordion style, start with a small amount and widen as you go (until you reach the end).
- Place a long skewer in the centre starting at the base then through to the



top of the tree. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet.

- Refrigerate for 20-30 minutes. While strips are in the fridge pre-heat oven to 350°.
- Remove from fridge and bake for approximately 15 minutes or until golden. If desired top each tree with a green olive and stick into a hard square of cheese or serve as is. Enjoy!

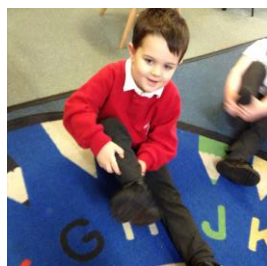
Mindfulness

Mindfulness Colouring Pages

We know that many of the children like colouring. It is a great way to relax, be calm and to focus and it's fun! An attachment of different colouring sheets for children to print off and use is on this ParentMail. If you don't have a printer children could use their own colouring books or draw and colour some pictures of their own. They all have great imaginations.

Christmas Special - A Cosmic Kids Yoga Adventure!

Voiles have been enjoying yoga this week, here is Elliot taking part. You could try this at home using this [YouTube link](#).



Hope Food Bank Appeal

The organisers of the Hope Food Bank Appeal wanted us to extend huge thanks to our school community for the generous donations they collected this week. They were genuinely overwhelmed with all that was here and said it really will go a long way to help families in need over the holiday.

Reminders

Idling cars

We have received complaints from residents saying cars are being left idling during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be aware this creates an added unnecessary air pollution issue that affects our children as much as local residents, especially those with asthma.

Parking

Please ensure you are parking considerately when doing drop off and pick up. Our neighbours will be very grateful for access to their properties as and when they require.

And finally...

The children and staff are excited about the week ahead and the festivities... Christmas dinner, Panto and a visit from Father Christmas.

The Nativities have been a lot of hard work for the staff, getting to grips with the technology as well as the usual organisation, but as they come together, there is real joy at seeing the children and their growing confidence as they perform. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

These Nativities will be ready for families to watch next week, and I am sure that it will put you in the festive spirit.

Have a great weekend.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher



Christmas Jumper Day

Everyone looked fantastic in their festive clothing, here are some of the children and staff!

