



4th December  
2020

## Information update for Parents



*Advent is a season of hope and anticipation*

### Here's what you need to know...

- Upcoming events
- Christmas card arrangements
- Teaching and Learning time
- Attendance
- Achievement assembly

Christina Singh

Nascot Wood Junior School

## Upcoming events



We have carefully considered how we can celebrate the festive season with the children and we hope that they will enjoy the events below...

When?	What?
Last week of term	Exchange of Christmas cards within class groups
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school virtual carol service
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear a Christmas hat and jumper to school (Grey trousers/skirts as usual) <i>please see information on the following page</i>
	Whole school virtual pantomime, shown in each classroom
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school live recording of singer of the year competition, shown in each classroom

Save the Children Fund is the School Council's international charity for this year, and we will be inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper, t-shirt and/or hat with their school uniform on Wednesday 16th December. Below is an extract from Save the Children's education strategy, to which we will be contributing:

*Millions of children are being robbed of an education simply because of who they are or where they live. Deprived of learning because they are caught up in emergencies, face extreme poverty, or are discriminated against because of their gender, disability or ethnicity. The world's most vulnerable and excluded children are missing out on education.*

- *Today, nearly 400 million children of primary school age cannot read or write*
- *More than half of all three to six year olds have no access to pre-primary education*
- *About 10 million refugee children risk having their learning interrupted after being forced to flee their homes*
- *25 million children will never enrol in school – and two-thirds of them are girls.*

*Without a quality basic education, children are less likely to escape the cycle of poverty and may never have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.*

If your child wishes to take part, please could you send a suggested donation of £1 for this worthwhile cause.

Please could the children bring their cash donations to their Class Teacher on 16th December.

If you would also like to send a special Christmas themed packed lunch for your child, you are most welcome to do so.

## Christmas card arrangements



This year, the children will be able to exchange Christmas cards within their class groups only.

Class Teachers will ensure that christmas cards are stored in a box away from the children, and that the cards are only distributed 72 hours after the last card is added.



## Teaching and Learning Time

This week, a parent wrote to me with a query about the teaching and learning time each week, given our closure on a Friday afternoon. In response to this, I wanted to reassure you that the children are receiving *at least* the same number of teaching hours that they were before the pandemic.

A Friday afternoon would usually consist of 1 hour 30 minutes in class, with the rest of the afternoon being given to assembly and golden time.

In September, with the time that the children were missing in mind, we made alterations to the timetable to increase the amount of teaching and learning time.

- We have gained 20 minutes Monday to Thursday by not having a whole school assembly (80 minutes)
- We have gained 10 minutes Monday to Thursday by shortening lunchtime (40 minutes)
- We have gained approximately 15 minutes each morning due to the earlier opening and children going straight into class to begin learning (1 hour and 15 minutes)

Therefore, the children have gained 2 hours 15 minutes teaching and learning time per week, in comparison to 1 hour 30 minutes on Friday afternoons. Rather than losing teaching time, the children have gained 45 minutes per week.

## Attendance

Below are the most up to date attendance percentages, in comparison to the equivalent period last year.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that your children have high attendance at school; it remains the most important factor for their ongoing progress and attainment.



Attendance Percentage 2020		Comparative attendance 2019	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	95.82%	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	94.44%
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	97.91%	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	94.07%
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	98.33%	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	95.56%
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	97.07%	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	97.78%
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	96.65%	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	97.04%
Average percentage	97.15%	Average percentage	95.77%

*We are delighted that the children continue to have high attendance, however, please could you ensure that your children are kept at home, as per the government guidance, if anyone in your household has any symptoms.*

# Achievement Assembly



In this week's assembly, I was joined by our House Captains. The children will be shown this recording in their classrooms, and you can also access it [here](#) and on the school's facebook page:

I hope you enjoy it,

*Christina Singh*

Headteacher