



11th December
2020

Information update for Parents

*They found him in a manger bed
Beside the cows and sheep,
Whose gentle breathing kept him warm
As Mary watched him sleep.*



Here's what you need to know...

- Important information
- Reminder of upcoming events
- Christmas card arrangements
- Attendance
- Carol Service

Christina Singh

Nascot Wood Junior School



'It's not what is under the tree that is important, it's the people who are around it.'

Tania, Year 4 Oak Class

Important information

You may have seen the announcement from the Rt. Hon Nick Gibb on Tuesday evening, giving permission for schools to close to pupils on Friday 18th December.

This is to enable school leaders and administrative staff to be able to have a holiday from Christmas Eve, as we have been asked to monitor emails for positive covid 19 cases, so that we can liaise with Public Health England when necessary.

Given the late notice of this announcement and the inconvenience that this will cause to families, it is my intention to open as usual on Friday 18th December, with the children being dismissed at lunchtime in the normal way.

Message to all parents from Hertfordshire Local Authority

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) up to and including Christmas Eve (24th December), please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.

Please contact admin@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk with the subject heading 'Positive covid 19 test'.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Reminder of 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 th December	Whole school virtual carol service
Wednesday 16 th 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 th December	Whole school virtual 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.

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 7 th December	96.23%	Monday 9 th December	94.81%
Tuesday 8 th December	97.91%	Tuesday 10 th December	96.30%
Wednesday 9 th December	98.33%	Wednesday 11 th December	95.93%
Thursday 10 th December	95.40%	Thursday 12 th December	94.44%
Friday 11 th December	94.56%	Friday 13 th December	94.81%
Average percentage	96.48%	Average percentage	95.25%

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.

Carol Service

We recorded our virtual carol service yesterday; many thanks to Mrs Agnew for preparing the singers so well.

We plan to show this recording to the children next week, and we will also make it available for parents to watch. You can access it [here](#) and on the school's facebook page.

I hope you enjoy it,

Christina Singh

Headteacher