

# Newsletter

## Christmas Festivities

We thought it would be useful to update you all of our planned Christmas arrangements. Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to host the many celebrations and events that we are all so used to at Blackfell. It is important that we continue to follow the guidance and risk assessments, whilst the children enjoy the things we do in our school.

Unfortunately, children will not be permitted to bring Christmas cards from home into school for their friends. We understand that this will be very disappointing but we must minimise items being passed between households due to COVID 19.

All children across school will make a Christmas card and calendar to bring home at the end of term; we know that this is something that everyone loves and appreciates over the festive period.

Year 6 school council will be running a **fundraising event 'Run a half marathon with Santa Claus'**. In addition, they will be posting keep fit videos to each class during December as part of their healthy eating and fitness campaign. They will be sending information home tomorrow on how you can sponsor and support this event. All money raised will go towards a virtual pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk for the children later this term.

### Dates for your diary

**Monday 30th November 2020** Christmas tree arrives in school

**Friday 4th December 2020** will be Christmas party afternoon for Year 3 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food.

**Monday 7th December 2020** will be Christmas party morning for Nursery and Reception children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food and the children will have a visit from Santa Claus.

**Tuesday 8th December 2020** will be Christmas party afternoon for Year 1 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food and the children will have a visit from Santa Claus.

**Wednesday 9th December 2020** will be Christmas party afternoon for Year 2 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food and the children will have a visit from Santa Claus.

**Friday 11th December 2020** will be Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day. If your child does not normally stay for a school dinner and wishes to do so, please contact the school office and pay online. A school meal costs £2.30

**Monday 14th December 2020** will be Christmas party afternoon for Year 5 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food.

**Tuesday 15th December 2020** will be Christmas party afternoon for Year 4 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food.

**Wednesday 16th December 2020** will be Christmas party day for Year 6 children. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. School will provide party food.

**Thursday 17th December 2020** Christmas movie morning/afternoon.

**Friday 18th December 2020** (last day of this term) Christmas jumper day. School finishes at normal time.

**We hope to be able to have some of our traditional celebrations to share with parent/carers by the end of term. Please note that there is no guarantee of these planned events if any bubbles are required to self-isolate, and children do not have the opportunity to practise and rehearse.**

We hope that **Nursery and Reception** children will be making a short recording of the Christmas nativity to share with parents/carers.

We hope that **Years 1 and 2** will be creating a nativity story (in their bubbles) to share the Christmas story with parents/carers.

We hope that **Years 3,4,5 and 6** will perform a Christmas dance or song in their class bubbles.

**Please be mindful that recording and participation of children is dependent if they are in school. We have had several children that have needed to self-isolate. We therefore cannot guarantee that your child will be part of any recorded event due to strict timetabling (to comply with risk assessments) and unforeseen absences during this challenging time.**

Don't forget to download the school app on 'School jotter' to set notifications and reminders of events across school.

# Blackfell Primary School Newsletter



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Date: Nov 20

## Headteacher's Update

We are all looking forward to a busy diary for the rest of this term. Unfortunately, it is very different this year but we are all looking forward to many festive activities.

**Family Learning at Blackfell with Apextra** is being enjoyed by many families across school. The fun and free resources have included work and activities around 2D and 3D shapes, balloon rockets, the solar system and Halloween treats to name a few. Photographs of the children enjoying their home learning can be found on the school website. Click on class pages and then select the 'Family Learning' icon.

All **class pages** on the school website are regularly updated and include many photographs evidencing the children's work and enthusiasm for school.

Our school councillors are ensuring we are fit and healthy for the many celebrations over the Christmas holidays. I am really looking forward to joining the children across school with our daily December keep fit sessions hosted by our **school council**. In addition, we are already practising our running to join Santa and help him run a half marathon! Details of this sponsored event were sent home last week along with sponsor forms. We hope to raise enough funds so all children can enjoy a virtual pantomime, 'Jack and the Beanstalk', in December.

I hope that you have all managed to download our **school app** on your mobile devices.

Simply go to the app store  
Download **School jotter**  
Search for Blackfell Primary School.  
Best wishes  
Julia Watkins

### Layer Up!

Risk assessments are completed for the safe opening of school and are very comprehensive, they are available to view on our website. All classroom windows need to be open for ventilation. The school heating is always on however classrooms can seem cooler. Therefore, we ask that children wear layers of clothes including a cardigan/jumper everyday and bring a suitable coat and gloves for playtime.

### 30 Hour Nursery Provision

We are delighted to be able to offer from January 2021 15 hour and 30 hour Nursery places. There is an eligibility criteria for parents who would like to take up this offer. Please contact the school office for more details. The hours for 30 hours that are available would be to link into the school day Monday to Friday 8.45 until 3.10pm with children staying for a school dinner or bringing a packed lunch.

# Newsletter

## Blackfell School Meals

School welcomed Cllr Louise Farthing to present school with an award to the catering staff. Wendy accepted the award on behalf of the all catering staff in Sunderland who have helped feed children and provide meals through this Covid pandemic. Cllr Farthing had photographs taken with some of our Reception children. Don't forget if your child would like to have a Christmas lunch in school and your child normally brings a packed lunch please inform the school office and pay online £2.30 by Friday 27th November.



## Birthday 'shout outs' for November

Nursery	-	Theo
Reception	-	Nate, Alexis-Mae
Year 1	-	Fraizer, Ollie,
Year 2	-	Jaxon, Lyla Bo
Year 3	-	Lily, Andy, Ethan
Year 4	-	Ava, Leo, Jaycee, Zac
Year 5	-	Alicia
Year 6	-	Lyta



# Newsletter



Ellen, a pupil in Year 2 decided to raise money for charity. Ellen donated 10 inches of her hair to the Princess Trust whilst raising £704 for the charity. Well done Ellen - we are very proud and love your new haircut.

## Parent Governor

Thank you for all of your returned ballot papers. We had 105 envelopes returned. 9 votes were void, 62 votes were for Gemma Newton and 34 votes were for Graeme Kerry. We would like to thank Mr Kerry for his support over the past 4 years. Gemma will serve a 4 year term and we look forward to welcoming her to the Governing Body.

## Songs for the Season

We are delighted that Year 3 have been chosen from Sunderland Music Hub as one of the schools across Sunderland to join in a digital Christmas concert. Children will be singing 'Frosty The Snowman' which will be recorded and streamed online on Thursday 10th December at 7pm for families across the Sunderland area to enjoy.



This week we were joined by Sarah from Northumbria Police. Sarah discussed the idea of balance and discussed how it was important to have a balance of power within relationships. We worked on different scenarios deciding what made a good friend and how sometimes some actions depended on the situation and how the other person was feeling. We discussed what to do if we found ourselves in relationships where there was an imbalance of power and we agreed communication was key, this included seeking adult help when needed.

