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8th December 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

We can't believe we have reached the end of the first term. COVID is still here and has caused us and many other schools disruption over this term, due to staff shortages. However, we are pleased that the school has remained open for all year groups and children's learning has not been affected.

It has been wonderful to see the children participate in many of our enrichment days and be so engaged in their learning through themed days such as the World War 2-day, Farm day, Victorian day and Tudor day to name but a few.

Forest schools has been a huge success with our children and we're sure they have had many stories to tell you about their experiences. We are pleased that this will continue through the Spring and Summer term.

We would like to thank you all for your generous support through our chosen charity events such as the Reindeer run, Bingo, Rags to Riches and Emergency services day. Thank you for all your generous donations for the PTA bingo event which raised a staggering £1, 600 which we will look forward to spending on your children.

As you will be aware, COVID is still very prevalent, in particular with the new variant. As a school we continually seek advice from Public Health and the Local Authority. Numbers in school amongst pupils and staff have been relatively high and Leominster was recently declared as a hotspot. This in turn has led us to have to make some difficult decisions. We want to make sure that we keep staff, pupils and the wider community safe and ensure the school continues to stay open for all pupils. With only 2 weeks to go until the Christmas break commences, our priority is for you and your children and our staff to be able to enjoy the magic of Christmas with their friends and families.

Unfortunately, we have therefore had to make the difficult decision to record the nativities taking place in reception this year. After consulting with other schools, Public Health and the Local authority we felt this was the best option. Staff did not want to limit one parent per child as we know how hard this decision would be for parents. This way all parents including the wider family can watch their child on the recording. Families would have to wear masks, be distanced around the hall separating them from other households. Staff were concerned that children's voices would not be heard in such a large space with high ceilings. We have also had to deal with staff absences in reception. For these reasons we made the decision to record them for all to enjoy as a family together. Staff will be taking individual photographs of your child in their costume and placing this on tapestry. We understand the disappointment that parents, carers have, but we will ensure that some point in the New Year, as soon as we can, we will invite you in to enjoy watching your child perform in an alternative performance.



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Our Christmas Craft Fayre was due to take place on Friday with certain measures in place, which included many stalls outside and limited the number of people in the hall. Due to the weather conditions we have made the difficult decision to cancel this event. We appreciate all the hard work that had already been organised by our wonderful PTA but we know they are looking forward to the summer fayre.

Children will still experience the joys over the Christmas period including, Secret Santa, Christmas jumper day, Christmas parties, Christmas lunch, a visit from father Christmas and his reindeers (which the PTA has kindly organised) and each child will receive a gift from our wonderful PTA.

Leading on from the above we are also having to cancel parents / carers attending our Christmas Crafts next week and the church services. Children will still be busy making Christmas crafts. We will also be singing carols as a year group and year 5 have something special planned, which you will hopefully get to hear. Over the course of the Spring / Summer term, all year groups will be inviting you in to see your child perform in some way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

We will look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 5th January.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Helen Rees and Mrs Helen Lynch

