

**Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School**  
**School Newsletter No 7**  
**10th December 2021**










**Merry Christmas**

As I type, the children are in full flow of their production rehearsals. It has brought a lovely festive feel to school and we are looking forward to sharing these with as many of you as possible next week.

We ask all families to be mindful of the current recommendations still in place and the ever changing guidance. We want to share our Christmas productions but, equally, want everyone to be able to enjoy the family Christmas celebrations that you have planned. With this in mind, please can we remind everyone (except those exempt) to wear a face covering. If you are able, we would appreciate our audience, as our staff do, taking lateral flow tests before attending the productions. We also remind everyone not to attend, under any circumstances, if you have any of the main three Covid symptoms of a persistent cough, a high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell. Next Friday will be our Christmas Jumper Day and there are more details of this on the attached letter.

This is our last school newsletter of this calendar year and I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone here at school, to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2022 when we hope to return to more of our usual family events!

**Handouts: These will be sent home in book bags—don't forget to check for them!**

-  Bus children only letter
-  Jan/Feb 2022 Diary sheet—17/12/21
-  FISH letter—selected families only
-  Spring term menu—17/12/21
-  Sports Club letter Years 1 & 2 only
-  Swimming letter year 2 only
- Email: These will be sent out via Parent-Mail—so watch out for them on the App.**
-  Christmas Jumper Day



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**Attendance News for two weeks to 10th December**  
**Congratulations to Rabbits Class with 94.5% attendance**





## **Christmas Jumper Day—In aid of Save the Children**

On Friday 17th December (Different date to the national day) your child is invited to come to school in their Christmas or winter jumper instead of their usual school jumper. We ask that children still please wear the rest of their usual school uniform. If you would like to, and are able to make a donation to Save the Children this can be done through the website **[www.christmasjumperday.org](http://www.christmasjumperday.org)**.

Please use our school's reference number **CJD210024677** on any donation made. Alternatively, you can donate via school's ParentMail +Pay system – Sign in to ParentMail - Select 'Payments' from the menu followed by 'shop'. From here you can select the value of your donation and 'pay now'.

### **Computer Games**

As Christmas draws near and children share their Christmas



lists (of various lengths!) we are still hearing that a number of children are requesting computer games that are not age appropriate. We wanted to share with parents that games such as Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty have been rated as suitable for adults aged 18 or over. This is because they have violent and sexual content that is unsuitable for children below the age of 18. Children below this age are still learning to distinguish between reality and fantasy. They learn how to socially interact and learn what is acceptable behaviour from their environment and this includes video games. As disappointing as it is for children to hear, it is our role as adults to keep our

children safe and protected from age inappropriate content such as that contained in these games. The thinkuknow website has some hints and tips about this area at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> This includes advice on gaming as a family so that adults can support children through their gaming play.

### **Arriving on time**

Thank you to those parents who ensure that children arrive at school on time and prepared for the day. We ask all parents to make every effort to get children to school on time as arriving in class late can mean that children miss important information about the day and feel uncomfortable or unsettled arriving in class when their classmates are already in the middle of their tasks. We appreciate that sometimes, despite our best efforts, that are occasions where you may arrive slightly late. If you do, please bring your child to the office to sign them in. They will be marked in the register as late. This is to ensure that our legally required registration documents are accurate and that we have an accurate record of which children are in school and this allows us to ensure that a dinner is ordered for every child.

### **School Uniform**

Unfortunately, our long term provider of school uniform, Purple Dragon, have now ceased trading. Along with Pickering Junior School, we have instructed 'School Trends' to sell our school uniform from now on. More information on how to order items will follow shortly.

## Help during the Christmas period

Families will be able to contact the North Yorkshire Household Support Fund during the Christmas holiday period if you are experiencing any financial difficulties. This can be accessed at:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

or families can call the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Service Centre on: 01609 780780.



**Healthy Schools**  
North Yorkshire

## Healthy Schools Award

We are delighted to share that all of the work that our staff have been doing to deliver a thorough and engaging Curriculum for Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship, Economic Education (PSHCE) has been recognised with a 'strong submission' for the first bronze stage of the North Yorkshire Healthy Schools Award! This has always been a priority for the school, which we feel has put us in a strong position to support our children through some turbulent times. Most recently staff have been working on developing links between our PSHCE curriculum and Forest School, which we hope that you've seen examples of through our social media posts.

I'm sure that you will join me in congratulating our staff team on their hard work and dedication in this area.

We look forward to sharing further updates on our work towards further stages of the Healthy Schools Award.

## Children in Need Donations

A huge **THANK YOU** to all those who we able to make a donation to the Children in Need charity. As a school we raised an impressive **£180** for this good cause.

## School Closes for Christmas

**School closes for Christmas at normal finish time on Friday 17th December and re-opens to children on Wednesday 5th January 2022.**



## Dates for your diary

### Christmas Performances—Nursery, Badgers and Squirrels

Monday 13th 1.15pm, Tuesday 14th 9.15am and Wednesday 15th 9.15am

### Christmas Performances— Butterflies, Hedgehogs and Rabbits

Monday 13th 2.30pm, Tuesday 14th 10.30am and Wednesday 15th 10.30am

**Friday 17th Dec** — Christmas Jumper Day—in aid of Save the Children (This is different to the national Jumper Day)



**Congratulations!**

To our children who have achieved **100%** attendance during the Autumn term

Frank  
Vesper  
Alfie H  
Alice M  
Owen  
Benjy  
Emily B  
Evan  
Ralph

Zachary M  
Rose  
Jessica  
Teddie  
Harry H  
Archie Rn  
Jack S  
Hanna

**A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
and Happy New Year!**

*Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please let us know if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone.*

*Spare newsletters are available in the rack outside the office, together with term time dates, holiday forms, uniform order forms*

Tel: 01751 472620      email: [admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)

For attendance/absences - [admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)





A word from the Chair of Governors

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I joined the governing board earlier this year and am now proud to take on the role of Chair of Governors. I have been involved with schools in the area for over 30 years but I have never experienced such challenging times as we currently face.

As we approach the end of a long and busy term, I am very aware of everyone being both tired and at the same time excited as we look forward to the Christmas festivities both in school and in our own lives. We are into our Christmas celebrations and look forward to being able to share our nativity experiences with parents and guardians.

This year has been extremely difficult and lots of our families have suffered from the virus and have lost loved ones through it. We continue to send our thoughts and prayers to you.

There have been many of positives too! Rainbows of hope and people coming together. It has taught us to value kindness and spread it around more often. Our family and friends have become even more important and having extra time with our children at home was amazing. It is often at Christmas time when you have time to reflect on what you have and value the impact others have on your life.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the staff and volunteers at the school for working so hard and supporting all the children through this difficult year.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Regards

John Goodyear

Chair of Governors