



East Calder Primary School

HEAD TEACHER: Mrs Fiona Stewart

The end of 2020...

I can't imagine too many of us are going to be sad to see the end of this year! It's been the most challenging and scary time for so many people and I think we are all ready to welcome 2021. With the hope of a vaccine for COVID-19 on the horizon, we will all be looking forward to the New Year with hope, and the promise that the end of this is in sight. With this in mind, it is important that we all make it to the holiday in one piece in order to enjoy our Christmas celebrations, in whatever way each of us does. We ask that you remain vigilant and continue to follow the restrictions as outlined by the national and local Government - these are in place to keep all of us safe.

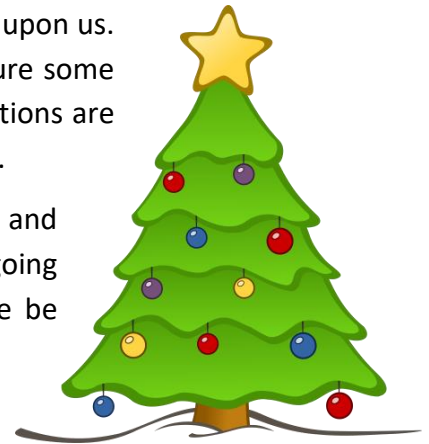
We have previously sent home information around Christmas cards and I know that you understand the reasons behind us being unable to send them this year. The same goes for pupils bringing toys into school. This week we've had quite a number of elves appearing however we have reminded the children that these are for home and not for school. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Although this year has been hard, and it sometimes feels like we've been fighting COVID forever, I can't actually believe that Christmas is almost upon us. In spite of everything and all the restrictions, our ECPS team will ensure some festive fun for our learners in the weeks ahead. Our trees and decorations are all up and a number of Christmas themed activities have already begun.

All that's left for me to say is a huge thank you to you, our parents and cares behalf of all of us at East Calder Primary, thank you for your ongoing support. However you are choosing to spend your Christmas, please be safe and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

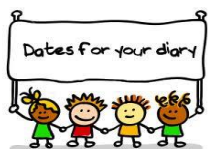
Warm regards,

Fiona Stewart



Christmas 2020

Christmas in a primary school is always such a fun and exciting time and we are hopeful that this year will not be too different. We recognise that we can't celebrate in the way in which we normally do but we plan to do as many different Christmas themed activities as we can – COVID friendly, of course. Every Friday in December, we will be having a Christmas Jumper day. There is no charge for this – it's purely for fun. We've decided to have no charge for any of our Christmas events; this hopefully removes some extra pressure at an already stressful time of year.



Christmas Arrangements 2020



Date	Class(es)	Activity
Friday 4 th December	P1-7	Virtual Advent Assembly
Friday 4 th December	P1-7	Pupils and Staff invited to wear Winter/Christmas Jumpers/t-shirts
Monday 7 th December	P1-7 (exc P5B)	Online Pantomime – snacks provided by PSC
Tuesday 8 th December	P5B	Online Pantomime – snacks provided by PSC
Wednesday 9 th December	P1-7	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10 th December	Whole School	Interim Head of Education (Primary) reading Christmas stories – Virtual event
Friday 11 th December	P1-7	Virtual Christmas Around the World Assembly
Friday 11 th December	P1-7	Pupils and Staff invited to wear Winter/Christmas Jumpers/t-shirts
Tuesday 15 th December	P3A, P3B, P4/3 and P4	Christmas Parties – in class – link via TEAMS
Wednesday 16 th December	P1A, P1B, P1C, P2/1, P2A and P2B	Christmas Parties – in class – link via TEAMS (HOPEFULLY with a special virtual appearance from a very special guest)
Thursday 17 th December	P5/4, P5, P6/5, P6, P7/6 and P7	Christmas Parties – in class – link via TEAMS
Friday 18 th December	P1-7	Virtual Nativity Assembly
Friday 18 th December	P1-7	Christmas Movie Morning
Friday 18 th December	P1-7	Pupils and Staff invited to wear Winter/Christmas Jumpers/t-shirts
Friday 18 th December	<p>School and nursery closes for holiday. Nursery reopens on Tuesday 5th January School reopens to pupils on Wednesday 6th January</p>	



Parties

As previously mentioned, there will be no cost for this year's Christmas parties. Christmas parties will be a little different this year but we would still like the children to experience a party treat. The party fun will take place within classrooms to maintain our class bubbles. Children are permitted to wear their party clothes on the date of their party. We are hopeful that our P1 and P2 pupils will have a very special visitor coming to their parties live from his living room in the North Pole...

Christmas Lunch

Everyone should have received a letter inviting you to order your child's Christmas lunch. The lunch will be served on **Wed 9th December**. We ask that you order using ipay impact. Children are permitted to wear a winter or Christmas jumper on this day if they wish.

Personal Belongings in School

Please ensure that your child only brings essential items to school. We have seen a gradual increase in additional items, which are not required, and lost property is starting to grow!

Christmas Cards

Due to current measures being taken in school to minimise items going between home to school and other homes, we would request that children do not exchange cards with other pupils this year. This will ensure we can remain low risk in these difficult times. We do believe it will also be beneficial to the environment.

Outdoor PE

PE has returned to outdoors for the duration of Tier 4 restrictions. We will endeavour to be out in most weathers. Please ensure your child wraps up warm and has appropriate footwear. You may send your child into school with a change of shoes and fresh socks if you wish. A waterproof jacket would be greatly appreciated.

School Improvement Plan Recovery Phase

Our Standards and Quality report and School Improvement Plans can be viewed on our school website. See link below:

<https://eastcalderprimary.westlothian.org.uk/article/16970/School-Documents>

Allergies

Please remember that due to having a number of children in our school who have a severe nut allergy, we request that you **do not send food containing nuts into school**. Your support with this would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Road Safety

Our P7S and P6Y children delivered an excellent virtual assembly on Road Safety. The whole school were reminded how to keep ourselves safe around roads and while walking to & from school.

Park with consideration and care, don't give a child a scare! Let's keep our children safe.