



# Newsletter

## December 2021



*'Tis the season to be jolly...*

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These last few weeks really have been a collective celebration of achievements for the children at Mackie Hill. We were thrilled to welcome Reverend Kathryn to lead our Armistice Day Assembly and all children have created a poppy to contribute to a Remembrance Display. I am sure you all agree, it is a fitting tribute to remember members of the armed forces who had died in the line of duty.



# PTA

Home & School Together

The whole school community are extremely thankful for the dedication, hard work and effort the PTA Team are making to ensure we continue to raise funds for school, despite missing out on big events.

The PTA have also been talking to Santa's elves and are planning a Christmas/Winter Fun Day. During the day the children will:

- Create Christmas/Winter crafts to bring home
- Have the chance to visit Father Christmas and bring home a gift
- Enjoy party food at a class party in the afternoon

We are asking for a small donation of £3 to cover the cost of the event. You can make your donation on the PTA website. Please note: if we do not receive enough money to cover the cost of the event it will have to be cancelled. Thank you. [www.pta-events.co.uk/mackiehillpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/mackiehillpta)

The PTA will be selling raffle tickets at the upcoming events for the opportunity to win a Christmas hamper.

### Christmas Tree

On the 1st December a Christmas tree will be put up outside the school office for all to enjoy.

We would like our children to help us decorate it!

From the 2nd December, children are invited to bring a bauble to school to place on the tree on their way home.

We will not be able to return these so only bring a bauble that can be left on the tree.

Thank you.



## Christmas Events



As you already know, we have a covid outbreak in our Year 5 and Year 6 classes. A big thank you to our families for supporting school and taking their child for a PCR covid test. This has helped to slow the spread amongst these classes.



However, this does mean that we need to plan some upcoming events differently.

**Please note changes in dates for some of the upcoming events.**

**This is to accommodate children who have been isolating at home.**

**Year 3, 4, 5, & 6 Concert** - Unfortunately, the covid rates are too high to hold this event in the school hall. As an alternative, there will be an online singing concert via zoom on Friday 10th December at 9am. We would like any children who are isolating and as many parents/carers from these classes to join us for a festive sing song. I will be posting a Zoom link and safeguarding protocols for the event nearer the time via the school APP.

**We are cautiously planning to hold our lower school nativity concerts in the school hall with a small audience. The risk assessment will be continually reviewed on the run up to the event. This does mean that if covid rates rise we will regrettably need to cancel the concerts. I shall confirm the concerts nearer the time. If we are able to proceed, the following measures will be in place:**

- 2 tickets per child will be sent home the week before the concerts. Audience names will be recorded on entry. For this event, you must bring your ticket or you will politely be refused entry. Please do not share tickets with other families, only 2 tickets per child will be allowed into the hall. Any younger siblings or babies who attend will need a ticket.
- Seats will be socially distanced in the hall with 2 seats together. Both tickets for each child will be sat together.
- Masks or face coverings are to be worn in the hall at all times. Normal exemption rules apply. Masks will be available on entry.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on entry.
- All windows and doors will be left open so it will be cooler than normal in the hall (you may need to leave your coat on)
- Entry to and from school will be via the back hall door. Staff will be available on the day to guide you.

**Nursery Nativity** - 15th December at 9:15am

**Reception Nativity** - 17th December at 9:15am

**Year 1 Nativity** - 16th December at 9:15am

**Year 2 Nativity** - 16th December at 2:30pm

**Christmas Party and Fun Day** - Children can come to school dressed in party clothes.

Nursery & Reception - Monday 13th December

Year 1 & Year 2 - Wednesday 15th December

Year 3 & Year 4 - Tuesday 14th December

Year 5 & Year 6 - Friday 17th December

**Christmas Dinner** - The whole school will eating Christmas Dinner on **Thursday 16th December**.

If your child normally has a packed lunch you can order a meal on

[www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk](http://www.feedinghungryminds.co.uk)

Please ask the school office if you are unsure or need any assistance. Santa's little helpers (Mrs Elliott and Mrs Vasey) are looking forward to serving lunch again this year.

**Christmas Jumpers** - School council have requested to wear Christmas jumpers, festive clothing or accessories on both **Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December**. You do not need to buy anything specific for this, children are welcome to wear comfortable clothing.

**Christmas Cards** - As the children are very keen to bring Christmas cards to school, we ask that they are only sent to children in your own class and not to children throughout school. This reduces mixing across bubbles.

**School closes** - 3:15pm on Friday 17th December. After School Club will be open for childcare.

**School reopens** - Tuesday 4th January 2021.

**Thank you for all you support!**

**Mrs Elliott and all the staff at**

**Mackie Hill**

