

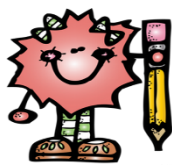
**Dear Parents/Carers**

We have booked two virtual Christmas performances for the children to enjoy during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December. We have The Wizard of Oz for Y4-Y6 and Cinderella for YR-Y3. We are asking for a £2 donation towards the costs of these.



Remember, 10<sup>th</sup> December is Pyjama Day and we will be giving the children popcorn as part of this treat. Please let the school know if your child is not able to have popcorn.

Due to the risk of cross contamination we ask that cuddly toys are NOT sent in for Pyjama Day. Children will need to wear shoes and a coat not slippers and dressing gowns as they need to be able to play outside.



## Reminders!

The last day of term is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we start back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**The school is CLOSED on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and 4<sup>th</sup> Jan for INSET.**

**Governors' Corner:**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November representatives of the governing body met with Councillor Tim Rippington to discuss our concerns regarding traffic and parking around the school. Councillor Rippington agreed to raise these issues in future meetings. He will investigate the possibility of us joining the Safer Streets Scheme. Cllr Jos Clark is also supporting this issue.



Remember, anybody can report anti-social and illegal parking to the police at the link below, should you wish to do so;

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>

**Governor news**

Deb Miles has been appointed without the need of election, as the new parent governor. We welcome Deb to the board. Deb has 2 children at the school in years 2 and 5.



**Adverse Weather and possible School Closure.** In exceptional circumstances e.g. heavy snow or failure of heating systems we may need to close the school. **However, this is always the last resort so parent/ carers**

**should always assume we will be OPEN unless we tell you otherwise.**

Ways we may be able to inform you of closure are through Parentmail, local radio, Bristol City Council website listing school closures, the school's own website (see address below). Any systems can be clogged up by a large amount of usage so please bear with us and remember we are trying to do our best. You can also try phoning the school if you are uncertain or coming from a long way away. In the event of partial closure, we allow 30 children to attend for every teacher present. Thank you.

**The University of Bristol** is conducting research into how Covid-19 spreads in Bristol schools. It's a great study for children, as the tests are done through a saliva test, which does not cause any discomfort (unlike the standard swab test). Holymead Primary School is excited to be taking part in this study, which will be happening in the school on 19 and 20 January 2021. This research study will only be open to children in Y2 and Y5 and participation is completely voluntary. It will be up to parent/carers to decide whether they want their child included or not. Children who want to take part in the study will be invited to give a saliva sample which the study team will take away and analyse in the lab for Covid-19. The school will send out information to Y2 and Y5 parent/carers before the Christmas break, so you'll have time over the holidays to decide whether your child can take part in the study, and to sign up and give consent via the online system. No child will be tested without parental consent. If you have any questions about the study, please email the study team:

[commins-school@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:commins-school@bristol.ac.uk).



### Christmas Performances and Concerts

Due to Covid-19 we will not be doing live concerts and performances for parents and carers this year. For those year groups who normally do a live performance, teachers are busy putting together virtual celebrations which we will record and show you online. Please note not all year groups will be putting on performances.

**Child Safety** - If you don't want your child in any videos we will make arrangements for them to stay with another year group during the recordings so they are safe from view. Please see your class teacher if you need your child to be kept from public view.

### Christmas Theatre and Films

We have booked a theatre/pantomime for Y4-Y6 to watch in school on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. It's The Wizard of Oz.



We have also bought a licence to show a filmed/live production of Cinderella for the children to watch on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

We are asking for a £2 donation towards these costs.

**Christmas Parties** will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Children need to come to school in normal school uniform. Christmas presents from funds raised by the Friends will be given out on this occasion.

KS1 will be decorating a cake or biscuit themselves but your child will need a named plate of savoury party food just for themselves. In KS2 children need to bring a covered plate of food including savoury and sweet treats clearly named just for their use. Please do not send whole packets of biscuits, cakes etc as we CANNOT share food. Thanks



**Reminder to Parents:** please can we remind parents to ensure that all dinner money accounts (via Parentmail) and breakfast club and afterschool club accounts are either kept in credit or at zero. Dinners and services must be paid for in advance rather than in arrears.



Christmas dinner will be on the following dates:-

KS1 – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 parents/carers please remember that tomorrow is the last day that you can pay for your child to have a Christmas Lunch. Numbers will be passed to the kitchen on Monday, so that she can pre-order her supplies.



Children having a packed lunch can decorate their lunch boxes and bring Christmas treats.

Children can wear their Christmas jumpers to the Christmas Dinner.



### Friends' News-

As we are unable to hold the Children's KS2 Shopping Day this year the Friends have kindly extended the giving of Christmas presents to include KS2 as well as KS1 this year.

The hamper raffle draw will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you.



### NHS seasonal flu (not covid) vaccines

The nurses will return on 11<sup>th</sup> December to vaccinate those children that were self-isolating at their last visit.



**Christmas Cards:** As an ecologically aware school we are keen to do our bit to reduce the amount of waste produced at Christmas. Don't forget to send your one card for the class Christmas Card Tree. We are not stopping individuals from sending cards if they really want to but this is an alternative to the mass writing of cards. Thank you



The Equality policy and the School Improvement Plan (SIP) are on the school website. Please follow the link below, in order to view them.



<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/policies/187999>

Thank you.



Following a government announcement last week, we are still unsure whether our camps will go ahead. The government plan to make an announcement on this in February 2021.

The Red Ridge camp for Y6 has guaranteed all money back if we have to cancel the booking so we are taking bookings in the hope we will be able to go at some point. Miss O'Toole has made a power point presentation as parents are not able to come into school. Please follow the link to find out more:

[http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/year\\_6/7/467196](http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web/year_6/7/467196)

We are hopeful Y5 camp will go ahead as explained previously.

When we have any further information we will let you know.



**Holidays in term time.** It is very unlikely holidays will be authorised as circumstances have to be really exceptional. However, it is still important that applications are made

so there is a record in school. AS A GUIDELINE PARENTS SHOULD ASSUME APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A HOLIDAY WILL NOT BE AUTHORISED AND YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE FINED FOR ANY UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE OVER 4 DAYS (8 SESSIONS).

Fines start at £60 per child, per responsible adult. For example, if you have 2 children in school and there are mum and dad sharing responsibility for the children then you will be fined £240. Fines rise if they are not paid on time. Please fill in a leave of absence form in advance of taking your children out. Note, you can still be fined if you take an unauthorised holiday but don't fill out a form.



**Cakes, Sweets and Biscuit treats**  
With Covid infection rates rising, we politely remind parents not to bring cakes, sweets or biscuits to celebrate birthdays or special occasions in school. As many children have special diets for

varying reasons, we would rather parents didn't send any treats for consumption in school. We have in the past allowed biscuits but with the increased risk of contamination from the virus, we feel the best solution is not to send any treats into school at all at present.  
Thank you.



**Holymead Primary School has vacancies** for SMSAs to supervise children at dinner time.

We are also looking for a part time evening caretaker who will mainly be responsible for locking up, but will be asked to carry out further light duties. Hours will initially be 10 hours per week, however these hours could be increased for a suitably experience candidate.

If you are interested in either vacancy please ask for details and an application form from Mrs Buckley, via the school office.



**Hamilton Pre-School**

Hamilton Pre-School rent an area in the school building and have done so for many years.

They now have a new website available to view, which includes a video virtual tour.

All this can be found at;

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



**WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 AND 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2017?**

Applications for September 2021 entry to school need to be made by 15.1.21.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to do prospective parent/carer tours this year so we've made a virtual tour video and FAQs sheet instead which are on the Holymead website home page. This can be found at the following link below;

<http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk/web>



## Term Dates 2020- 2021

### Term 1

(INSET 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.)

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept- school year starts for KS1 and KS2 (new Y1 to Y6)

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept- New in-take Reception start.

*Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> October will be the last day of Term 1.*

*Please note the change.*

*(NEW INSET Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. School CLOSED)*

### Term 2

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov- Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 (INSET 18<sup>th</sup> Dec)

### Term 3

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (INSET 4<sup>th</sup> Jan)

### Term 4

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 (INSET 1.4.21)

### Term 5

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Term 6

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 (INSET Mon 7.6.20)



## Social distancing

Our school community has shown great consideration of others in wearing masks around school. Thank you.

Please can we extend that same consideration to others and maintain social distancing wherever possible around the surrounding area such as by the gates and on the pavements around school. We have a lot of people trying to get to and from both school sites and if parents congregate in groups near the school it can cause difficulty for others trying to get by. Thank you for your consideration.

## TikTok support for Parents.

The following link talks about TikTok and its features, which are available via Family Pairing, which lets parents link their TikTok account to their teen's to enable a variety of content and privacy settings. This includes the ability to prevent a child searching and preventing strangers from seeing a child's post. The focus for this is on teenagers as legal age for TikTok is 13, but we are aware some children under that age do have a TikTok account.



<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-gb/supporting-youth-and-families-on-tiktok-uk>



## A message from St Luke's - St Luke's virtual Christingle service

The infamous Christingle service at St. Luke's Church is unable to take place in the usual way this year, but we thought instead of you coming to the service - the service would come to you!

We are going to hold a virtual Christingle service via zoom on Sunday 13 Dec. The zoom details will be posted nearer the time on social media and on the St. Luke's Facebook.

This year we need your help though! We thought it would be great if everyone could create their own Christingles. And they can be as creative as you like!! A drawing, a woollen Pom Pom, playdoh, even a satsuma with a birthday candle in it we really want to see those imaginative Christingles.

A Christingle is made up of 4 elements

1. Something round to represent the world
2. A red ribbon or tape or even wool is to be tied around the middle to represent Jesus' love that flows around the world
3. 4 cocktail sticks with fruit and sweets on to represent the 4 seasons and harvest and all what his provides and
4. A candle in the middle to represent that Christ is the light of the world.

The vicar will welcome everyone to the service and we then show off our Christingles before lighting the candle (or maybe a tealight) and the children sing Silent Night as we would if we were in church together.

We will also be raising money for the Children's Society who do an amazing job and this year they have really gone above and beyond to help keep children safe.

We would love to see you there, but virtually not in person! Please spread the word and get Christingle crafting!



**Please note** the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents in this newsletter. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer. Parents need to satisfy themselves that they are happy to leave their children at any of the clubs and services advertised which are not based on the Holymead School sites. Holymead School carries out DBS checks on clubs who have hire agreements to run children's clubs with this school.

Yours sincerely  
Ms Kate Slatcher



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Hollywood Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4LE.  
T: 0117 3772381—F: 0117 3772382  
E: [office@holymeadprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@holymeadprimary.co.uk)  
[www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk)

Holymead Primary (Junior Site)  
Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 4HB  
T: 0117 9030377-F: 0117 9030378  
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[www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.holymeadp.bristol.sch.uk)

Rights Respecting Schools Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information