



Rowlands Gill Primary School

18.12.2020 Newsletter

End of Term Thank You

At last, we have made it to the end of term and to the end of the most unusual and challenging year I've ever experienced in school. I would like to thank our amazing team who have made it so easy for the children to return to school safely, and get back to normal with their friends. I'd like to thank the children for adjusting to the new normal so well, for their kindness towards one another and for injecting the heart back into school. Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support, understanding of our rules, new systems and for following our Covid procedures to help to keep all of us in our school community safe.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Take care.



Festivities This Week

What a lovely festive week we have had in school!

The children (and staff) have had a lovely time enjoying a range of Christmas activities:



- On Monday, the children were thoroughly entertained by the Christmas Extravaganza performed by a group of live musicians. The children loved singing, dancing and hearing their teachers perform solos!
- Christmas Parties have been held across the week. The children loved the chance to wear their party clothes; play some games; dance and enjoy party food with their friends.
- On Wednesday, some classes were surprised by an interruption which occurred on their whiteboard in class. Santa appeared on the screen with a lovely message for them all. He was really pleased to tell them that they (and all the staff) have made it onto the good list!
- The Northern Stage offered us the opportunity to watch a virtual performance of their pantomime The Emperor's New Clothes. Although watching a panto on screen is never a replacement for the real thing, it was good to be able to offer this as an alternative this year. Thank you to Mrs Addison for organising this for us all.
- Yesterday, classes 4B and 5R headed off into the community to spread festive cheer by singing carols to the residents of Southwood Crescent Sheltered Housing and posted Christmas cards which had been handmade by children from across the school.
- All Key Stage 2 children have made a Christingle and learned about the meaning of them. We would like to thank the Life Vineyard Church for providing the resources free of charge.
- And finally, our Virtual Christmas Performance went live on the school website last night (after terrible delays uploading it)! It is a fabulous video with lots of great performances, mixing traditional carols with more modern interpretations of the nativity.



A Big Thank You!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Governors who have helped us this term giving up their time to make deliveries of Free School Meals, work packs and food parcels to some of our families who have been self isolating due to Covid.



We are very grateful for your generosity in supporting the Christmas parties with your contributions which helped to buy the food and party prizes for all our children to enjoy during the 'Bubble' parties this year.



Spring Term Diary Dates

- **Mon 4th Jan** - Training Day (school closed to children)
- **5th Jan** - Pupils return to school.
- **15th Jan**— Closing date to apply for Primary School (Reception class places)
- **2nd Feb**— Internet Safety Day
- **15-19 Feb**—Half Term Holidays
- **4th March**—World Book Day
- **1st April**—Last day of Spring Term
- **2nd April**—Good Friday Bank Holiday

Charity Collection News



We raised a total of £403.11 for Children in Need this year and the school was awash with yellow spotty pupils!

Donations to the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day totaled £159.

Thank you for all of your generosity!



Covid Contact during the Holidays

covid@rowlandsgillprimary.org.uk

Following our recent letter just a reminder to help us all stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

If your child becomes Covid symptomatic and is then tested for Covid, during the holiday period. I need you to take swift action to help us:

- **Email** using our dedicated email covid@rowlandsgillprimary.org.uk to let us know when symptoms began, the date and time that your child took the test, or is taking a test. This email will be monitored daily during the holidays until, 24th December.
- Email again using the same email address to let us know the outcome of the test as soon as you have it. If it is a positive result we may need to call you – please note this will be from a 'blocked' number.

If we are alerted to a positive case who has had symptoms, we may need to 'close the bubble' and will be working with Public Health to do this.

Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary (FORGPS)

We would like to say a huge thank you for supporting our raffle this year. It has been disappointing not to be able to see you all for our festive fair but with your support we have still been able to raise a huge £880 towards our laptop fund which is absolutely incredible! This means we will hopefully be able to purchase the next phase of laptops in the New Year. Your support during this term when we have had to adapt our fundraising to new times has been phenomenall.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, especially local businesses Low Friarside Farm, Tyne Tees Ceramics, Beckleberry's, The Orient, The Natural Beauty Clinic, Salon 84 and MJ's Barbershop for their support after a difficult year, and to everyone who bought tickets.



Despite not being able to have our fair, we have tried our best to spread some Christmas Cheer within school. We managed to put in a special word with Santa, who sent a video message to our younger children, after his visit had to be cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions and we also funded for each child in school to receive a book as a Christmas gift. We hope they enjoy them!

We would also like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the school community, to thank all the staff for their ongoing hard work and commitment to support our children during these unprecedented, challenging times and we are sure you will join us in wishing them a very Merry Christmas and a restful break.

While for all of us Christmas plans will be different and we may not be able to celebrate in the usual ways, we hope that everyone still enjoys a fun and festive break and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

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