

# Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

1ST DECEMBER 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all staff for their continued support of the pupils in school. It has been good to see the learning opportunities for the pupils, whether that be Welly Wednesday, computing, working with clay, the gym lessons or the excellent day-to-day English and maths lessons.



## Gym in Year 5

Pupils in Year 5 have been learning lots of new gymnastic skills with the help of Sam from Fusion Acro Gymnastics. Thank you to Miss Owen, the PE coordinator, for organising this.



## Well done Reception

Well done to all of our Reception pupils for all their hard work this term. It has been great to see them immersing themselves in their learning, practising their phonics, reading and writing. Thank you to all who support our Reception class.



## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

We would like to encourage Christmas jumpers to be worn on our Christmas dinner day which is **Thursday 17th December**.

This year we will be supporting the Spinal Muscular Atrophy UK charity. SMA UK supports Jack in our Year 1 class and other children across the country with spinal muscular atrophy. Please bring in £1 to wear your jumper and support this great charity.



### Reindeer Food For Sale

Once again this year, £1 bags of magic reindeer food will be available to buy during December from either Mrs Kirby or from the school office. All money raised is donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

### PTA News

**Hampers** — The PTA need your help to fill Christmas hampers. Please send items into school this week. Thank you to our PTA team who have been coming up with inventive ways to support the school at this time.

### Year 5 Visit to the STEAM Museum

At the start of November, Year 5 had a very informative visit to Swindon to learn more about their theme of World War II. They all thoroughly enjoyed the trip; a big thank you to all the adult helpers who supported them.



### Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

This term, we are beginning to audit and review our outdoor play and learning provision. As we head towards Christmas and potentially have new items arriving in our houses, we are on the look out for:

Any dressing up clothes, old vacuum cleaners, old pushchairs, scooters, outdoor toy vehicles, large tyres, fabrics, small world toys (dinosaurs and cars), buckets and spades, teddies and dolls.

### Christmas around the World

Each class has been tasked to explore Christmas in another country around the world. The countries being looked at are: China, Poland, Russia, Australia, Spain, Germany and Croatia. The classes will be finding out about Christmas traditions and will present their learning in a short video which will be shared for parents and wider family on the school website.

### Children in Need

Thank you to all who supported Children in Need this year.

There were some great non-uniform outfits worn on the day and congratulations to Immy in Reception who won the Pudsey Bear raffle.



We raised over £500 for Children in Need!

### Attendance Update

A big thank you for your help with the children's attendance since September. Our school attendance is currently 97.3%. This is a pleasing average with the current Covid pressures on schools.

### Christmas Parties

This year, Christmas parties will take place on one of the final two days of Term 2. Our thanks to CaterCater for providing a special party themed lunch for all pupils on Friday 18th December.

**1850**

The year 2020 will be remembered in years to come for the Covid-19 pandemic. However, for the school this year marks the 170th year since Highnam school was founded. To mark the occasion, two special clocks will be put up one at the front of school and one at the back (near the playground). We are so thankful for the years of education provided to thousands and thousands of children in and around the village and for all who have contributed to the running of the school.

**Christmas Cards**

This year, we are not going to have the normal postbox and sharing of Christmas cards. Instead we would like the school community to consider supporting our partner school in Mozambique. They need £1000 to finish building their new classroom.

Each child will write a message in class to wish their class Happy Christmas and also extend their Christmas greeting to Miss Read (ex Highnam Teacher) and the school team in Mozambique.

We would like pupils to donate what they would normally spend on Christmas cards to help fund this. If you are able to help support this great cause, it would be appreciated. What a great Christmas present it would be to help out the school in this way.

**Reverend Helen** - if you would like to contribute to Reverend Helen's leaving present please send in donations to the school office in a marked envelope — many thanks.

**And finally... A quick reminder** school finishes at **2:30pm on Friday 20th December**. Term 3 begins on **Tuesday 5th January for pupils**.

On behalf of all the staff may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Kind regards, Stephen Dean, Headteacher

**School Calendar****December**

|      |                                      |            |
|------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 9th  | Christingle making (Reception)       | PM         |
| 10th | Christingle making (Year 1 & Year 2) | PM         |
| 17th | Christmas Jumper Day                 | All day    |
| 17th | Christmas Dinner                     | Lunchtime  |
| 18th | Christmas Party Day                  | In classes |
| 18th | End of Term 2                        | 2:30pm     |

**January 2021**

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| 4th Jan | INSET Day — Staff Training |
| 5th     | Start of Term 3 for pupils |

Please use **test@primaryquest.co.uk** to update the school outside normal working hours with any Covid-19 test results - many thanks.