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Richmond Park School,  
Carmarthen



27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the year 2020 being highly unusual, we hope to make December as festive as possible for the children. We have plans for a Santa visit, Christmas Production, Class parties, a delicious Christmas Lunch and the usual swapping of cards and presents. Everything will look a bit different but nevertheless we aim to have fun and ensure your children do not miss out. We aim for all of this to take place in the last week and have made plans accordingly. Having said that, I had a number of queries last night about murmurings of a National pre-Christmas lock down where schools will be closed a week early. At the moment, I can confirm that there has been no communication from Carmarthenshire regarding this suggestion and at present we still aim to end the term for children at the close of day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Pupils currently will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

On behalf of the Staff & Governors I wish you and your family a very Merry and Safe Christmas.

Kind regards, Helen Luff ~ Headteacher

### *Christmas Cards and Presents*



It is traditional for children to write cards for friends, class-mates and staff at this time of year and bring in small gifts for those people that matter to them. Whilst it is not safe for children to bring in cards and gifts to give directly to other people, we do have a system in place (as of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November) where children can place cards and gifts in a post box in the foyer as they arrive at school. (*Cards and gifts need to be fully named for the person to receive them – first name and surname OR first name and class AND who it is from please.*) These will be given out in the last week of term. **NOTE: ALL cards and gifts, including those for staff need to be brought into school by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the VERY latest. Any brought in after this date will be sent home with the child who brought them in. This is to allow them to disinfect for 72 hrs before handing them to the recipient.**

### **Christmas Production**



You will not be invited in for a sit-down production of the nativity this year due to Covid19 restrictions in place. However, we do intend to ensure that you get your annual dose of Christmas cheer by seeing your loved ones perform in their class bubbles. They will bring you digital scenes from Bethlehem, children festooned in tinsel and sparkle and a mix of confident narration alongside some outdoor singing. All of this will be available to parents via YouTube at the very end of term. Some staff have already recorded their 10 mins video with the children, others are on half whilst some (I won't mention names!) are still consulting with Andrew Lloyd Webber over lighting, scenes and stage directions. Nevertheless, we hope to have this all prepared for you by the time the children break up from school.

***Carmarthenshire County Council have asked us to ensure that all parents know and understand that they must not place any of the school videos on social media as this places certain children at high risk. Thank you.***



### Christmas Lunch



The delicious school Christmas lunch cooked by Yvonne and her team will take place on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Please book and pay for this as usual through Parent Pay.**

Please ask children to wear **festive jumpers** to school. Home decorated ones are fine as well as shop bought tops. School uniform otherwise please.

### Class Parties



These will take place in the last couple of days of term and again children will be allowed to wear Christmas Jumpers to mark the occasion. All food and drink will be provided by school and no items will be accepted from parents sorry. Children will stay within their class bubble and whilst singing and vigorous dancing will not be encouraged, games and activities will be organised by class-teachers for their children to enjoy.

### Santa Visits



Being very, very old and obese places Santa in the highly vulnerable category. Also as he has many social functions to attend in different schools, halls and parties we feel that Santa could be considered a 'Super Spreader'. Therefore, whilst Santa will visit Richmond Park this year to deliver a gift to every child, he will do so virtually. Santa has informed us that he will deliver gifts to a place only known to him where they will sit for 72 hrs before class teachers can collect them to give to the children in class. Santa will then spread his festive cheer to each class, safely by video link from the North Pole.

*We will keep you updated as to further information from school or the Local Authority as and when we receive it.*

*Thank you and have a lovely Christmas and New Year.*

*Helen Luff*