



18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I look back on 2020 I have to say I am very proud of our school and what we have achieved. I am grateful and appreciative of the hardworking team I have around me and not forgetting the wonderful pupils too. We have had so many successes - too many to mention individually – that help make our school a special place. I am also very lucky to have a team of supportive and enthusiastic governors who, like me, want the very best for the pupils of our school. Having worked hard all term, the children will be certainly ready for a break and the opportunity to recharge their batteries (whilst wearing yours out no doubt!). I look forward to continuing to build on this year's successes in 2021!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you all for your continued patience throughout this term. As you can probably imagine we continue to review our strategies to keep school open and to avoid collapsing bubbles. Break times continue to be staggered and lunches are carefully managed so that bubbles do not mix at all. Constant hand washing takes place throughout the day and I'm pleased to tell you that our children are not fazed by any of the changes we have to make to keep everyone safe. As adults, we are being extremely careful to maintain the correct social distancing and we are wearing masks when we are outside talking to parents and very much appreciate the fact that most of you are too. We ask that, unless you are exempt, please wear a mask when you come onto the school grounds. I know they are uncomfortable, but they really might help us to keep ourselves and the children in school and prevent bubbles closing.

It's such a shame that we are unable to invite parents in to share assemblies and performances. We really do miss seeing you all about the place and I am sure the children feel the same way. Thank you so much for working with us to make school as normal as possible at a time when it really isn't. If you have any concerns at all, please don't hesitate to ring the office or talk to us at the gate as we would hate to lose the wonderful relationships that have been built up with families over the years. Covid has a lot to answer for but it definitely won't defeat us, and the resilience of your children is evidence of that fact! We are so proud of them!

Congratulations

Miss Mistry had to cancel her wedding in April due to Covid restrictions. I am delighted to inform you that she and her partner were married in Gretna Green at the end of November. Miss Mistry looked stunning in her photos and she is now Mrs O'Callaghan. Huge congratulations from us all.

Miss O'Neill is on maternity leave. Her baby is due in January and there is lots of excitement in the air waiting for the new arrival. We will keep you informed.

Christmas at Thornhill

This half term the preparations for Christmas started in earnest:

Christmas performances - It is always a very special time of year to work in school. We have all been very proud watching the children perform their class Christmas performances. I have been very impressed by the creativity of the teachers as they tackle the challenge of creating and filming performances. You may have heard that the Government has just given schools permission to offer live performances, with real audiences. However, we would not wish to compromise anyone's safety, particularly as we approach Christmas. Performances have been uploaded onto the school website and the links texted to parents so that you can watch and enjoy the performances in the comfort of your home with your families.

Christmas Dinner / Parties ~ We are remaining open on Friday 18th December. This is the children's Christmas Dinner day. In the afternoon they will have class parties and party food will be provided by the school and served on paper plates – no sharing will take place to avoid contamination. Each child will also be given a gift for Christmas.

Christmas Photos ~ These were a huge success, the children looked adorable as they posed by the tree and the nativity scene. Thank you to Mr Gunning for taking such fabulous photos and to Miss Gow for organising this – a treasured Christmas treat for the parents.

Christmas Raffle ~ Congratulations to the winners of the raffle prizes and thank you to everyone for your kind donations. Miss Peak and Mrs Gleghorn ensured that we had a socially distanced virtual raffle and made some beautiful hampers as prizes. Thank you.

The Mayors Christmas Card Competition ~ Two weeks ago the Mayor visited school, in a socially distanced way. Maja (Jaguars class) came first in the Christmas card competition. Well done Maja!

Graduate Teachers

Next half term our two graduates have to do their placements. Miss Flannery will go into Panthers class and Miss Tough will be doing her placement in another school. Both will be back in their normal classes after February half term.

We welcome their 'replacements' for the next half term, Mrs Jackson will be joining Year 3 as class teacher alongside Mrs Kuevi and Mrs Walia will be joining as Year 1 Class teacher alongside Mrs O'Callaghan.

Miss Craddock (year 3 trainee) will be leaving us to move onto her final placement. On behalf of Thornhill I would like to thank her for everything she has done for Year 3, the children certainly enjoyed her being in their class. Good luck for your future!

Christmas Wishes

On behalf of everyone at Thornhill Primary School, I would like to wish you a peaceful, safe and very happy Christmas to you and your loved ones. May your home be filled with love and laughter this Christmas as you enjoy spending some much needed quality time with friends and family, some of whom we haven't be able to see since March!

Stay safe and well and I look forward to seeing you all back for the start of the spring term on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs B Waite

