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**Message from Mrs Hird**

**Donations for festive support**

Following the school council's request for support last week, we have been thrilled to receive so many kind donations of food and vouchers. All the items received will support families from our Trust schools, in the first instance, and any surplus will be donated to the local foodbank. If you would like to make a donation, please send it into school as soon as possible. Your generosity will really help families in need over the festive period.

As I stated in my message earlier this week, if your family find yourself in need of support, please do let me know by emailing headteacher.cg@yeat.co.uk or calling the school. I know that the pandemic has affected many families in a variety of ways and we are here to help in whatever ways we can.

**Parent questionnaires**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their completed parent questionnaire. I will be reviewing the responses with the governors and will provide feedback to parents once this is completed. There are lots of positive comments, with many parents praising our outdoor learning provision and the family atmosphere of the school. There are also some really useful suggestions for improvements, which we will consider as we move into the spring term.

**Keeping in touch**

We use a variety of platforms to communicate with you, as we know that different families have different preferences. Hopefully, our newsletter, emails, MCAS messages, website updates, Facebook posts, Tapestry observations (Reception), Class Dojo notifications (during remote learning) and letters home keep you up to date with what is happening in school. We are also more than happy to arrange to speak with you if you want to discuss your child's learning or any other school-related issues. Please either call or email the school and we will contact you to arrange a convenient time.

Thank you for your support and have a safe weekend.

*Mrs Hird*

**Attendance:** This week’s attendance has been a fantastic **99.77%,** sowell aboveour target of at least **97%!**

**News from the Classes**

This week has been a slightly different week for **Acorn** class. On Monday, Mrs Barber was out all day for a training course with Mrs Scholey, so Mrs Grace returned to Castleton School to teach them, which was lovely. She was very impressed with how well behaved and hardworking they were and had an enjoyable day. It has also been assessment week for many of the children, so they have had different from normal tasks to perform in different parts of the school. Well done for being so resilient.

In English, we have watched the final episode to Little Red Riding Hood - and what a good ending it was, if quite unexpected. We have had a go at sequencing the whole story and creating story maps to assist us with writing out the whole story next week.

In Maths, Year 2 have looked at number bonds to 100 and Year 1 have been identifying and sorting 3D and 2D shapes.

We have been getting festive and creative during Art lessons and between other jobs and have started making our Christmas cards and Christmas wreaths.

Wednesday's Forest School morning was lovely and we had lots of busy people. Some were making bird feeders from kits that were supplied by Nework Rail as part of our station caretaking role. Some were busy making their own projects such as catapults, peeled sticks, decorated sticks, dens and collecting pine cones to decorate our wreaths with. Everyone was lovely and warm due to having exactly the right amount of warm clothing, hats and gloves - thank you very much.



The countdown to Christmas has well and truly begun and we had a lovely time decorating the class Christmas tree - everyone got to take part. 🎄😊

This week’s **Star of the Week** is **Layla** for an amazing week of hard work and showing what a little ray of sunshine she is with her wonderful smile!



Climate change has been the focus of our writing in **Oaks** this week. We have researched, planned and written information leaflets about it.

We have worked on word problems in Maths. We found the important information and which calculation we needed to do first before moving onto the second step. The children did well and used their logic and visualising skills.

During Forest Schools, they made an evergreen wreath using willow and leylandi branches, wire and pine cones. We hope they made it home in one piece!

**Star of the Week** this week is **James** for fantastic behaviour and super perseverance during trickier work.

**PTFA Christmas/Winter Poetry Competition**



**After School Clubs in the New Year**

**Choir - Mondays**

The moment Miss Wilson has been waiting for is almost here, Choir can officially be reunited after Christmas! The first after school club will hopefully be on Monday, 11th January (finish time 4.15pm). New permission slips will need to be completed if your child/children would like to attend – please let us know if you would like one.

**Signing & Communication - Tuesdays**

Signing and Communication Club will revert back to after school on Tuesdays, commencing 12th January.

**New Sport Club - Thursdays**

Lewis, who comes in to teach the pupils PE, will be running a multi-skills club on Thursday after school for all year groups. This will commence on 7th January and will finish at 4.15pm. Please contact Mrs Blacklock for a permission slip if your child/children would like to attend. It will be on a first come, first served basis.

**Reminders**

**Parent Questionnaire**

Please return further completed Questionnaires on **Monday.**

**Food Donations**

Castleton School Council would like to ask for your help to support children in poverty and their families.

Examples of food include: tinned foods, pasta, rice, foods that children might like at Christmas – anything that will last until Christmas! Vouchers (eg supermarkets, Argos, etc.) will also be suitable. You will be able to place your donations in a box at Castleton Primary’s reception until Thursday 10th December 2020 when we will collect everything together and send the food parcels out. They will go to families with children in poverty in our Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust (the 5 YEAT schools).

If we have anything left we will send it to other families with children in poverty in the local area.

We hope you will donate to help these children and their families at Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Castleton School Council on behalf of all pupils.

**Christmas Cards**

Last day of “posting” Christmas Cards is **next Thursday,** 10th December and then the boxes will be quarantined until the following week. The cards will then be sorted into bags for each child by a suitably sanitised member of staff!

**Christmas Jumper Day** – Thursday, 10th December

Next Thursday is a non-uniform day for Save the Children and pupils can wear their Christmas Jumpers to school, if they have one. We would suggest a donation of £1 each. **All children to come to school in their PE kit and bring their jumper to change into.**

**Staff Training Day** – Friday, 11th December

Children are not in school next Friday.

**Christmas Dinner** – Thursday, 17th December

Please let us know if children who normally have a packed lunch will be having Christmas Dinner, as soon as possible (cost £2.50).

**Please note that dinner for this day should be Korma. Gaby is therefore going to cook the Korma dinner on Tuesday the 15th instead!**

**Christmas Party and Last Day of Term** – Friday, 18th December

Children are allowed to come to school in their party clothes if they wish. School dinner will be combined with party food and the PTFA will buy the party food this year, rather than parents donating it.

Children who normally have a packed lunch will need to pay for a school dinner if they would like the “party dinner.”

**Next Week**

**Monday** Music Lessons with Alix Lillie. **Please remember instruments**

1.30pm “Signing Club” singing & signing “Little Donkey” via Zoom with CVT & Mencap

**Wednesday** **All pupils** **Outdoor learning**. Children can come to school dressed in appropriate clothing - lots of warm layers, with waterproofs, wellies and gloves.

**Thursday** “Christmas Jumper Day” for Save the Children

Last “posting” day for Christmas Cards

Last day for School Council Food Donations

Last day for PTFA Christmas/Winter Poetry Competition Entries

**PE for** **all pupils**. Please make sure children have their PE kit in school, **including hats and** **gloves** now that the weather is cooler, as it will take place outside if at all possible!

**All children to arrive in PE kit and bring Christmas Jumper with them to change into**

**Friday** Staff Training Day – children not in school