



Sedbergh Primary School

'Learning for happiness, safety and success'

School Newsletter No.4 – Thursday 17th December 2020



We have finally arrived at the Christmas break after a very long and unusual autumn term. Again, I am delighted to report, that despite all that is going on nationally, and the immense challenge our world faces, we have managed to stay open. Children have been happy in school and have continued with their learning journey, making great progress and achieving so much. Well done to all of them, all of you and, in particular, all of the teachers and staff for keeping school a positive and happy place to be!

I am sure everybody is ready for a rest and some festive fun! Over the holiday, please can I encourage all of you to continue to stick to the guidance around the coronavirus restrictions so that we can continue on the path back to normality! We want school to be open as usual in January. All being well, we return on **Tuesday 5th January at 8.50am**. If anything changes, school will update you via notifications on the app and on the school website.

I have written a separate letter to you all, to mark my departure, but I would like to say again, how much I have enjoyed being the Headteacher of Sedbergh Primary School. Thank you to every one of you for supporting the school but most importantly for supporting your children on their journey through childhood.

Please remember, school finishes for the Christmas holiday tomorrow (Friday) at 2pm.

VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ: In the very, very unlikely event, that your child gets coronavirus symptoms or has a coronavirus test that returns positive **over the weekend**, you **MUST** email the school admin address to tell us. If this does happen, we will have to inform all families of children in the class 'bubble' and they will have to self-isolate. This is incredibly unlikely but it is essential that we maintain our procedures over that first weekend. After the weekend has passed (48 hours) this is no longer the case, any child who tests positive would not have been in school, and therefore school would not need to take action. Please do assist us in keeping everyone safe as the holiday period begins.



Christmas at Sedbergh Primary School

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to a brilliant Christmas in school. We have had food and craft items provided by the PTFA, lovely party meals provided by Kate at Al Forno and many other events and activities, including walks, dressing up and singing traditional Christmas songs and carols. As you know, all of this has been captured on film by the teachers and edited into a Christmas Video by Linda Allan. Thank you so much to Linda, and also a big thank you to Ann Newbold and her team at Smart Design for producing and printing our DVD covers so quickly. Well done to Declan, Bridget, Leo, Otis and Madison for their fantastic cover designs. Thank you also to everyone who purchased a copy of the film in support of the PTFA. As communicated, the online video will only be available until this Monday, 21st December.

Please remember to participate in the **Western Dales Community Mission 'Follow the Star'** campaign. You can follow the trail around the town spotting our pictures of the first Christmas. All of the children's designs are on show in St Andrew's Church.

On Friday 11th December 2020, wearing our festive clothing we raised £111 for Save the Children. Well done to everyone who got dressed up and took part in the fun.





Another reminder about a very straightforward way to raise funds for school: with the continuation of coronavirus and the current lockdown, many of you may be looking to do your Christmas shopping online this year. Please help raise money for the school and sign up to **Easy Fundraising**. It is free and simple to do and costs only a few moments of your time, but means a great deal to the school. Please follow the instructions on the document we shared on the school app. Thank you for your help and support!



On our school 'app' we have sent out a number of notifications about support provided by the Council for families and children. **Action for Children** are developing a wide number of activities for supporting you and your family over the Christmas break – please do have a look at these as they are all designed to make life a little bit more straightforward for you and your children. In particular, the Parent Talk site (click on the image below to access their website) can be accessed at any time (by using your email address) if you need support and advice. This is a confidential service where practitioners are available to respond to the needs of the family. You can also look at the site where information is readily available.



The Children's Wood - The Christmas 'I-Spy Tree Trail'

On Tuesday, your child brought home an activity sheet to complete over the holidays. This is another lovely activity provided by the Sedbergh Environmental Group and their 'Children's Wood' initiative. It would be lovely to see some of the completed sheets returned to school after the holidays. Please remember to name any entries before sending them back to school. There will be a small reward for every child who participates.

As many of you will know, we had a visit from **Tim Farron** last week, to present Madison, in Year 6, with a prize for coming runner-up in Tim's annual Christmas Card Competition. Well done to Madison and well done to everyone in school who participated – each child received a certificate to bring home. It was great to have Tim visiting and he wanted me to pass on his thanks to everyone involved with our school community for managing to make things work. He recognises the great challenge that we have all faced and he is so grateful for the way in which our community has responded.



Governor News – I am pleased to announce that Simon Phipps, husband of Catherine Phipps who works in school, has been appointed as a new member of the Governing Body. Simon brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this post after serving as a Governor for many years before moving to Sedbergh. Again, we benefit from routinely having a full Governing Body, which for many schools is quite unusual.



On a final note, I'd like to say thank you to the pupils and staff at Settlebeck School for providing us all with some delicious biscuits to end the term.

And of course, many thanks to Santa for taking the time to visit our younger children during their Christmas parties. It was so good to see the big guy complying with social distancing rules and meeting us outside – what a lovely fellow!

