

# Pilgrim Primary Academy

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**Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE, N.P.Q.H)**



**13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

As this will be the last Newsletter of 2021 and I would like to say a big thanks to you and everyone in our community for the support you have given both your children and our school over the last year. This year has certainly been another challenge for us all but it has also been a very successful one, with children always showing us their excellent attitudes to learning and their commitment to their learning.

### **IMPORTANT: Home Technology Survey**

As we move into the new year, I am sure you have concerns about the increasing Covid rates both in Plymouth and across the country and the impact that this may have on children attending school. This week we will be making sure that we are prepared for the return to school in January and whilst cases rise and the new Omicron variant becomes more common, we need to plan for every eventuality. It is highly likely that we see more cases in school which will mean more children off school isolating for periods of time. In these cases, those children who are well will need to maintain their learning in a virtual way via Google Classroom.

To help with our planning, we need to update our information about the technology that children may have access to at home. This will enable us to swiftly respond to each family's tech needs should home learning be required. So, please **FILL IN THE SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE** on this link to help us get this information as quickly as we can:

<https://forms.gle/sZhhPJ2mDgcwedfv5>

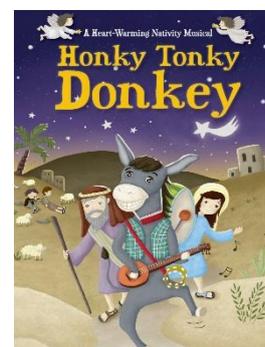
If you are unable to follow this link, please complete the form accompanying this News Letter and return it to: [contactus@ppsonline.org](mailto:contactus@ppsonline.org) . It would be so much easier for us to have the information via the link so please only use the attached form if you have to.

If we could have the information completed by the end of this week, it would be much appreciated so that we have all the information ready for January. **Many thanks.**

### **End of Term Events**

#### **KS1 Nativity:**

Last week, Year 1 and 2 children did us proud, putting on a wonderful and entertaining Nativity performance. Our families enjoyed the live performances by clapping along and it certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit! Well done to the children for their confident performances and thanks to the staff team for creating such a great show.



#### **Christmas Dinner:**

Mrs Haydon in the kitchen and her lovely team of CaterEd staff cooked up a feast for Christmas dinner on Friday. The children enjoyed a tasty meal, Christmas crackers and they were joined by staff who sat and ate their lunches with the children.

### KS2 Carols:

The children in Years 3-6 are currently practising their singing, getting to grips with some new Christmas songs. Usually, we would have an evening performance but this year that will not be possible. Following the Government announcement of further restrictions starting this week, we have taken the decision to record the children performing some of their songs and send them out to you virtually. The link will come through Google Classroom for you to enjoy on the last day.

### Christmas Parties:

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (last day) we would like the children to have a fun day in school with Christmas parties and games. **On that day, children can come to school out of school uniform and wearing their own party clothes instead.**

We are asking for **a 50p donation per pupil to be given directly to the class teacher (by Thursday)** to enable us to buy a few party games prizes and buy some nice food treats for the children too. We will buy all these so we do not require any food donations from home this year. Thanks for your contributions towards these fun events!

### Christmas Card Competition

We have had loads of entries for our 'Design a Card' competition and I have had the difficult job of choosing the winners – here they are:

#### Overall winner:

**Anya H – Year 5**

#### Runners Up:

Samantha C – Year 6

Olesya M -Year 5

Lacey R – Year 4

Kaarunya S-K – Year 3

Lana K – Year 1



The designs have been copied and made into our own personalised Christmas cards to send to friends of our school – only very special people will receive them! Thanks to all the children who had a go and well done particularly to our winners.

### Year 5 & 6 Play Leader training

Recently, Miss Redmond arranged for some of our Year 5 & 6 pupils to have some training to become Play Leaders here at school. This group of children will now be able to support children at play and lunchtimes, running structured games and activities on the playground. They will be starting their new roles in the New Year and I am sure their responsible attitudes and organisational skills will contribute to positive and active play at break and lunchtimes. I can't wait for our Play Leaders to get started!

### Food Bank 'Reverse Advent Calendar' – A BIG THANK YOU!



We have seen a fantastic response for our Food Bank advent event. Thanks to everyone who has been checking on Facebook each day to see which items we are collecting for the Foodbank.

We have had loads of donations and I know that the Food Bank will be very grateful to receive all the food and toiletries gifted to them from our community. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

### Star Learners Awards:

Here are the **Star Learners** for the Upper Phase:

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Year 4 RO | Keiran H |
| Year 4 KP | Joseph B |
| Year 5 SR | Jaeden K |
| Year 5 RH | Rico R   |
| Year 6 SS | James W  |
| Year 6 LJ | Razan H  |

### Farewell

On Friday, we will be saying a fond farewell to Miss Joll who has been working as a Teaching Assistant here at Pilgrim for the last 2 years. I know that Miss Joll will be very much missed by the staff, but particularly by the children with whom she works closely – they will miss her sense of humour and her enthusiasm for getting stuck in and having a go! Good luck, Miss Joll as you take the next steps in your career and thank you for all you have done for the children and families at Pilgrim.

### Dates for your Diary

**Last day of term:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (Xmas parties and party clothes)

**Christmas Holiday:**

**Non Pupil Day (no pupils in school):** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**First Day of Term for Pupils:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Half Term:** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

So, here's to a good end to the term and wishing you all a good holiday season. I will see you all back in school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Please keep an eye on your emails and check the school website before the return to school where we will post any updates or changes to arrangements if necessary due to the changing Covid picture.

**Until then, have a peaceful holiday and Happy New Year!**



Mrs L Meek