



# Headteacher's newsletter #3

1.12.20

## Christmas edition!

As you know, the rates of infection for Covid-19 have been steadily increasing in Milton Keynes recently despite this second lockdown and as such we have kept you informed about any positive cases within school. These are a very stark reminder for our school community about how important it is to follow the government's restrictions now we have been placed into tier 2 from Wednesday.

Please know that if we were to made aware of a positive case in school after Friday 11 December, this would mean that the children and staff directly in contact with the positive case would need to self-isolate on Christmas Day. Please be mindful that some of our staff do live on their own and this would leave them feeling lonely and isolated. This would also mean your child, should they have been in direct contact, would be unable to see any other family members outside of your household during the 5-day window of lifted restrictions.

We have noticed parents still standing close together with other adults not in their household outside of the school gates in the mornings and have been made aware of children who are mixing outside of school hours with children from other class bubbles. This makes it very difficult for the senior leadership team to make informed decisions about who has been in direct contact with a positive identified case and should therefore self-isolate.

We have also had a number of parents send their child in whilst they themselves have felt poorly or if they suspect a sibling to have Covid symptoms. If this is the case, do NOT send your child to school. Please follow the guidelines on getting tested. This also applies to families waiting for a Covid test result. Your child cannot come into school until the member of your family who has had the test has a negative result.

**Thank you in advance for supporting us.**

**Rebekah Green & the Senior Leadership Team**



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## **We have lots of lovely festive events planned throughout December...**

- Loughton School's giving tree goes up – Tuesday 1 December
- PTSA Christmas shop (via Padlet) – Friday 4 December
- Christmas post box deliveries - Monday 9 and Monday 16 December
- Christmas window decorations will be completed - Friday 11 December
- Year 6 Christmas Cracked (virtual) – Monday 14 December
- Christmas jumper day, Chartwells Christmas lunch and virtual pantomime – Wednesday 16 December
- Christingle Service (virtual) – Tuesday 15 December @ 10am
- Loughton's annual staff pantomime – streamed to classes during the final week of term
- Christmas movie – morning of Friday 18 December. Children are able to dress in their finest Christmas party outfits.
- **School closes early to children on the last day of term.**

### Reminder:

*Usual 2:45pm pick up at 1:15pm*

*Usual 3:00pm pick up at 1:25pm*

*Usual 3:15pm pick up at 1:35pm.*

## Christmas cards

We have had a query about whether we are allowing cards to be brought in and given to other children at school. Yes, we are! They need to be clearly labelled with the child's full name and HB and posted into a **class** Christmas postbox for children in their own class and a **school** Christmas postbox for children in other classes. These will then be quarantined for a period of time. Card deliveries back to the children will be on Monday 9 and Monday 16 December.

## Hot dinners for children in need over the festive period and beyond

With 1 in 3 children living in poverty in Milton Keynes, it's heart-breaking to think there could be children going to bed without a hot dinner, especially over the festive period when they would not be receiving their usual hot school lunch.

We have partnered with a local charity - St Mark's Meals, which could help some of the families in our school. It provides schools and children's centres in MK with free meal boxes. The first of these will be given out to families in need during the final week of term to support them over the 2-week break. Each individual box contains the ingredients and recipe card for a meal for 4 people.

We have had individuals contact us to ask how they could support others at this difficult time and this truly shows the compassionate, caring people who make up our Loughton School family. If you would like to purchase a meal box to support someone else then please do visit <https://stmarksmk.com/meals/> to watch a short video and donate what you can - just £5 sponsors a meal box.

If you feel you may need some food boxes before the 2-week Christmas break, these will be available for collection from Friday 11 December onwards. Please do get in touch with a member of the office team or one of the senior leaders in school by emailing [head@loughton.school](mailto:head@loughton.school)

## Our Christmas giving tree

Once again, as is Loughton School's tradition, we are asking for your help to support disadvantaged families at Christmas, by giving new Christmas presents to the Milton Keynes Family Centres, which is being coordinated on a city-wide basis this year.

If you have any unwanted new items or are prepared to purchase a gift that might be suitable for children ranging from babies to age 16, we would be grateful if your child could bring them in and place them un-wrapped under our Christmas tree which will be located in the hall. In the past we have always asked for the presents to be wrapped, but due to Covid-19 precautions, the Family Centers have requested un-wrapped presents this year.

Gifts could include toys, games or books. You can make these donations any time between 1 December and 10 December. On Friday 11 December we will then be delivering these to the Windmill Family Centre.

This year has been a really difficult time for many families and we really hope you will support us to spread some smiles. If you hand a present in, you could be making someone very happy on Christmas day. Please help!