



# Coopersale Hall School

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## HEADMISTRESS

Miss Moreen Barnard B.SC. (HONS), B.ED.

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1 December 2020

Dear Parents

### Re: December Headmistress's Letter

The Christmas festivities are about to begin at school and there is a growing sense of anticipation and excitement as the end of term approaches. As you know, we have just under two weeks until the end of term, which finishes on Friday 11 December. Before we finish there are a number of events happening in school to celebrate the season.

We wanted to make sure that our children have some normality during the uncertain times that Covid-19 brings. We have looked at various ways to celebrate Christmas safely and for the children to share their excitement for this special time of year.

### Christmas Card Design Competition

Miss Smith and Mrs Boulwood had the very challenging job of choosing the Christmas card design competition winners. It is worth mentioning that we had well over 150 entries! Congratulations to our winners:

EYFS: 1<sup>st</sup> Phoebe-Faith (Rec G)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Woolfe (Rec GM)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rufus (UKD)

KS1: 1<sup>st</sup> Richard (Year 2B)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Skye (Year 3G)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Maria (Year 2B)

KS2: 1<sup>st</sup> Ruby (Year 4L)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Florence (Year 4B)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Alexander (Year 4L)

### Christmas Production

Mr Reich-Storer is recording a Christmas production with all of the year groups. We will share the video with our families so that you can have a copy and enjoy watching it at home with your extended families. We are grateful for all the hard work Mr Reich-Storer has put in to this project as he has spent hours editing all of the different recordings.

### Panto

As we cannot take our children to the panto this year, we are bringing the panto to our children. A company called 'Panto Online' will stream 'Jack and the Beanstalk' directly into school for our children to watch. We will spread this over the week beginning 7 December, and the children will watch the panto in their bubbles. A big 'Thank You' to FOCHS who are funding the panto and a snack for all of the children.

### Christmas Lunch

The children's Christmas lunch and a socially distanced visit from Santa will be held on Wednesday 9 December. As usual, we will make sure that the hall is set up beautifully with table cloths and Christmas crackers. The children will have the opportunity to have lunch with their class teacher and teaching assistant. They will remain in their bubbles.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Christmas Jumper Day will be on Thursday 10 December. It will be lovely to see everyone in a Christmas jumper. Just a reminder that, for the obvious, we are asking all families not to send their children in with any hats or reindeer antennae that they might want to share with their friends.

### **FOCHS Virtual Gift Shop**

It has been a lovely team effort between FOCHS and all of the teachers to support the first ever virtual FOCHS Christmas gift shop. All of the gifts ordered will be sent home on 4 December, after the required 72-hour quarantine period.

### **Christmas Cards**

Lots of our families send in Christmas cards for individuals in school. Although this is a lovely gesture, this year we ask that all cards be sent to school no later than 8 December. In line with Covid-19 guidelines, we have to keep the cards for 72 hours before we can send them home.

### **New Initiatives**

#### **Gift a Birthday Book**

From the start of the Spring Term, we shall be introducing the 'Gift a Birthday Book' scheme into school. This is not compulsory, but we would like to encourage pupils, families and teachers to become involved if they would like to. On your child's birthday, they can donate a new copy of their favourite book to the school. A bespoke book plate will be placed inside the front cover, with the name of the person who has given the book, the date and the reason why they particularly enjoyed it. This will be presented in the weekly assemblies, shared on social media and then placed in the library for other children to read.

We are hoping to raise the profile of reading in school by giving our children the opportunity to share their own love for reading. The children will also have the chance to talk to the other children in their class and during an assembly about the book they are gifting. This should be a lovely way to further develop their confidence in public speaking, with support from the staff.

### **Reports**

We have changed the dates for reports to be published to parents in school. Due to the first lockdown during the Summer Term, the last time you received a formal report from school was in February. Therefore, we made the decision to publish reports on 7 December rather than in February 2021. With parents' evenings at the end of November and the reports in December, we hope that you will have a clear idea of how your child is currently doing in school.

### **Club 72 and 144**

We introduced a whole school approach to times tables at the start of the new academic year. The children and teachers have been working hard over the past term to learn and embed their times tables, and we are confident that we have reached a good point to introduce an extra incentive for the children working hard to learn their times tables.

We will have a beautiful display board in school to celebrate the children from our Early Years to Year 2 who know all their times tables from 1x1 up to 12x6 ('72'), and the children higher up in the school who know all their times tables from 1x1 up to 12x12 ('144'). Each child will also receive a certificate to take home. It is encouraging to see how many children have already achieved this milestone. We look forward to sharing this celebration with our school community.

### **From Miss Leeks' Memory Box**

Miss Leeks has been a member of the Coopersale Hall staff for 30 years now. To celebrate her commitment we asked her to share some of her fondest memories of the school and highlight how much the premises, the job and times have changed since she first arrived with us. Miss Leeks will include her memories in the final newsletter of each term. We are all looking forward to sharing 30 years of memories!

## Know your teacher

As we continue to navigate through the Covid-19 restrictions, we thought a lovely way for you to get to know the staff a little bit better, would be to include an interview with a member of staff in each newsletter. The prefect team will have the responsibility to interview the member of staff and write a piece for the newsletter.

## REMINDERS

### Earrings

As you will know from the Parent Handbook that is sent to all parents at the start of each school year, no pupils are allowed to wear earrings for school at Coopersale Hall. They are not permitted in PE lessons, where they present a health and safety concern, even if taped, nor in the normal school day. We have noticed that some children are currently wearing earrings. From the January 2021 restart, please ensure that all earrings are removed before school so that we have no children wearing earrings in school.

We only have a three-week holiday at Christmas, which does not provide enough time for you to have your children's ears pierced and have the required number of days before the earrings can be removed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this.

### Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim will always be to stay open in the wintry weather, even if/when the snow comes. If we really cannot open due to sudden blizzards and adverse conditions then we will move to our online home-learning programmes. If the snow comes, the maintenance teams will arrive on site early to clear paths and to ensure that pupils, staff and parents can make their way safely into the buildings. We will always aim to update our website and email/text parents and staff by 7am so that you will know our plans for the day ahead.

### Adjustments to School Arrival Times

We have kept to the temporarily advanced start time of 8.15am throughout this Autumn Term in order to train our pupils to keep their distance from others when entering the site. This also allowed for a wider window for arrivals and for pupils and families to establish new routines after the summer holidays. We feel that our Coronavirus procedures are now more settled and that we have a greater level of control over the initial morning routines, so we plan to start moving the arrival time back in order to help our staff prepare more effectively for the start of the school day.

**From Wednesday 6 January 2021, the doors will open at 8.20am and Registration will be at 8.40am. We will be on hand as usual to welcome the children from this time. Breakfast Club will continue to run as usual from 7.30am.**

We anticipate moving the start time to 8.25am from after the February half term, but I will confirm this in my February Head's Letter once we have had the opportunity to review the first month back.

## Forthcoming Events

### Tuesday 1 December

Virtual Coffee Meeting for Parents of <b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b> Children	1pm to 2pm
Last Speech & Drama of the term	Lunchtime

### Wednesday 2 December

Last Netball of the term	3.30pm to 4.30pm
Last Art club of the term	3.30pm to 4.45pm
Last Karate of the term - Group 1	3.15pm to 4.00pm
Last Karate of the term - Group 2	4.05pm to 5.05pm

### Thursday 3 December

Flu Immunisations – Children in <b>Reception to Year 6</b>	am
Last Multi Sports of the term	3.10pm to 4.10pm
Last Fencing of the term – Group 1	3.10pm to 4.00pm

Last Fencing of the term – Group 2 4.10pm to 5.00pm  
Last Speech and Drama of the term Lunchtime

#### **Friday 4 December**

Last Yoga of the term 7.45am to 8.3am  
Last Art Club 3.30pm to 5pm  
Last Street Dance of the term – Group 1 3.30pm to 4.15pm  
Last Street Dance of the term – Group 2 4.20pm to 5.05pm  
Last Piano lessons of the term am/pm

#### **Monday 7 December**

Reports being sent home to Parents – Whole School  
On-line panto treat from FOCH for whole school during this week am/pm  
Last Gym of the term (Years 3 & 4 only) 3.30pm to 4.30pm  
No Violin lessons (finished for the term last week)  
Last Dance club of the term  
Last SPARKS of the term 8.20am to 8.40am  
No singing lessons finished for the term last week  
Last Early Years Yoga of the term – Upper Kindergarten 3.00pm to 3.30pm  
Last Early Years Yoga of the term – Reception 3.35pm to 4.05pm

#### **Tuesday 8 December**

Last Piano lessons of the term AM/PM

#### **Wednesday 9 December**

Christmas Lunch – Whole School  
Last SPARKS of the term 8.20am to .40am  
Last Music lessons with Mr Bartels of the term am/pm  
Last Spanish club of the term – Group 1 3.25pm to 3.55pm  
Last Spanish club of the term – Group 2 4.05pm to .35pm

#### **Thursday 10 December**

Wear a Christmas Jumper Day – Whole School  
Last Science Club of the term (For year 3 only) 3.30pm to 4.30pm

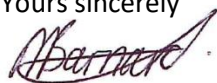
#### **Friday 11 December**

Last day of term: **Early Years finish at 11.30am**  
**Infants finish at 11.45am**  
**Juniors finish at 12pm**

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. I hope that we all have a restful Christmas filled with lots of special memories. The Spring Term begins on Wednesday 6 January at the normal start time, and Breakfast Club will be running as usual.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Moreen Barnard  
Headmistress

