



Step into Christmas

Christmas Jumpers/Festive Accessories



Who needs a Christmas Jumper Day when we can have a jolly month? Given the challenges everyone has faced over the past few months, our children are eager to spread joy and cheer. Instead of choosing one day for them to wear Christmas jumpers children can wear something festive on any day and every day they choose from **Wednesday 1st December**. They could choose a Christmas headband, jumper, t-shirt, badge, deely boppers. Some staff members have challenged themselves to wear something festive every school day in December!



There is no cost/donation for this. We ask that children wear continue to wear their school trousers, skirts, pinafore etc. Our Christmas jumper Swap Shop rail is available for any families to take what they need.

Homework

There will be no homework from Thursday 2nd December, we encourage the children to undertake personal reading at home. We hope parents find this approach helpful during what is always a very busy month for families.

Christmas Lunch



This year our Christmas Lunch is on **Thursday 9th December**. This information and a link to place your child's order was issued through our School App on Wednesday 24th November and a copy issued to parents who requested paper-based communication. Please note, no other option will be available on the day. As usual we will decorate the lunch tables and provide all children with a Christmas cracker.

Christmas Parties

The dates of our Christmas parties were shared in our annual calendar as a reminder the dates are noted below. Teachers will be working with the children to choose how they will celebrate including food, games etc.



Children can wear party clothes to school on the day of their party or bring them in their school bag for changing (staff will lend a hand to children who need help changing). Parents are welcome to take their children home for lunch to have them changed at home.

CLASS	DATE/TIME
P.1 & 2	Thursday 16 th December – 1pm
P.3 & 4	Wednesday 15 th December – 1pm (including P4 children from P.6/5/4)
P. 5, 6 & 7	Tuesday 14 th December – 1pm

Christmas Post

While sustainability is important to us all, the giving and receiving of Christmas cards is important to our children. We have taken the decision to continue this tradition and know that families will recycle cards in the paper/card bins at home.



This year our wonderful Primary 2/1 class have a Post office in their class and are keen to be our Festive Post Masters (with some help from our Little Elves). The post will run until Monday 20th December. It would be helpful if your child writes the full name and class on each envelope.

Outdoor Christmas Tree



Our Christmas Elves are once again keen to spread joy and cheer this Christmas by having an outdoor tree for the playground. Once our tree arrives, our Christmas Elves will let you know their special plan for decorating it. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us, and we don't lose too many baubles in the wind!

Pantomime – Cinderella

To continue the traditional Christmas experiences, we have booked the online pantomime again. The school is covering the whole cost (£120) from our school fund therefore there is no cost to families. The pantomime is written and produced by former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan. Class teachers will select a suitable date for the children to watch the performance.



Self-Isolating Families

Should your child be absent due to COVID-19 or if your family is self-isolating due to being identified as a close contact when the panto is to be screened, we have permission to share the link with the affected families so that you can watch together at home. A password protected link will be issued.



Church Service

Unfortunately, we are unable to visit the church for our annual Christmas service, we are liaising with our school chaplain in the hope that he can share a special festive video message with our families.

Christmas Show/Performance

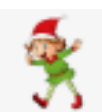
We are disappointed that, once again, current restrictions prevent us from welcoming family and friends into school for a Christmas show this year. At High Mill we don't let the small matter of not having a live audience stop us performing! Without giving too much away, classes are busy working on a surprise 'bubble friendly' whole school show 'Lights, Camel, Action!' which will be recorded and shared with parents.



The school office will liaise with individual parents where children do not have video consent to clarify if their child/children can be included in the recording. Our aim is to have this ready for sharing Monday 22nd December but ask you to be patient as we know how unpredictable technology can be.

Special Christmas Visitor

A very special visitor and good friend to Santa will be visiting High Mill on Monday 20th December 2021.



'Jingles the Elf' is excited to meet all the children but is especially looking forward to having lots of fun with our 2 younger classes. Jingles will lead the children in music, dance, and song. There is no cost to families for the interactive experience, this is being funded by the school. Please don't tell the children, we'd like this to be a lovely surprise for them!

Christmas Crafts/Enterprise

While we cannot hold a fayre this year, each class has been busy making crafts which we will be selling mail order style. More information about what will be available will be sent out separately.

We were delighted to have been invited to have a stall at the Carluke Christmas light switch on which was held on Saturday 4th December. Our stall raised £290 on the day. A huge thanks to our wonderful Captains and Vice-Captains, staff and parents who help with preparations and on the day.



Community Christmas Cheer

Towards the end of term, we are planning a community walk to share that fuzzy festive feeling with our closest neighbours. Each child will make a Christmas card which we will deliver to our closest neighbours.