



High Mill Primary



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 **Tuesday 1st December**. They could choose a Christmas headband, jumper, t-shirt, badge, deely boppers. Some staff members have challenged themselves to wear something 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. We now have a Christmas jumper Swap Shop rail for any families to take what they need.

Homework

P.7/6 and P.6/5 will have no homework from Tuesday 1st December, we encourage the children to undertake personal reading at home. P.2/1, P.3/2 and P.4/3 homework will be limited to reading and spelling. This will stop on Friday 18th December, homework will not be issued in the last week. The difference has been made give the early stage of literacy development for P.1-4 children. 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 10th December**. This information and a link to place your child's order was issued through our School App on Tuesday 17th 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 use school fund to decorate the lunch tables and to provide all children with a Christmas cracker.



Christmas Parties/Class Celebrations



Here is a reminder of the date for the class celebrations. Teachers have worked with the children to choose how they will celebrate including food, games etc.

Children can wear party clothes (pyjama s for P.4/3) to school on the day of their party or bring them in their school bag for changing. Parents are welcome to take their children home for lunch to have them changed at home.

CLASS	DATE/TIME	FORMAT
P.2/1	Thursday 17 th December - 1:15pm	Party
P.3/2	Wednesday 16 th December - 1:15pm	Party
P.4/3	Monday 14 th December - 1:15pm	Pyjama Party
P. 6/5	Tuesday 15 th December - 12:45pm	Party
P. 7/6	Friday 11 th December - 12:45pm	Party

Christmas Post

The giving and receiving of Christmas cards is important to our children. We aren't letting COVID-19 stop our Christmas post, it will just look a little different. Usually children would place their cards in our post box and senior pupils would deliver these around the classes. This year our arrangements are a little different. The plan and timeline are:



Week 1

- Children can post cards in the Christmas post box from **Tuesday 1st December**.
- A member of staff will empty the post box on **Friday 4th December**.
- The cards will be sorted into an envelope/polypocket (one for each child) and quarantined over the weekend.
- On **Monday 7th December**, the envelope/polypocket will come home with your child.

Week 2

- Children can post cards in the Christmas post box from **Monday 7th December**.
- A member of staff will empty the post box on **Friday 11th December**.
- The cards will be sorted into an envelope/polypocket (one for each child) and quarantined over the weekend.
- On **Monday 14th December**, the envelope/polypocket will come home with your child.

Week 3 - Last week of Christmas Post

- Children can post cards in the Christmas post box on **Monday 14th December** and **Tuesday 15th December**.
- A member of staff will empty the post box on **Tuesday 15th December**.
- The cards will be sorted into an envelope/polypocket (one for each child) and quarantined over the weekend.
- On **Friday 18th December**, the envelope/polypocket will come home with your child.



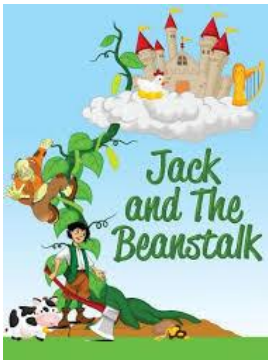
Outdoor Christmas Tree

The children asked if they could spread joy and cheer this Christmas by having an outdoor tree for the playground. Thanks to a generous donation from Gouldings Garden Centre, we have a beautiful tree in our playground. Each child was able to choose a bauble from a selection and hang this on our tree. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we don't lose too many baubles in the wind! It would be great to see posts on our Twitter feed of any families who come to see our tree lit up at night.



Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk

To continue the traditional Christmas experiences, we have booked an online pantomime. The school is covering the whole cost (£150) from our school fund therefore there is no cost to families. The pantomime is written and produced by former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan. The pantomime link is live between Monday 7th December and Friday 18th December, class teachers will select a suitable date for the children to watch the performance. The school will also provide each child with a snack to enjoy during the show.



The company providing the pantomime use profits to support the following:

PohWer

Clothe Me- Thank You

Best Beginnings

Scouts

British Youth Music Theatre

Prost8

Panto Synopsis

"Giant Blunderbore is in a terrible rage. He shouts from above threatening to eat any villager who won't pay their rent. Poor Dame Trott has to sell her precious cow 'Buttercup' and sends her son Jack to the cow market. All he comes back with is a worthless bag of beans. Jill, the grumpy Squire's daughter is kidnapped by the Giant's dogsbody Fleshcreepy and taken to the castle in the clouds.

Will Jack be the hero, climb the beanstalk, rescue his girlfriend and save the world from the human chomping ogre? Only the magical Garden Fairy knows the answer to that..."

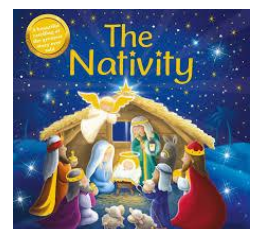
Self-Isolating Families

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, Mrs Vecino is 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 current restrictions prevent us from welcoming family and friends in to 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, each class is working on a surprise which will be recorded and shared with parents. This will either be on the website or App, depending on how large the file is.



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 Thursday 17th December but ask you to be patient as we know how unpredictable technology can be.

Sing and Sign Club

Mrs Naismith is leading our Sing and Sign Club, with children learning Makaton for traditional Christmas songs. These will be shared as a virtual performance for our friends at Victoria Park School. We will also include this performance in our school Christmas.

Message from Santa



Miss McDonald was talking to Santa at the weekend and was telling him about the amazing children we have at High Mill. He is very sad about not being able to make it along to our parties this year. He has promised to make a special video message for each class!

P.S Don't tell the children, we'd like this to be a surprise for them.

Santa Dash (Parent Council)



Our Parent Council have worked with the Active Schools Co-ordinator and Miss McNeil to plan out Santa Dash orienteering event at the Moorpark. This is planned for Monday 21st December with children participating in class bubbles. Each child will receive a Santa hat and festive goody bag provided by our Parent Council.

Christmas Crafts/Enterprise

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

