**December Newsletter: Pre school**

It’s hard to believe that I am writing the Christmas newsletter…the weeks have just flown by! I wanted to get all the information to you as early as possible so that you can make any plans necessary.

**Getting Ready to Learn:**

Hopefully you and your child are enjoying reading the book packs together. Don’t forget that you can access the parents forum on the website using the access code in the previous newsletter. We have also uploaded some videos of our own to the ‘getting ready to learn’ tab on the website. You will find staff reading stories and other information ( please forgive us as these were filmed during covid and our grasp of technology was somewhat more limited!) but I am sure your children will enjoy watching these with you.

**Christmas trip to castlecoole:**

*Wednesday 30th November*

Please let us know if you are coming by completing the sign up sheet at the gate.

AM and FT class parents: meet at Castlecoole carpark at approx. 9.30am

PM class parents: meet at Castlecoole carpark at approx. 1pm

If you are planning to join us for this trip, please use the sign up sheet at the school gate. Also, please see link to our educational visits handbook and ensure you have read before joining us on the day.

[Educational Visits Handbook 23.pdf](https://1drv.ms/b/s%21AqlXqN7aomjV4A77zHH9xgHdA73I?e=xPo3Kt)

Please remember to label all items of clothing coming into school!

**Nativity Play:**

We are busy rehearsing for this and I’m sure you are hearing the songs at home. We do not allocate parts and children are simply allowed to choose a costume that they would like to wear and are seated together to make a nativity scene.

*Wednesday 6th Dec( FT class**):* Children arrive in school with parents at **10am**. Children can be dropped off at the gate as normal. We would then ask that parents/ family walk around to the front door of the school where tea/ coffee will be served . The Play will begin at 10.30am and parents take children home with them after the performance. ( **AM children DO NOT attend school on this day**)

*Wednesday 6th Dec( PM class):* Children arrive in school with parents at **12.30pm**. Children can be dropped off at the gate as normal. We would then ask that parents/ family walk around to the front door of the school where tea/ coffee will be served . The Play will begin at 1pm and parents take children home with them after the performance.

*Thursday 9th (AM class):* Children arrive in school with parents at **10am**. Children can be dropped off at the gate as normal. We would then ask that parents/ family walk around to the front door of the school where tea/ coffee will be served. The Play will begin at 10.30am and parents take children home with them after the performance. ( **FT children DO NOT attend school on this day**)

*Over the past few years staff have chosen to support a charity at Christmas time and we ask that parents consider a donation to this charity in Lieu of any teacher gift that you may have been purchasing. There is absolutely no obligation on parents to purchase gifts for staff, but we understand that many people like to acknowledge us at this time of the year. As a staff, we are fortunate to have all we need at this time of year and would like to support those who may not. This year we have decided to raise money for ‘Action for Children’ which provides support for children and families locally here in Fermanagh*

**Christmas Jumper Day:**

*Friday 15th December*

Children can come to school in a festive jumper/outfit.

**Big Bedtime Christmas Night:**

*Thursday 14th December 6.30-7.30pm*

To celebrate the end of our Big Bedtime Read children are invited to come into school in their pyjamas with a parent ( pyjamas for parents are optional!!), for some supper, watch a short movie together and maybe even a Christmas sing song!

**Christmas party:**

Our last day of term will be *Thursday 21st December* and we will be having a Christmas party with a visit from a magician. All children ( inc PM class) will come to school for 9am. Children do not need to wear uniform on this day and school will finish for all pupils at 11.30am

**Open Days:**

You will have received information about various local schools and their open days. The admissions process begins in early January and you will need to apply for your child’s P1 place. If you need any further assistance with this please speak to Mrs Phair.

We are also running peek and play dates for prospective nursery pupils on 1stand 8th December and Saturday 6th January. We are in a falling catchment area and we need your help to promote our school, the best way to do this is word of mouth. Please tell others about us and what we can offer children and encourage them to come visit us on these dates. Thank you.

**Industrial Action:**

You will be receiving a letter later today from the Board of Governors detailing the impact of industrial action on school next Wednesday(29th)

**KEY DATES:**

End of term: Thursday 21st at 11.30am

Start of term two: Thursday 4th Jan 2023